



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Turkiye indebted to Pakistan for whole-hearted support**

Detailed News On Page-08

**China unveils global security concept paper**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Nida Dar breaks record for most T20I wickets**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Imran's indictment deferred

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Tuesday adjourned the indictment of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in Toshakhana reference till February 28. Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal heard the case. Imran's lawyer filed an application on behalf of his client seeking his exemption from court hearing on medical grounds. The court has summoned Imran in personal capacity. But the PTI chief did not appear before the court. It was fourth time that Imran skipped the hearing. During hearing, the judge remarked if the PTI chief kept on skipping court appearance, the trial would be dragged on.

### Govt to complete IMF deal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar says the government is steering the economy of the country towards stability and growth and is committed to complete the IMF programme and fulfill all international obligations. He was talking to a delegation of M/s Rothschild & Co comprising Mr. Eric Lalo, Partner and Thibaud Fourcade, Managing Director in Islamabad today. The delegation briefed the Finance Minister on their company's profile and its financial services provided to various countries across the world.

### Pakistan, Lithuania mull co-ope

DNA

VILNIUS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday met his Lithuanian counterpart Gabrielius Landsbergis and held talks on expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and education. The two Foreign Ministers, who exchanged views on regional and international issues, also signed an agreement regarding establishment of a bilateral consultative mechanism on this occasion.

## Inside...

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## Goodbye to Q League

# Parvez Elahi joins PTI with close aides

Elahi nominated as President of PTI: Fawad



SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, former Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Parvez Elahi Tuesday announced joining the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as the political temperature heats up in the country ahead of general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The announcement came minutes after PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat — Elahi's cousin — sacked him as the party's Punjab president and revoked his basic membership. In a statement earlier about sacking Elahi, Shujaat said that the former Punjab chief minister "is banned from using PML-Q's name in the future". The party's president had earlier issued a show-cause notice to Elahi on January 16, suspending his membership for talking about the possibility of his party's possible merger with the PTI. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders welcomed the resignation of the Chairman NAB in protest against the cable of thieves' constant interference in the affairs of the bureau,

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## PTI to kick start Jail Bharo Tehreek from Lahore

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will kickstart Jail Bharo Tehreek with former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, Senator Waleed Iqbal, and ex-provincial education minister Murad Raas along with scores of other PTI workers surrendering at the Charing Cross at 2pm. Earlier PTI chief Imran Khan had announced the movement to take off on Feb 22 from Lahore. A day ago, the political temperature in Punjab rose as Mr Khan finally decided to appear before the Lahore High Court (LHC) for protective bail plea in a case pertaining to the protest against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office. The court had summoned Mr Khan and had remarked that the bail could only be granted if Mr Khan appeared in a personal capacity. A two-member bench of the LHC had resumed hearing after a brief adjournment and granted him bail till 3 March later. The court also barred police from arresting Imran Khan. It merits mention that Mr Khan had glossed over

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# Pak keen to expand ties with Italy: Sadiq

Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese calls on the Chairman Senate



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese in a meeting with the Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani. — DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Andreas Ferrarese, Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, called on the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House in Islamabad. During the meeting, the two discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, economic cooperation, and regional security. They also emphasized the need to enhance people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Italy to further strengthen their ties.

The Chairman Senate appreciated the positive role of Italy in promoting peace and stability in the region and expressed the hope for greater collaboration between the two countries. The Italian Ambassador expressed his country's keen interest in further enhancing its economic and trade ties with Pakistan and reiterated Italy's support for Pakistan's efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the strong and longstanding relationship between Pakistan and Italy.

# Can't tow lines; NAB Chairman calls it a day

Urges NAB officers to do everything on merit; spills beans as to how he was influenced to institute false cases; calls for Punjab, KP elections in 90 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Aftab Sultan has tendered his resignation as National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman, media reported on Tuesday after reportedly refusing to "toe the line". He was appointed as head of the anti-graft chief on July 21, 2022, for three years. A statement by the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that Sultan had presented his resignation to PM Shehbaz citing personal reasons. "The prime minister appreciated the services of Aftab Sultan and lauded his honesty and uprightness. Upon his insistence, the prime minister reluctantly accepted the resignation of Sultan," said the PM Office. He also Urged NAB officers to do everything on



merit He also spilled beans as to how he was influenced to institute false cases. He further said that I was asked to give

favours illegally. He added, the government should hold elections in the Punjab and KP within 90 days. Speaking to media, Sultan said that he had resigned from office a few days ago. "I was asked to do certain things which were not acceptable to me," Aftab Sultan said. "I told them that I cannot continue with the conditions. My resignation has been accepted and it comes to an end on a positive note," he said. "Prime minister expressed good wishes for me, I also have good wishes for him." The sources revealed that Sultan had refused to make arrests of politicians on someone's orders. "He was pressurised by the government and some other institutions in the last four

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## FATHERLAND DAY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Danila Ganich, Defence Attache Col. Vadim N Fenchenko and others cutting cake to celebrate the Defender of the Fatherland Day of the Russian Federation. — DNA

## PM for less load-shedding in Ramadan

Directs drastic improvement in the power transmission system

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to minimize the load-shedding of electricity during Ramadan. He said this while chairing an important meeting in Islamabad today regarding transmission of power and load management in the summer season. The Prime Minister directed to improve the power transmission system and take appropriate measures regarding the load management during summer. He instructed that all departments concerned should have a solid and comprehensive plan before the advent of summer season. Shehbaz Sharif said it is a welcoming sign that share of local

Continued on Page 06

## Government submits details of Toshakhana gifts to LHC

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The federal government on Tuesday submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) details of Toshakhana gifts which a senior official termed "classified", telling the court that it was at its discretion to unseal the documents. The government had initially expressed reluctance to submit the Toshakhana details, contending that their disclosure may

Continued on Page 06

# PUNJAB, KP POLLS

## ECP to consult AGP, legal experts on Alvi's decision

Election Commission says it takes decisions in accordance with the constitution

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has decided to take further guidance from Attorney General of Pakistan and other legal experts following the announcement of election date to the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assemblies by the President. Though the ECP has said that it has not mentioned anywhere in the constitution and law that the commission will give date for polls. A meeting of the ECP under the chair of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja was held in Islamabad on Tuesday. A statement was issued after the conclusion of the commission's huddle summoned to deliberate on the elections for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assemblies following the fixation of date for both the provinces by the President.

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## PTI wants NA opposition leader's slot back

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday asked National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvez Ashraf to change the leader of the opposition before the appointment of new chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). PTI Chief Whip Malik Aamir Dogar has sent a letter to the speaker after Aftab Sultan stepped down as NAB Chairman, claiming that he was being pressurised to do certain unacceptable things.

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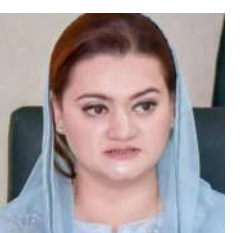
# Info Minister ridicules Khan's protective bail

Says the President's Office should stay free of Imran Khan

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had made fun of his 'court arrest drive' by seeking protective bail. "It is the first 'Jail Bharo Tehreek' in history which has been dampened by its leader's protective bail ahead of its formal launch," she said in a tweet. The minister said the President's Office should stay free of Imran Khan who had been taking the Constitution, law and judicial system just like a "joke". Separately, Minister for Information and

Broadcasting said that the government was aware of the problems being faced by the journalist community and it was taking all possible steps to solve them.



The minister was talking to a delegation of the Murree Press Club which met her here. During the meeting, the importance of tourism in Murree, Murree Press Club and other important issues including problems faced by journalists came under discussion. The minister said the present coalition government fully believed in freedom of expression. Marriyum said that practical steps were being taken for group insurance of journalists in the country.

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## Al-Khidmat 47-member team returns from Turkey, Syria

PESHAWAR: The Khidmat Foundation has completed successfully its search and rescue mission in the earthquake-affected areas of Turkey and Syria.

After the tragic earthquake, the Foundation immediately dispatched a team of 47 volunteers with search and rescue skills to provide aid to those affected by the disaster. The team, consisting of volunteers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, North Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan, worked alongside international aid teams for 12 continuous days to locate and rescue survivors. Upon completion of their mission, the volunteers were warmly welcomed at Islamabad International Airport by Provincial President Khalid Waqas, says a press release. During the welcome ceremony, Al-Khidmat Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Khalid Waqas, along with Al-Khidmat Gilgit Baltistan President Zakaria Ahmed Advocate, Islamabad Al-Khidmat President Hamid Athar, and Provincial Media Manager Noorul Wahid Jadoon, paid tribute to the volunteers for their valuable services to humanity in the difficult time of trial.

They presented bouquets to the volunteers and praised their dedication and hard work during the mission. The successful completion of the mission by Al-Khidmat Foundation is a testament to their commitment to serving humanity in times of need. The Foundation has a long history of providing relief and aid to those affected by natural disasters and crises, and this mission is yet another example of their unwavering dedication to this noble cause. The Foundation continues to encourage the public to support their efforts in helping those in need, both locally and internationally.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work of vehicles parking at Blue area, in the Federal Capital. — Online

# Traders resent over imposition of heavy fines and harassment

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Muhammad Ishaq expressed resentment over unnecessary actions, harassment of the business community and imposition of heavy fines by government authorities concerned on pretext of enforcing policies.

He stressed the dignity of the traders community should be kept intact during actions by the government relevant departments/authorities, what, he said, the business community has played an important role in economic stability and improvement by paying various taxes. SCCI chief demanded to frame

policies by making proper consultation with chambers and relevant stakeholders. He furthermore asked to avoid taking steps which would cause a collision between the business community and government authorities concerned. Ishaq was addressing members during the visit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KFS&HFA) Director General (DG) Shahrukh Ali Khan here at the chamber house on Tuesday.

Apart from the chamber's vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former vice president Javed Akhtar, Director Technical KFS&HFA Abdul Sattar Shah, Director Operation of the food authority

Alftab Hussain, executive member of the chamber Naeem Qasmi, Hamza Ibrahim Butt, Laal Badshah, Munwar Khurshid, Salman Altaf, Ihsanullah, Fazl I Wahid, Zahoor Khan, Saddam Gul, Ishtiaq Muhammad, traders, exporters attached with honey sector, office bearers of different bazaar market associations, representatives of traders' community were present in a large number on the occasion. Muhammad Ishaq apprised the DG Shahrukh Ali Khan regarding reservations of business community over unnecessary actions, harassment and collection of heavy fines. He said the economic conditions are already very

fragile, saying that the situation has been further aggravating owing to anti-business policies of the present government. The SCCI president asked the government to take pragmatic steps to facilitate the business community and avoid enforcement of policies that would prove detrimental for business, trade and exports. Representatives of traders' community on the occasion apprised the meeting about raids by food authority, enforcement of separate policies, laws and regulations by different authorities, double actions and imposition of heavy fines. The business community demanded the KP Food

Authority to reduce license fees and ratio of fines at optimal level. While keeping in view the difficulties of the traders' community, the participants demanded to provide all facilities at KP Food Authority main office.

ShahRukh Ali Khan while responding to various queries of the SCCI members said that KP Food Authority (Amendment) Act had been prepared, in which it has been proposed to reduce fines, saying that the amended act would be implemented after formal approval by the provincial assembly. Opposing the checking of food items by various authorities, DG said the KP Food Authority

has procured the latest equipment and machinery worth millions of rupees for testing of food items. He said KP Food Authority is making sure to provide hygienic foods to people at every level. He assured that unnecessary actions would be avoided and a letter would be written to Deputy Commissioner Peshawar to convey reservations of the business community's over crackdown by the local administration in markets for checking of food quality and standards.

DG informed that KP Food Authority has introduced a star rating system aimed at improving the quality and standards of restaurants/food outlets in the city.

## Mayor inaugurates plantation drive

PESHAWAR: Mayor of Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali on Tuesday formally inaugurated the plantation campaign here at Shalimar Garden.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Director East Syed Waqas Ali Shah, Assistant Director Administration Muhammad Owais Khan, Director Garden Rehman Khattak, Garden Supervisor Muhammad Ali, Chairman Imran Naveed, Chairman Saeed Ahmed, Chairman Shah Faisal among others. Haji Zubair Ali while planting the sapling said, "Trees make the environment beautiful and pleasing. Trees are a valuable asset because they provide us with oxygen."

On this occasion, he said, "A plantation drive will be conducted in all the public gardens of the metropolitan." He urged people to actively participate in the plantation drive and make the environment good.

The Mayor also issued directives for the renovation of the Mosque in the Shalimar garden.

## KP CM told 56,000 security personnel required

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, here, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting which deliberated upon the recommendations given by the stakeholders on the law and order situation and corresponding security personnel required to hold the general election in the province.

The interim CM was apprised that over 56,000 police personnel were required for election security as Azam Khan gave directions to inform Governor Ghulam Ali in writing about recommendations and suggestions given by the relevant authorities about the overall security situation and required security personnel for the general election in the province.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, IGP, Secretary Home, and other relevant authorities with the chief minister in chair. Moreover, the interim CM was informed that general elections in settled and tribal districts would be held simultaneously. "The police manpower for the security of general election was not sufficient in the existing situation.—APP

## Navy, PMSA and ANF conduct joint counter narcotics operation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized narcotics worth Rs 3Bn in a joint intelligence based counter narcotics operation in North Arabian Sea. The arrested smugglers and confiscated cache has been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings. The successful joint anti-narcotics operation by Pakistan Navy, PMSA and ANF reaffirm resolve to deny illegal activities in maritime zones of Pakistan and to synergize efforts of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in ensuring security of our waters.



## Attock police arrests 7 criminals

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Attock police booked seven criminals including drug pushers and proclaimed offenders during a crackdown launched on the directives of the newly joined District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan within the jurisdiction of police stations Injra, Hassanabad, Hazro and Fatehjang here on Tuesday. This was told by a public relations officer of Attock Police while talking the media persons. The Injra police recovered hashish of 1120 grams from Mehboob Khan son of Habib Khan of village Gardiand, Hassanabad police

arrested Javed Khan son of Easa Khan on the charge of possessing hashish of 1084 grams, illegal pistol 30 bore with bullets, proclaimed offender Mohammad Naseer son of Mohammad Baseer involved in different heinous crimes was also nabbed from the outskirts village KawanBhalarJhogi. Meanwhile, Attock Khurd police while checking a car number BNF-276 recovered opium of 600 grams from the custody of Sadiq Shah son of Safaid Gul of Bara,

District Khyber, hashish of 1060 grams from his accomplice Mohammad Waseem son of Shamshad sitting on the front seat of the same vehicle. Such as, Fatehjang police intercepted Khalid Mehmood son of Soba Khan for possessing hashish of 1400 grams while Zaheer Ahmed son of Ghulam Murtaza of Ghourghashti was arrested by Hazro Police with chars of 500 grams. Later on, cases were registered and further investigations were underway.

## Dist Attock admin revises price list for many items

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: The Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza while chairing the meeting of district price control committee here on Tuesday has di-

rected all the stakeholders to provide kitchen food items to the consumers in accordance with the prescribed price list failing which delinquents in the profiteering or hoarding will be fixed. The district price control committee

after consensus over the prevailing market situation also revised the prices of various grocery and other eatable items which include Rice super old Rs.320 kg, gram pulse (thin)Rs.230kg, gram pulse (coarse) Rs.245 kg, husked lentils Rs.310 kg, husked lentils (coarse)Rs.250 kg, white chickpea (thin) Rs.320 kg, white chickpea (coarse) Rs.355 kg, black chickpea (small)Rs.220 kg, black chickpea (coarse) Rs.225 kg, chickpea flour Rs.250 kg, mutton Rs.1300 kg, beef Rs.600 kg, milk Rs.135 liter, yogurt Rs.140 kg, oven bread Rs.15, nan plain Rs.20 were fixed.

The committee also recommended that the day to day prices of vegetables, fruits will be released by the respective secretaries market committees through open auction while, the prices of poultry products will be advertised in consensus with the Director Live stock Attock regularly at 7:00 AM, positively. The butchers were restricted to get their animals slaughtered at the state owned butchers home besides selling their meat under official seal of the concerned veterinary doctors. They will also be bound to share any updates with the competent authority or author-

ized representative. The notified price list has also circulated among all the Assistant Commissioners, Police stations, Municipal Officers for immediate compliance with the direction to display at the conspicuous places. The consumers can also file any complaint by phone call 0800-02345 or Qeemat Punjab app in case of any over charging. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza also took a surprise round of allocated site for construction of district public school being first educational institution of its nature for imparting qualitative education to girls students.

## Potohari Adabi conference held

RAWALPINDI: A 'Potohari Adabi' conference was organized here in Punjab Arts Council with the support of Potohari Literary Society, on the occasion of world mother language day. The conference was presided over by Muhammad Sharif Shad, while Yasir Kayani, Saqib Imam Rizvi and Abid Janjua participated in the conference as special guests. The guests of honor of the conference included Ashfaq Hashmi, Shiraz Akhtar Mughal, Ahmad Raza Raja, Shamsa Noreen, Musrat Sheren, Owais Raja, Shaikat Mehmood Qazi, Javed Ahmed and Manwar Hussain Aslam.—APP

## PAF contingent lands back after participation in 'spears of victory'


KARACHI: The contingent of Pakistan Air Force landed back at an operational air base of PAF after successful participation in Exercise Spears of Victory, 2023 held at Air War Centre Dhahran (King Abdulaziz Air Base), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The adroit PAF Pilots upheld their mastery and legacy of professionalism amongst the aircrew of the eight participating air forces. During the exercise JF-17 fighter of Pakistan Air Force was pitched against multiple state of the art fighters of the world, where the PAF's fighter jet proved its combat potential and agility. Pakistan Air Force fighters also practiced multi-

ple tankings in one go from Dhahran to Peshawar through PAF's own tanker IL-78 aircraft after the culmination of the exercise. The non-stop flight of jets through inflight

refuellings is yet another milestone marking a momentous stride towards unconquerable aerial defence of motherland. The indigenous and imperative achievement reflects the



sound foothold of operational training of PAF personnel in line with the latest developments in aerial warfare. The pivotal moment of mid-air refuelling over international waters has proved the capability, capacity and lethality of PAF's fighter fleet in addition to augmenting the overall combat efficacy of Pakistan Air Force. Smart inductions of PAF are giving providence by enhancing combat effectiveness and potential of Pakistan Air Force. PAF utilized Airbus to economize transportation efforts and save valuable national exchequer while participating in the exercise.



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For further information please contact the following.

**Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman**  
**Mobile: 0300 8553342**



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

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police...9266041

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....5611116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# PRCS hands over medical supplies to Syrian Embassy

Syrian Ambassador Dr. Rameez- Alraee appreciated the initiative of PRCS and said that the supply of medical and surgical equipment was much needed to help the earthquake victims in Syria. He thanked PRCS for the cooperation to mitigate the sufferings of the affected families

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has provided relief consignment for the earthquake-affected population in Syria. On the instructions from Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari, Secretary General PRCS, Muhammad Abaidullah Khan handed over the relief consignment containing medical, surgical and first aid equipment to the Syrian Ambassador Dr. Rameez- Alraee in a ceremony held at PRCS National Headquarters here on Tuesday.

In his message on this occasion, PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari said that Red Crescent has stood by the side of Turkey and Syrian brethren in this time of trouble. He said PRCS has provided assistance to both the earthquake-affected countries and the supply of medical and surgical equipment is a practical response to the request from the Syrian



Ambassador. Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said PRCS, as being a part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Move-

ment, has planned to send teams of Paramedics, Health and WASH experts to help the earthquake victims and has shared the plan

with the relevant authorities in this regard. He said that PRCS trained staff and volunteers would go to Syria and Turkey to contrib-

ute to relief activities, recovery and reconstruction efforts. "PRCS has launched a nationwide appeal to help the earthquake victims of the two brotherly countries and any funds and donations being collected through the provincial branches would be handed over to Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent to help the EQ victims", he added. Syrian Ambassador Dr. Rameez- Alraee appreciated the initiative of PRCS and said that the supply of medical and surgical equipment was much needed to help the earthquake victims in Syria. He thanked PRCS for the cooperation to mitigate the sufferings of the affected families. He also indicated all possible measures to strengthen these relations. It is pertinent to mention here that PRCS has previously donated 50,000 \$ for Turkey earthquake victims and 25,000 \$ for Syrian earthquake-affected population.

## PEMRA bans coverage of blasts

ISLAMABAD: PEMRA has imposed ban on coverage of blasts and terror attacks on TV channels. The notification has said the ban will be in place on the broadcast, rebroadcast and live coverage of blasts and terrorists attacks. — APP

## NAHE Training for Cohort-II

### DNA

ISLAMABAD2023: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), an academic wing of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan held the closing ceremony of Cohort-II of National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP). Twenty-eight newly inducted faculty members of public sector higher education institutions (HEIs) took part in the capacity building programme. Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail graced the ceremony as a chief guest and distributed certificates amongst the participants. She highlighted the core goals of NFDP course content developed for the newly inducted faculty members. Dr. Shaista Sohail stressed the importance of professional development for teachers in terms of their career goals as well as the education of their students. She also highlighted important aspects of effective teaching and creating a community welfare. The participants availed themselves of an opportunity of experiential learning.

## “Jail Bharo Tehreek” is just political stunt: Tariq

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz PML-N Leader Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Tuesday said that Imran seeking bail before arrest in various cases contradicts his political stunt of Jail Bharo Tehreek. Talking to a private news channel he said that Imran should have begun Jail Bharo Tehreek from his own arrest not by making workers fodder. PML-N always proclaimed to abide law as in imran's era, PML-N leaders faced worst political biased cases and Sharif family was kept in jails also but today, Imran khan is hiding from the courts, he added. Replying to a question regarding general elections he said that the perception that PML-N was afraid of election was wrong, elections must be held in time according to the Constitution, he added.—APP

## German Embassy holds a reading session

### DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad hosted a reading session with German-Indian author Dr Krisha Kops today in the Nazara Hall at Hotel Serena. He read excerpts of his debut novel 'The eternal rustling' and engaged in a lively discussion with the gripped audience. The Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, Dr Philipp Deichmann, opened the

event. The novel tells the fascinating story of the lives and loves of a German-Indian family spanning many decades and two continents. It received enthusiastic reviews and won the "Haidhauser Werkstattpreis" in 2020 and the "Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis" in 2022. The audience enjoyed a glimpse into this colorful, multi-layered novel about the questions of who we are, of where we put down our roots - and what we need in order to do so. A journalist and philosopher, Mr Krisha Kops calls both Germany and India his home. He writes for news outlets in both countries and teaches Indian philosophy. He is currently touring Pakistan for the first time. He has just been to the Karachi Literary Festival and will continue from Islamabad to the Lahore Literary Festival.

## IRC, CAR ink MoU to enable healthcare for Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD: The Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) on Tuesday signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) that outlined operations and activities where CAR and IRC intend to collaborate to facilitate Afghan refugees in access to health and essential services. The vision of CAR aligns with the strategic approach of International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Pakistan. As IRC in Pakistan has been working proactively with Afghan refugees since 1980's with a wide range of programming under emergency relief, health, education, cash assistance and essential services. The strategic partnership between IRC and CAR is testament of resolve to work collaboratively for Afghan refugees, a news release said. Amongst multiple challenges faced by Afghan refugees

one the foremost is limited access to healthcare, malnutrition, and high rates of infectious diseases. Maternal and child health is also a concern for Afghan refugees in Pakistan as many refugee women lack access to reproductive healthcare services, leading to higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. Mental health is another area of concern for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Overall, the health challenges facing Afghan refugees in Pakistan are complex and multifaceted. Addressing these challenges requires accurate information. It is envisioned that IRC and CAR will collaborate in the development of an annual health status report which will identify areas for assistance in health sector to cater for preventive, curative, and rehabilitative healthcare to Afghan Refugees. Commissioner Afghan Refugee, Muhammad Abbas

Khan speaking at the MoU signing ceremony appreciated IRC's longstanding commitment towards the cause of Afghan refugees and reaffirmed the support of Commissionerate in working collaboratively for provision of quality services with dignity and diligence. He further noted that Pakistan is very proudly hosting millions of Afghan Refugees and this hospitality was only possible due to the generosity of host communities. "The financial and technical support of international community is paramount along with fostering partnerships for this noble cause," Country Director, IRC-Pakistan, Shabnam Baloch opined that this collaboration between International Rescue Committee and Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees would pave way for pragmatic programming that was based on evidence-based research and triple nex-

us approach. She further reiterated IRC's commitment to work alongside government counterparts for fostering a conducive environment for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. A representative of UN-CHR, Raymond Tagle was also present at the MOU signing ceremony and congratulated both agencies on the envisioned partnership. Pakistan has a long history of hosting Afghan refugees, dating back to 1979. Since then, millions of Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan. Even today, Pakistan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. To streamline the process of coordination the "Commissionerate Afghan Refugees" (CAR) was established in 1979 with the mandate for refugee camp management and to facilitate access to health and education services, skills training for livelihood opportunities, and helping refugees in voluntary repatriation.—DNA

## Islamabad police to revamp CTD, check content on social media

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have decided to revamp the counter-terrorism department (CTD) and set up a special unit to prevent violence and extremism. Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan has decided to revamp the CTD as per the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and following the directions of Minister of Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan. SP Kamran Aamir Khan has been appointed as In-charge of this department and it would have new 'Violence and Extremism Countering Unit' which will be the first of its kind in Pakistan. It will prepare action plan by reviewing the political, linguistic and religious extremism content on social media or other websites. The CTD would have Operations and Intelligence Wings while the newly established 'Violence and Extremism Countering Unit' would be supervised by SP. IGP Islamabad said that teams of Islamabad Capital Police would visit educational institutions and religious seminaries (madrasas) to deliver lectures on the prevention of extremist content on social media. The services of communication experts will be hired for this unit and the recommendations are being forwarded to the Ministry of Interior to equip the CTD with modern weapons and improve kinetic response. — APP

## 4 vehicles smuggling wheat impounded with 1849 bags

RAWALPINDI :The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Tuesday impounded four vehicles with 1849 wheat and flour bags and sent four accused behind the bars. According to a district administration spokesman, the food Department Rawalpindi and Potohar Division Police conducted raids in Naseerabad and Taxila areas and rounded up Zulgarnain with 450 wheat bags, Arslan with 300 flour bags and Iqarar for carrying 1040 flour bags. Meanwhile, Taxila police rounded up Arslan Butt and recovered 50 wheat flour bags from his possession. He informed that the authorities of the food department along with Potohar Division Police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up the wheat flour smugglers. He said that the accused were trying to illegally ship wheat flour and wheat out of the Rawalpindi division. The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of the authorities concerned were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids, he added.—APP

## Meat valuing \$228.212 mln exported in 07 months

ISLAMABAD: Meat and meat preparation exports from the country during first 07 months of current financial year increased by 18.82 percent as compared the exports of correspond period of last year. During the period from July-January, 2022-23, about 50,759 metric tons of meat and meat products valuing \$228.212 million exported as against the exports of 43,765 metric tons worth \$191.967 million of same period last year.—APP

## Export of sports goods increases 25.51% in 7 months

ISLAMABAD:The export of sports goods from the country witnessed an increase of 25.51 percent during the seven months of the current financial year (2022-23) as compared to the export of corresponding months of last year. The country exported sports goods worth US\$ 242.074 million during July-January (2022-23) as compared to the export of US\$ 192.874 million during July-January (2021-22), showing growth of 25.51 percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 49.48 percent, surging from US\$ 93.186 million last year to US\$ 139.296 million during the current year. The gloves exports, however, dropped by 2.57 percent by going down from US\$ 44.614 million last year to US\$ 43.466 million during the current year, the PBS data revealed. Likewise, the exports of all other sports goods increased by 7.69 percent to US\$ 59.312 million from US\$ 55.074 million last year. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the sports goods export witnessed an increase of 14.84 percent in January 2023 as opposed to the export of the same month of last year. The sports goods exports in January 2023 were recorded at US\$ 33.393 million against exports of US\$ 29.077 million in January 2022. During the period under review, the export of footballs and all other sports products increased by 27.19 and 22.55 percent respectively, whereas the exports of gloves however dipped by 18.59 percent. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports of sports goods decreased by 1.68 percent during January 2023, in contrast to the exports of US\$ 33.963 million in December 2022, the PBS data revealed. On a month-on-month basis, the exports of footballs and gloves decreased by 2.72 and 15.85 percent respectively in addition the exports of other sports commodities increased by 12.055 percent. — APP

## Security Forces conduct over 6,000 anti-terror operations in 3 months

ISLAMABAD: The security forces in the past three months have conducted some 6,921 anti-terrorist operations to purge the nation from the scourge of terrorism and killed 142 terrorists and arrested 1,007 in various operations across the country. The anti-terrorism efforts were expedited against the recent resurgence of terrorism by the security forces

and 143 area sanitisation operations. During the operations, 98 terrorists were killed and 540 were arrested. In Balochistan, 3,414 operations were carried out comprising of 2,980 area domination operations, 67 intelligence-based operations, and 367 area sanitisation while 40 terrorists were killed and 112 were arrested. In Sindh, 752 intelligence-based operations were conducted in which three terrorists were killed and 344 were arrested. In Punjab, 165 intelligence based operations were conducted and during these operations a terrorist was killed while 11 were arrested.—APP

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## Briefs

## Tarar calls for ensuring neutral approach

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday called for ensuring neutral approach during hearing of various cases related to political leaders. Speaking here at a press conference, he said that appearance of Imran Khan for protective bail was administrative failure and it seemed just a public gathering. He said that movement in the court's premises was purely administrative matter but PTI leader had no regard for institution as he reached there in form of rally and it was just a public gathering. He pointed out that court waited for Imran Khan last day but an accountability court issued non-bailable arrest warrant of former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi today in LNG terminal case when he was on the way to appear before the court.

He questioned whether Imran Khan and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi were being treated in the same way. "An amateur minister namely Mr. Sahi maneuvered the PTI cases," he added. During the by-elections, PML-N leadership was given messages not to be so tough, he alleged adding that Deputy Commissioner and District Police Officers Faisalabad were also summoned and snubbed. He called for full monitoring of the judiciary to ensure justice.

## KSA working to raise hospitality sector's capacity

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb said that work was underway to raise the capacity of the hospitality sector in Makkah and Medina to meet the growing number of Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and visitors. "The Ministry would continue working with investors to develop the hospitality services and raise their quality," the minister said during his meeting with businessmen and operators of the hospitality sector in Medina city. Al-Khateeb reached here as part of reviewing the readiness of hospitality facilities and the quality of services to be provided to pilgrims in Makkah and Medina during the holy month of Ramadan. He noted that the Ministry prioritizes a balance between raising the quality of the hospitality sector and empowering the private sector through clear legislation and financing solutions, Saudi Gazette reported.—APP

## New study shows Covid vaccination linked to cardiac events

ISLAMABAD: New research suggests that vaccination against COVID-19 is associated with fewer heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular issues among people who were infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. The study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, is the first to examine both full and partial vaccination and the link to major adverse cardiac events (MACE) in the United States. Researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai used the U.S. National COVID Cohort Collaborative database. The study included 1,934,294 patients, 217,843 of whom received mRNA vaccine formulations by Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or viral vector technology by Johnson & Johnson. Xinhua reported. "We sought to clarify the impact of previous vaccination on cardiovascular events among people who develop COVID-19 and found that, particularly among those with comorbidities, such as previous MACE, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, liver disease, and obesity, there is an association with a lower risk of complications," said senior author Girish N. Nadkarni, professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.—APP

## Punjab Govt may assist ICCI to establish industrial estate

He said the industrial zone would attract investment, promote industrialization, generate additional tax revenue, increase exports, and create more jobs in the region

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Department S M Tanveer on Tuesday lauded the efforts of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) for the establishment of an industrial estate in the Islamabad region. He assured that the Punjab Government would soon send a team to conduct a survey of land and prepare a feasibility study for the implementation of the project at a place near Islamabad. He was talking to an ICCI delegation led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, which called on him. S M Tanveer said he was planning to hold a round-



table discussion with the chambers of commerce & industry of Punjab to discuss the key issues of the business community and assured

that the ICCI would also be invited to get its input. He said being the capital's chamber, the ICCI should play a lead

role in resolving the issues of the business community. He emphasised that the business community should give concrete

and workable recommendations that would help resolve issues and facilitate the growth of business activities. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, on the occasion, said many potential investors were ready to set up industries in Islamabad for which a new industrial zone was a key requirement. He urged the Punjab Government to assist the ICCI in setting up the project by allocating suitable land at a place with easy access to the twin cities. He said the industrial zone would attract investment, promote industrialization, generate additional tax revenue, increase exports, and create more jobs in the region. The ICCI president stressed that consistent government policies were important for long-term investment in the country.

## ANF seizes over 1679 kg drugs; arrests 34 peddlers

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 1679.947 kg of drugs and 586.800 liters of hydrochloric Acid (HCL) worth US\$ 57.941 million internationally, arrested 34 persons including three women, impounded 13 vehicles while conducting 38 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country during last week. ANF spokesman said that the seized drugs comprised 97.351 kg heroin, 1404.696 kg hashish, 22.600 kg opium, 154.150 kg methamphetamine (Ice), one kg crystal and 0.150 kg

weed. ANF Balochistan recovered 902 kg of drugs and 586.800 liters of hydrochloric Acid (HCL) in nine operations and impounded a vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 70 kg heroin, 682 kg hashish and 150 kg methamphetamine (Ice). ANF Punjab recovered 13.393 kg of drugs in three operations while arrested three persons involved in drug smuggling and impounded a vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 9.593 kg heroin, 1.800 kg hashish and

two kg methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 621.059 kg of drugs in seven operations while arrested five persons involved in drug smuggling and impounded two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 621.059 kg of hashish. ANF Sindh recovered 19.918 kg drugs in six operations while arrested 11 persons including a woman involved in drug smuggling and impounded four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 0.868 kg heroin, 16 kg hashish, 1.900 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 0.150 kg weed and

one kg crystal. ANF North recovered 123.577 kg of drugs in 13 operations, arrested 15 persons including two women in drug smuggling and impounded five vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 16.890 kg heroin, 83.837 kg hashish, 22.600 kg opium and 0.250 kg methamphetamine (Ice). All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations were under process, the spokesman added.—APP

## Irregular sleeping habits may increase atherosclerosis risk

ISLAMABAD: A study found a link between irregular sleeping patterns and an increased risk of atherosclerosis in older adults. Milamai/Getty Images A new study finds a link between irregular sleeping patterns and subclinical symptoms of atherosclerosis in older people. Atherosclerosis-related diseases are the leading cause of death in the United States. The study underscores the importance of establishing regularity in one's sleep routine. A recent study explores a connection between atherosclerosis, not maintaining a regular bedtime, and sleeping for inconsistent periods of time. The study found that older people who varied sleep time by an average of two hours within a single week and those who changed their bedtimes by an hour and a half were significantly more likely to exhibit subclinical symptoms of atherosclerosis. According to a press release, here's what the researchers measured to investigate the presence of plaque in the arteries: calcified fatty plaque buildup in arteries – coronary artery calcium fatty plaque buildup in neck arteries – carotid plaque presence thickness of the inner two layers of the neck arteries – carotid intima-media thickness narrowed peripheral arteries – the ankle brachial index They detected calcified plaque in arteries, the primary underlying cause of strokes and heart attacks. —Online

## IMF proposal to tax the rich is laudable

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday lauded the proposal of the IMF to tax rich and subsidize the poor but it is insufficient as the ruling elite will never impose taxes on nobility. The IMF should force its proposal into reality to save Pakistan as the government lacks the courage to annoy the super-rich, it said. Out of 220 million population only 3.5 million file tax returns while only 30 thousand shopkeepers pay taxes out of 2.2 million which should not be allowed, said, said Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW. In a statement issued here today, he said that Pakistani elites live like kings without discharging the national obligation by paying taxes, and the people are always made to pay to solve their problems. This process has drained the country and now should be stopped otherwise the country will not remain functional. Aslam Khan said that Pakistan is taking loans from International Financial Institutions to avoid bankruptcy and ensure the repayment of its loans. The criticism of IMF is misplaced as every borrower has to ensure the return of its capital, he added. He said that all the conditions of the IMF must be fulfilled within the deadline because without it more loans will not be available to Pakistan through other means. The IMF wants to increase taxes and duties which will make life miserable for the people because the ruling class will never tax the elite. He said that the country's economy can be managed without putting a heavy financial burden on the poor people and repay the debts if the rich classes are taxed properly but it is not possible any time soon because it needs courage.—DNA

## New Malaysian HC presents credentials to Chief of Protocol

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: On Tuesday, 31 January 2023 for his first official engagement with the host government, High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar bin Mazlan, called on His Excellency Mr. Ali Haider Altaf, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan at his Office. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Nor Azuan Bin Haji Ayub, Third Secretary. During the call, Ambassador Azhar presented a copy of Letters of Credence to the Chief of Protocol. Both sides took the opportunity to engage and exchange views on the state of relations between Malaysia and Pakistan as well as regional matters of importance. The call was conducted in a warm and friendly manner befitting the excellent state of relations between Malaysia and Pakistan.



## How Pakistan can become a developed country

*By promoting inclusive institutions, Pakistan can create a level playing field for all citizens, encourage investment and entrepreneurship, and achieve long-term prosperity and stability*

## IMRAN QAZI

Nations around the world struggle to achieve sustained economic growth and development. Pakistan, despite its rich natural resources and strategic location have failed to achieve its goals. Country like Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia have left behind Pakistan in all socio-economic indicator. Today, Pakistanis are witnessing the worst inflation in their history and problems like terrorism, water scarcity and a burgeoning population are hanging like the sword of Damocles over their heads. The masses have failed to challenge the feudal culture, extractive institutions and rampant corruption. Some of the key problems that fail Pakistan are enumerated as below. Pakistan's political system has been characterized by instability and uncertainty for several decades. The country has experienced multiple military coups, political assassinations,

and civil unrest, which have created an unpredictable business environment and discouraged foreign investment. The lack of stable and inclusive political institutions has contributed to a culture of corruption and nepotism, which has limited economic growth and development. The concentration of power in the hands of a small political and military elite has also contributed to the failure of political institutions in Pakistan. The ruling class has consistently used their power to extract resources and benefits from the general population, which has limited opportunities for economic growth and development. The lack of accountability and transparency in the political system has allowed this elite to maintain their power and control over the country's resources. Pakistan's economic institutions have also been a major factor in the country's underdevelopment. The country has a history of protectionist policies

and state intervention in the economy, which have limited competition and innovation. The government has historically favored large corporations and state-owned enterprises over small and medium-sized businesses, which has led to a concentration of economic power in the hands of a few elites. The lack of infrastructure and human capital investment is another major factor in Pakistan's economic failure. The country's infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communication networks, is inadequate and has limited the country's productivity and competitiveness. The education system in Pakistan is also in dire need of reform, as a large proportion of the population remains illiterate and lacks basic skills for participation in the modern economy. The failure of political and economic institutions in Pakistan has contributed significantly to the country's underdevelop-

ment. The concentration of power and resources in the hands of a small elite has limited opportunities for economic growth and development, while the lack of infrastructure and human capital investment has hindered productivity and competitiveness. Moving forward, Pakistan will need to prioritize reforms that promote inclusive political and economic institutions, encourage competition and innovation, and invest in human capital development. Only then can Pakistan hope to achieve sustained economic growth and development. In their book, "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty," economists Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson argue that the key determinant of a nation's success or failure lies in its political and economic institutions. Institutions are the rules, norms, and practices that govern social and economic behavior within a society. According to Acemoglu

and Robinson, there are two types of institutions: inclusive and extractive. Inclusive institutions are those that provide a level playing field for all citizens, regardless of their background or social status. These institutions provide a broad range of economic and political opportunities, allow for the free flow of ideas and innovations, and encourage competition and innovation. Inclusive institutions encourage investment and entrepreneurship, which leads to economic growth and development. Extractive institutions, on the other hand, are those that are designed to extract resources and power from the majority of the population and concentrate them in the hands of a small elite. These institutions restrict political participation, limit economic opportunities, and stifle innovation and creativity. Extractive institutions lead to poverty, political instability, and social conflict. So, nations that have in-

clusive institutions tend to be successful and prosperous, while those that have extractive institutions tend to fail. Pakistan is largely dominated by extractive institutions and the transition from extractive to inclusive institutions is not easy, and may require a significant shift in power relations within Pakistan. One of the key challenges in transitioning from extractive to inclusive institutions is overcoming the resistance of the existing elites who benefit from the extractive institutions. These elites often control the political and economic system and will resist any attempts to change it. Overcoming their resistance requires a social movement that is able to mobilize the population and demand change. Another challenge in transitioning to inclusive institutions is developing the necessary infrastructure, such as education and healthcare, to support economic growth and development. This requires a significant

investment in human capital, which can be difficult to achieve in societies that are dominated by extractive institutions. In conclusion, Acemoglu and Robinson's provides a compelling analysis of the role of political and economic institutions in determining a nation's success or failure. It helps us to understand why Pakistan is sinking in the quagmire of poverty and debt. Pakistan could only achieve sustained economic growth if it transitioned its extractive institutions into inclusive institutions. This is possible with a bloodless revolution. All the stakeholders should sit together and find a path that leads to inclusive institutions. They need to compromise on certain things and sacrifice the status quo for the sake of two hundred and thirty-two million Pakistanis. By promoting inclusive institutions, Pakistan can create a level playing field for all citizens, encourage investment and entrepreneurship, and achieve long-term prosperity and stability.

## Rs 44.270 bln releases for various water resources schemes

ISLAMABAD: The government has released an amount of Rs 44.270 billion for various water resources schemes under Annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in first six months of current fiscal year 2022-23. According to official data of the Planning Commission, the government has specified a sum of Rs 97.559 billion for various projects in PSDP 2022-23. Out of total release amount, the local component stood at Rs 38.172 billion while foreign aid component was Rs 6.097 billion. A sum of Rs 35.911 billion has been spent on various water-related projects so far. The Ongoing schemes included 13 hydel and 61 water sector projects, whereas the new projects were only 13 in total. The allocation of ongoing hydel projects included Rs 55.383 million for Dasu Hydropower Project (2,160 MW), Rs 12,083 Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (696 MW), and Rs 12,000 million for Tarbela 5th Extension Hydro Power Project (1,410 MW). Among the ongoing water sector projects, Rs 20,000 million each was allocated for Diamer Basha Dam Project and K-4 Greater water Supply Scheme (260 MGD), Rs 12,060 million for Mohmand Multipurpose Dam Project, Rs 7,000 million for Diamer Basha Dam Project (Land Acquisition and Re-settlement), and Rs 5,000 each for Nai Gaj Dam Project Dadu (Sindh) and Kaachi Canal Project (Phase-I) Dera Bugti, Naseerabad, Bolan and Jhal Magsi.—APP

## High Court Bar Association to host poetry sitting

ISLAMABAD: The High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi and Lawyers' Literary Organization "Bazam-e-Tarveej Sukhan" are set to hold a poetry sitting on Wednesday at the Auditorium of the High Court Bar Association in Rawalpindi. According to the organizers, the poetry sitting (Mushaira) will be presided over by Anjum Saleemi, a renowned poet and literary figure. The event will also feature Rana Saeed Doshi and Abdul Qadir Tabban as special guests. A number of prominent poets are expected to participate in the event, including Abdur Rehman Kashif, Aqeel Shah, Dr Aziz Faisal, Abid Maroof Mughal, Ahmed Idriss, Riffat Waheed, Faqih Haider, Touqeer Elahi Minhas, and Malik Asif Nawaz. The event is expected to attract a large audience of poetry lovers and literary enthusiasts from across the city. The poetry sitting is an important event and a platform for poets to showcase their literary talents for centuries.—APP



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## New thinking for ending Ukraine crisis

THE scheduled visit to Russia this week by senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi not only embodies China's consistent stance on maintaining balanced diplomacy among major countries but also underscores the country's latest efforts to push for a political settlement to the Ukraine crisis. Wang, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, is on an eight-day whirlwind trip to Europe and Russia is the last leg, sending an unmistakable message to the outside world that Beijing will maintain close high-level communication with Moscow despite the politically motivated opprobrium of the West. Although some Western countries and media have pointed critical fingers at China's relations with Russia and even resorted to malicious slandering of Sino-Russian ties since the Ukraine crisis broke out – the latest example being US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's baseless claim that China is considering providing "lethal material support to Russia", which is totally wrong – China has repeatedly said its relations with Russia are based on non-alliance, non-confrontation and non-targeting of third countries. As close neighbors, China and Russia have every reason to continue to cement their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination and deepen their cooperation. Close and stable China-Russia ties also facilitate smooth coordination on multilateral platforms and over issues of regional and global significance. And although different to that of those Western countries which have been fanning the flames of the conflict, China's consistent stance on the Ukraine crisis is in line with that taken by the majority of countries. With Friday marking the first anniversary of the Ukraine conflict, both the belligerents and other parties involved in the crisis should think solemnly as to whether the war should be allowed to drag on or peace be given a chance. When addressing the Munich Security Conference in Germany on Saturday, Wang announced that China will put forth its position on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis which supports and promotes peace talks. By standing firmly on the side of peace and dialogue, China is setting an example for what a responsible country should do. Obviously, for the world to navigate the Ukraine conflict and other geopolitical risks and challenges, it needs new thinking and more practical measures to address the growing number of global security challenges. This is what China offers in its Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, which was released on Tuesday, with the aim of fostering common purpose and concerted actions to eliminate the root causes of international conflicts and reduce the peace, development, security and governance deficits that cause instability, uncertainty and volatility. An international consensus on peaceful coexistence must be forged and realized by embracing the spirit of solidarity. The larger picture of global security should outweigh selfish strategic calculation so that the complex and intertwined security challenges can be addressed and "the torch of peace be passed from generation to generation".

## Coup fears in Moldova

AS the anniversary of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine approaches, Monday's visit to Kyiv by the US president, Joe Biden – during which he pledged further military support and a new wave of sanctions on Russia – powerfully testified to US solidarity. Mr Biden's surprise trip, his first since the war began, was as important for its timing and symbolism as its substance. Indirectly, it will also have offered some reassurance a few hundred miles to the south, in the Moldovan capital, Chi inău. Amid ominous signals that a hybrid campaign against Ukraine's strategically crucial neighbour is being stepped up, and suggestions that plans for a Kremlin-backed coup are in place, Moldova is also in need of western assistance. Earlier this month, its pro-European government resigned, having been relentlessly destabilised through crises largely made in Moscow. A new prime minister has been swiftly appointed. But at the Munich security conference, where the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, met the Moldovan president, Maia Sandu, Mr Blinken became the most senior western official to voice concern over a potential plot to install a Moscow-friendly regime. Since the invasion of Ukraine, the former Soviet republic of 2.5 million people has been plunged into economic crisis as Russia has restricted energy supplies. Inflation has soared to 30%, and fuel bills have risen to almost the equivalent of a minimum monthly pension. Sunday saw the latest in a succession of street protests allegedly financed and organised by a pro-Russian fugitive oligarch, now living in Israel. Cyber-attacks, and disinformation via pro-Russian media outlets have added to the sense of perma-crisis, and Moldova has had to cope with an influx of 700,000 Ukrainian refugees – proportionately more than any other country. Indicating the current level of anxiety, Moldovan airspace was briefly closed last week after a security warning from Kyiv. About 1,500 Russian troops are already stationed in Moldova next to the Ukrainian border, in the unrecognised, Moscow-backed breakaway state of Transnistria. An outright invasion is unlikely. But familiar features of Mr Putin's destabilisation playbook in eastern Europe are menacingly present: a frozen conflict that could be reopened; pro-Moscow oligarchs with the money and motive to make trouble, and a sizeable ethnic Russian minority. Mirroring the role of Belarus in the north, a compliant government in Chi inău could allow Mr Putin to exert pressure on Ukraine from the south. The new prime minister, Dorin Recean, has pledged to continue Moldova's pro-European trajectory, after its acceptance as an EU candidate member last year. As the Kremlin continues to weaponise the economic crisis it has helped generate, the west should consider further stepping up levels of humanitarian aid to one of Europe's poorest countries. It should also offer technical resources and expertise in combating disinformation and cyber-attacks. Inevitably, such assistance will be presented by Moscow as confirmation of the west's proxy war against Russia. Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, recently described Moldova as the west's new "anti-Russian project". But the significance of the social unrest on Ukraine's southern flank must not be ignored.

# Afghanistan: Post USA withdrawal

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The withdrawal of U.S. troops followed the withdrawal of finance by the international community and the country will face more difficulties for public development sector. The flow of Afghan elite, refugees and brain drain will increase. As the reaction of this Afghanistan may become a new front of regional and international actors like China, Russia, Pakistan, India and Iran to engage

Today, Afghanistan has emerged as a more concerning country for its neighbors, regional and international powers. During the twenty years of intervening, the United States has suffered 22000 casualties and approximately \$143 billion in Afghanistan. In January 2021, the United States announced, "it had reduced its forces in Afghanistan to 2500, the lowest level since 2001, in advance of the potential full military withdrawal by May 2021". The expected withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan is difficult to be optimistic because there are various actors within Afghanistan and its neighborhood. So it can be said with certainty that no country in the region may remain untouched of its consequences. The neighboring states are reviving their older geostrategic objectives. Though, no one neighboring state wants to see unstable Afghanistan and any kind of threat from the diverse Afghan groups and the destabilized country. But the new commitment of the international community for Afghanistan may hold potential threat of disruptive political culture, uncertainty and insecurity. At Bonn, the responsibility was divided among the several countries to train national army and police; disarming of private militias; reintegration in to society; eradication of poppy; constructing of legal system. The financing to humanitarian and development of the country was shared project of the international powers. But the international community failed because they could not assign and define the role and long term partnership of regional powers in the recovery of Afghanistan. While the regional states have their permanent interests in Afghanistan therefore; they may also have opportunity to compete constructively in providing developmental assistance. Post withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan the international community also

backed away from their commitment and washed their hand during the civil war in the country. The repugnant act of Taliban brought Afghanistan back on to international platform to discuss. The event of 9/11 pushed the world into war against terrorism and Taliban regime in Afghanistan. On October 2001, U.S. and NATO forces invaded Afghanistan to removed Taliban regime which harbored Al-Qaida. The presence of foreign forces remained since the last twenty years with the mission of counterterrorism in the country but the level of financial assistance declined over the times. In December 2017, the US national security strategy launched a commitment to support Afghan Government and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) in the fight against terrorism and Taliban. Despite their reaffirmed commitment and deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan the United States desired to withdraw their forces. The scholars have many concerns about the outcome of the United States withdrawal from the specious and unclear environment of Afghanistan. The experts of security studies think that if the United States leaves Afghanistan then Taliban may resume control over the vast area and the country return into same situation of 1990s with the characterize of sharia rule. The Taliban has also emerged as a legitimate political actor and has made deal with the government and the international actors. The leadership of ethnic groups and small war lords are willing to support Taliban regime on sharia. The return of Taliban regime cannot address the grievances of the Afghans population. The security situation may also erode and the country again becomes the platform of terrorist activities. This situation may also lead towards civil war and fragmentation of ethnic groups. It will be more

difficult for young population particularly women and minorities. The negative impact will be more noticeable in the country where health care and education will be decline and the movement and freedom of women will also be decrease. The withdrawal of U.S. troops followed the withdrawal of finance by the international community and the country will face more difficulties for public development sector. The flow of Afghan elite, refugees and brain drain will increase. As the reaction of this Afghanistan may become a new front of regional and international actors like China, Russia, Pakistan, India and Iran to engage Taliban to achieve their own geopolitical interests. This situation brings back the environment of proxy wars. The sustainable peace depends upon the support of regional actors particularly Pakistan, Iran China and Russia. Neighboring states may continue their support Afghanistan's local beneficiary groups to maintain stability in the regional balance of power. Moreover the peace of Afghanistan and the region depends on the Afghan government stability and capacity of dealing with challenges of corruption, trade of opium, human right, minority and patron-client system of the population. Whether the United States withdraw from Afghanistan, the country will remain engaged with international powers particularly its neighbor states. Peace will neither come automatically but it will come with well design agreement of all stack-holders in Afghanistan and neighboring countries. As portrayed different future scenarios above will bring different level of difficulties, the Afghanistan may need of comprehensive measures and plan of action by international community to safeguard its interest in future.

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## Negative impacts of “unnoticed bullying” on personality development

Sher Zada



Thirdly the repressive schooling system whatever that is a madrassa or formal school had have not been familiarized with trend of soft culture of socialization or in other words have lack of decency while treating with children ,that lead to vacuum to positive personality development. Fourth reason is the continuation and repetition of the traditional culture of bullying has strengthened its root in our society....

Societies grow up with appreciation and positive attitudes are developed in the environment of tolerance and mutual existence. Similarly positive personality is developed by giving space to mistakes and errors because human learn good or bad behaviors from experiences while living in society .The process and speed of learning is not same with every individual due to the law of nature and the complex mental structure of human beings that differs one from the other . So mental smartness, physical strength and functions of one individual would not be accurately similar to another individual. As human beings we cannot go against the laws of nature, yes there is no doubt that we can make improvement by bringing an ease or facilitating those who are born with mental or physical weaknesses through doing research on their problems aimed at finding solution to their problems. In first world countries societies who are referred as civilized and laws abiding have framed spaces for people with all kinds of weaknesses but yet they have to be evolved to appreciate and fully tolerate these people by realizing their worth and role in society. Third world countries that have not been in that suitable position to take measures to support the special persons or people with weaknesses due to their poor economy and multiples challenges faced by the governments ,lag far behind first world countries. These mentally or physically weak people are in continuous fight with nature being living with born deficiencies on one side and verbal or intact victimization by their fellow human beings on the other . This victimization is often called as “Bullying” which means disgracing, insulting or threatening someone for the fault or inability to perform certain work or responsibility that normal people do. The bullying that once starts with childhood goes on parallel to adulthood or even to old age. Family which is

the first learning and socialization center of experiences for a child can affect personality of a child to a great extent. Once a child is bullied in the family in his or her early childhood, then it goes with him or her with the rest in their life. Calling a child with a bad title “black monkey”, targeting his or her color, “lazy cow”, targeting his or her walking movement, “deaf” targeting his or her talking fluency etc. are such words affect child character to grave extent. Bullying not happens within the premises of a house but it also happens in the education institutions that endanger children behavior and causes development of negative attitudes in children. According statistics one out three children is bullied in the United States that means 50% of schools are centers of bullying, where it leads to 25% violence as result of bullying that 20% impacts on students scoring performance in their exam. Louisiana, District of Columbia, Arkansas, Maryland and Arizona sates are ranked top most bullying states in the U.S. Georgia was the first state that implemented school anti-bullying legislation in 1999, later the U.S congress passed anti-bullying legislation in 2015 that was extended to all the states. Similarly Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 of the United Kingdom (UK) ensure to abandon every kind of bullying, Canadian government has enacted anti-bullying policy since 2012. In this context Philippine was the first Asian country that has implemented anti-bullying law in 2013. Nevertheless Pakistan which is verbally iconic for human rights endorses anti-bullying laws since 2010 by implementing Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2010), that streamlined bullying with the interpretation of women harassment ,where the justice was not made with the true spirit of anti-bullying law. Unluckily the core issue that is bullying has been affect-

ing the personality growth of children and adolescent, hasnot been addressed as it shouldbe. There are few reasons certain to this mismanagement and continuous negligence of the subject matter by the policymakers and legislators to make unilateral consensus to policymaking to stop the menace of bullying in every public sphere .Firstly the policymakers have no know how about the psychological impacts that are caused by bullying, as a results, the country is having a large no of population with depression, anxiety and continuous stress. Secondly the parents, teachers and supervisors don't take the issue of bullying and the negative consequences attached with the trend of bullying. Thirdly the repressive schooling system whatever that is a madrassa or formal school had have not been familiarized with trend of soft culture of socialization or in other words have lack of decency while treating with children ,that lead to vacuum to positive personality development. Fourth reason is the continuation and repetition of the traditional culture of bullying has strengthened its root in our society that are quite hard to get rid of that. Fifth and the final reason is the meaning and themisinterpretation of the term bullying with just threatening message on social media or other medium of communication, which make vague efforts to go against bullying, because bullying means to enforce or hurt someone's feeling about his or her existence that ultimately provokes for violence or developing negative personality. Bullying is one of the demand catching issues that needs policymakers attention to timely address it and stop the prevailing culture of intolerance and nonexistence in youth who are the important assets for every society.

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## Briefs

## Parvez Elahi joins PTI with close aides

FROM PAGE 01  
which, they stated, testified PTI's stance that the imported government was making all-out efforts to impose law of jungle in the country. In a statement on Tuesday, PTI leaders Central Secretary General PTI AsadUmer, Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry and PTI Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib said that the imported government soon after seizing power through conspiracy turned the NAB a powerless entity and squashed all their corruption cases. AsadUmer said that the imported government was hell-bent on imposing law of jungle, as they amended NAB law to save their skins but it was not enough. He said that they started putting constant pressure on the Chairman NAB to get undue favour due to which he was left with no option but to resign in protest. Asad said that the presence of lawyers in large number clearly indicated that they were all-set to play a central role to defend the constitution and ensure supremacy of law.

## PTI to kick start...

FROM PAGE 01  
the court's orders multiple times citing the leg injury he had suffered at Wazirabad last year. Upon this, the court gave him a "last chance" to appear till 5pm on Monday, otherwise the [possible] arrest threat against him could have been materialized. Expediting preparations to arrest Mr Khan, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore division had constituted a four-member team to arrest Mr Khan after he appeared before the court as, guided by the police's past possible attempt to arrest him, it would have become increasingly difficult to approach him due to a hoard of PTI supporters surrounding him while he was on his way to the court.

## Info Minister...

FROM PAGE 01  
Important amendments were being made in the law regarding the payment of salaries of journalists, she assured. The minister listened to the problems of the delegation and assured to solve the problems faced by the working journalists including their safety and training.

PM for less load...

FROM PAGE 01  
fuel and alternative resources is continuously increasing in country's energy mix for power generation. He also directed for taking immediate steps to make Haveli Bahadur Shah Power Plant fully operational. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack at a checkpoint of the Levies force that martyred two personnel. The prime minister said the nation paid tribute to its security forces for defending the country. He prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace and for the early recovery of the injured.

## Government submits...

FROM PAGE 01  
"cause damage to the interests of Pakistan's international relations". This apprehension was put on record by the government during a hearing of the case on Jan 19. The Cabinet Division had in the same hearing also submitted a report before the court, informing that a new policy on the Toshakhana was being formulated which would be more transparent, fair and in accordance with international practices. Established in 1974, the Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

## GTA to establish Taekwondo Centre of Excellence in Pak

"I am very happy to receive warm welcome from Federal Minister for IPC Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari as he promised me if I came Pakistan he will come to receive at airport", Kim said adding that Ehsan Mazari is a gentleman person who also want to promote sports in Pakistan as well

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The three member's delegation of Gyeonggido Taekwondo Association (GTA) from Korea arrived in Islamabad to finalise the modalities of establishing the Taekwondo Centre of Excellence in Pakistan. The three member delegation led by GTA President Kim Kyuengduk, Executive Director, Kim Pyeong, Director Mun He Sung received warm welcome by Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari, Acting Director General Pakistan Sports Board Muhammad Ibrar, President Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) Col. (Retd.) Waseem Janjua, Korean Poomsae head coach Choi Seong and other officials at the arrival of Islamabad. The GTA delegation who is on five days visit to Pakistan visited different locations of twin cities to finalise the modalities of establishing centre of excellence as Pakistan Taekwondo Federation and Gyeonggido Taekwondo Association of Korea have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the de-



velopment of matters of mutual interest of this sport in both the countries. "We are very much happy to again here in Pakistan to find out some more options to establish centre of excellence for taekwondo and martial arts games", said GTA President Kim Kyuengduk adding that Gyeonggi-

do Taekwondo Association decided to support Pakistan and their talented kids to enhance their skills in the field of taekwondo. Kim Kyuengduk said that we wanted to establish this project in Pakistan because of wonderful efforts done by Pakistan Taekwondo Federation in last few years

as well as Pakistan is like centre headquarter for South and West Asian countries and having easy approach for everyone having good option for GTA to establish centre of excellence here. "I am very happy to receive warm welcome from Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination

Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari as he promised me if I came Pakistan he will come to receive at airport", Kim said adding that Ehsan Mazari is a gentleman person who also want to promote sports in Pakistan as well. He said that GTA will continue their support with mutual cooperation as after establishing a centre of excellence we will hold many training camps, seminars, technical courses for players and officials to enhance their skills not only in taekwondo but also in martial arts taekwondo as well. "Everyone wants to learn and win in the taekwondo but this is the game how to respect and educate others", GTA president said adding that children's in Pakistan continue their trainings and never give-up if they don't get the opportunity as one day they will get chance to show their skills to the world. The Gyeonggido Taekwondo Association has great organizational power from the 17 cities of the country and will share information and other related plans aimed at enhancement of the game at each and every level with the view to improving the working of both Federations in their respective arenas.

PSL 8th Edition

WEDNESDAY 06:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 22, 2023Cricket Stadium,  
Multan, Pakistan

## Can't tow lines; NAB...

FROM PAGE 01  
months to register cases against the people of their choice and arrest them," they further said. Sultan, according to the source, had also withdrawn the arrest powers from NAB director-generals (DGs) to avoid misuse of authority by the officials. He was brought in by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government after Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal's tenure ended last year. Reacting to the development that has "dented" the transparency of the current collation government, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Fawad Chaudhry said that the resignation of the NAB chairman is a big step towards the collapse of the fascist system. "Aftab Sultan resigned against the 'interference' in his work," the former federal minister said, adding those 22 officers who were appointed in Punjab for the same purpose should also step aside. "It is in the interest of both the country and the bureaucracy."

## ECP to consult...

FROM PAGE 01  
In the meeting, the ECP has decided to take further guidance from Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) and other legal experts. The commission has invited the AGP for a meeting tomorrow while two constitutional/legal experts are also being chosen for consultation on the matter. In its press release, the ECP stated that it has always taken decisions in accordance with the constitution and law and it will continue to do so without accepting any pressure. The commission is always ready to hold elections within 90 days "but it is nowhere written in the Constitution and law that the ECP will give the date for elections." President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday fixed April 9 as the date for elections to the provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The development came hours after the ECP reaffirmed its decision not to consult the president on dates for elections to the two provincial assemblies.

## PTI wants NA...

FROM PAGE 01  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also accepted his resignation. As the government has launched search to find a new person for the top slot, the PTI feared that its dissident leader Raja Riaz, who is currently serving as leader of the opposition in the lower house of the parliament, could support the government in appointing its favourite person as NAB chairman. The fears made it to approach the speaker for changing the opposition leader before the key appointment. "As you may be aware, the Hon'ble Lahore High Court has decided on Feb 20 suspending your decision to de-notify MNAs belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. As a result of this decision, the largest Opposition Party in the National Assembly is now PTI, and the Leader of the Opposition should now be from PTI," reads the letter. Mr Dogar said he had written the letter to the speaker in line with the directives of the PTI chairman to ask him to "initiate process for the change of Leader of the Opposition with immediate effect". The PTI leader also reminded him that "according to the NAB Law, the appointment of Chairman NAB has to be carried out after consultation between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition".

## Nida Dar breaks world record for most T20I wickets

Always wanted to play Australia and share experience, learn from [them], but thing is as a team we need more exposure and more matches against Australia

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's Nida Dar surpassed West Indies' Anisa Mohammad to become the leading wicket-taker in women's T20 with 126 wickets to her name. Dar achieved the feat during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup match against England. The off-spinner, who averages 18.18 with the ball, took 130 matches to break the record. Earlier, Dar said that Pakistan women's team should play more matches against top sides in order to improve their standard in world cricket. Dar

shared these thoughts, while speaking to ESPN-cricinfo, last month during series against Australia. "We need more matches to minimise the gap with the best teams," Dar said. "We always wanted to play competitive [cricket] and we can only improve when we play a lot of matches against the best teams. "Always wanted to play Australia and share the experience, learn from [them], but the thing is as a team we need more exposure and more matches against Australia. We definitely learn a lot and that's what we want." She also wants Pakistan players to regularly participate in top T20 leagues around the world. "Definitely it is very important for the players in Pa-

kistan to play international leagues like Big Bash or Hundred to improve," she said. "We have potential, we have had three players of the month for ICC [last year], but we need to show the skills while playing international leagues or series against the best teams. "It's a very important time for the girls, especially in Pakistan, so we need more international matches, more international leagues, so they can grow up earlier so we can have competitive matches and series against the best teams. This is the time that we have to go to different leagues and watch what other players are doing. If we go into the leagues, we can bring that experience back to Pakistan."

## Lukaku struggling on Inter return

WEB DESK

MILAN: Romelu Lukaku's return to Inter Milan has been far from what he would have hoped it would be but the Belgium striker is showing signs of life as his team prepare for the Champions League visit of Porto. Hit by a succession of injuries and ridiculed for his part in his country's dismal World Cup campaign, Lukaku has been a peripheral figure in what was supposed to be a glorious homecoming season for the 2021 Serie A winner. The 29-year-old has only played the full 90 minutes once for Inter since being sent back there on loan from Chelsea last summer, seven starts and three goals in all competitions a poor return given all the close season hype. On Saturday Lukaku scored his first Serie A goal since the opening day of the season, netting a penalty at the second attempt which started Inter towards a 3-1 win. However it wasn't the most convincing way to get back on the scoresheet as his first goal from the spot was struck dreadfully, finally scoring after an Udinese player was caught encroaching in the penalty area. And as it stands Lukaku is behind veteran Edin Dzeko in the queue to play alongside Lautaro Martinez, the other half of the once great 'Lu-La' partnership who has come back from Argentina's World Cup triumph in fizzing form and has even worn the captain's armband. Martinez has scored eight times in all competitions since returning from Qatar and will be coach Simone Inzaghi's major weapon on Wednesday night. His buoyant post-World Cup mood goes in stark contrast to Lukaku's state of mind in the Gulf, a smashed dugout and a trail of missed chances against Croatia which ended the Red Devils' chances at the group stage the only memories of an awful tournament. "Croatia was a huge disappointment but I told myself: 'Romelu, you weren't 100 percent, you'd only had two training sessions,'" said Lukaku at the start of the year. "I was rightly massacred but now I really want to get back out on the pitch."

## Kerley aiming for golden double at worlds

MELBOURNE: Versatile track superstar Fred Kerley Tuesday said his key goal for 2023 was to match Usain Bolt and claim the 100m-200m sprint double at the world championships in Budapest this year. The American reigning 100m world champion and Tokyo Olympic silver medalist is the star attraction at the Maurie Plant meet in Melbourne on Thursday, where he will make his season bow. He is one of only three men in history to run sub-10 seconds for the 100m, sub-20 for the 200m and sub-44 for the 400m, giving him multiple options. But he opted to focus on the 200m, where gold eluded him at last year's world championships in Eugene. "Every time I step on the track it should be something fast," the 27-year-old told reporters. "I know my training has been going good, so hopefully it will be a good time. "Last year (at Eugene) I came up short in the 200, so double gold is the only thing that is on my mind at the moment." He vowed to run under 20 seconds in Melbourne, which has been upgraded to World Continental Tour Gold level, sitting just under Diamond League in status. - APP

## No grounds to designate IRGC as 'terrorist' entity

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Germany says there is no legal basis for blacklisting Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist organization," echoing earlier remarks made last month by the European Union's foreign policy chief. Speaking on Monday following a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said German experts have found no legal grounds to justify such a move against the IRGC. "As of now, we don't have legal

grounds in the EU to list the [Islamic] Revolutionary Guards [Corps] as [a] terrorist organization," she said. The new development came as the 27-nation bloc has been slapping sanctions on Iran over what it calls the country's approach towards foreign-backed riots that erupted in some Iranian cities in September. The riots broke out after the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman. She fainted at a police station in Tehran and was pronounced dead three days later at the hospital. An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization concluded that Amini's

death had been caused by illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs. Following her death, rioters went on a rampage, brutally attacking security officers and causing massive damage to public property. Dozens of people and security personnel were killed throughout the riots. Iran's intelligence bodies have found footprints of American and other Western spy agencies in the violent riots. Last month, the European Parliament adopted an amendment calling on the EU and its member states to include the IRGC on their terror list. It also passed another resolution, calling for more sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities and putting the IRGC on the EU's so-called terror list over alleged human rights violations during the recent riots.

## Man City fighting fires ahead of Leipzig test

Defender Kyle Walker described City's sloppiness in relinquishing top spot in Premier League at weekend as "unacceptable". "Sometimes it's football and sometimes it's emotion," he said. "Every game should be treated same - like a cup final"

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's quest to finally conquer Europe resumes on Wednesday when Pep Guardiola's men travel to RB Leipzig, but all is not well for the English champions on or off the field. City appeared to have laid down a marker in the Premier League title race by beating leaders Arsenal 3-1 away last week, only to then throw away two points by conceding late to draw 1-1 at Nottingham Forest on Saturday. They are also playing under a cloud after being charged with more than 100 breaches of financial rules by the Premier League, dating back to the 2009/10 season. Defender Kyle Walker described City's sloppiness in relinquishing top spot in the Premier League at the weekend as "unac-

ceptable". "Sometimes it's football and sometimes it's emotion," he said. "Every game should be treated the same - like a cup final." A two-point deficit at the top of the table could turn into five should Arsenal win their game in hand against struggling Everton. A lack of consistency in City's performances is troubling Guardiola ahead of his side's return to action in the competition they most crave. City have never won the Champions League, while Guardiola, who won the trophy twice as manager of Barcelona, has not done so since 2011, his penultimate season at the Camp Nou. The signing of Erling Haaland was expected to be the final piece in solving City's puzzle in Europe. The Norwegian has delivered the goals expected of him, with 32 in all competitions. Yet Haaland's arrival

is one of the factors used to explain a dip in City's collective standards this season. The defending champions have dropped 20 points already in 24 games - compared with 21 points in the whole of the 2021/22 campaign. Despite Haaland's



haul, City had scored more goals as a team at this stage last season. Defensively they also look more exposed - an issue not helped by Guardiola's willingness to let Joao Cancelo join Bayern Munich on loan, leaving him without a natural left-back. Nathan Ake, Aymeric Laporte, Rico Lewis and even creative midfielder Bernardo Silva have been shunted out to do a job on the left side of defence in the past two weeks alone. Guardiola said he was heartened by City's display at Forest despite a lack of killer instinct that cost them two points. However, he has not been slow to call out his players since the World Cup break for a lack of hunger and desire to remain on top in England, which is an uncharacteristic approach for the former Barca and Bayern Munich coach. Finding such motivation for the Champions League should not be difficult. Third-choice goalkeeper Scott Carson is the only member of Guardiola's squad to have won the competition previously, when he was at Liverpool. "We're coming after it,"

goalkeeper Ederson said of City's quest to win the Champions League. "I think we're a group of great quality and that shows how much the club has developed over the last five or six years, with Premier League titles, Carabao (League) Cups, FA Cups, Community Shields. "So this title is what the club needs. It's what we athletes need and it's what Guardiola needs here at the club, too. This year, we're going to try. We're going after it." There could also be the extra incentive of not knowing for sure when City might get another chance to play in the Champions League due to the score of charges on financial breaches earlier this month. Should City be found guilty, a heavy points penalty or even relegation could be on the cards for a club that has played in Europe's elite competition for 12 straight seasons.



## Briefs

France's  
Macron  
defends  
pensions  
reform

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday defended his government's hotly contested pensions overhaul, making a rare intervention on a reform he has championed but where he has kept a low profile. A majority of the French population, according to polls, and left-wing groups in parliament are strongly opposed to the plan, which includes raising the age of retirement from 62 to 64. But Macron, who put the overhaul at the centre of his re-election campaign last year, had until now largely avoided face-to-face meetings on the plan with members of the public and let his government handle the criticism. On Tuesday, he told journalists the later age was necessary as life expectancy was on the rise. "There's no miracle: If we want to keep this system going, we need to work longer," he said as he toured the meat section of the massive Rungis wholesale food market south of Paris. "Everybody has common sense... On the whole, people know that everybody has to work a little longer on average, otherwise we won't be able to properly fund our pensions," he said. "If we don't create wealth, we cannot then distribute it."—Agencies

China,  
Hungary  
pledge to  
strengthen  
ties

BUDAPEST: China and Hungary agreed on Monday to continue strengthening their friendly relations and pushing for more progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas. The consensus was reached during a meeting between Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto in Budapest. Noting that Hungary is a good friend of China in Europe, Wang said the two sides respect, trust and support each other and have forged a profound friendship. China will firmly pursue a friendly policy toward Hungary and will support its domestic and foreign policies adopted based on the fundamental interests of the Hungarian people, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. China is ready to work with Hungary to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, seize the opportunity brought about by China's optimizing its epidemic prevention and control policies as well as its strong economic recovery, exploit the two countries' respective advantages, push for progress in bilateral cooperation on infrastructure, investment, trade and tourism, and elevate their cooperation on building the Belt and Road to a new level, Wang said. This year marks the 20th anniversary of China's comprehensive strategic partnership with the European Union (EU), Wang said, noting that China and Europe have never been rivals, and their common interests far outweigh their differences. He said China's cooperation with Hungary, with the Central and Eastern European countries, and with Europe at large can achieve benign interactions and open up more room for development.

Three  
peacekeepers  
killed in Mali

NEW YORK: Three United Nations peacekeepers were killed and five were seriously injured after their convoy hit an improvised explosive device in central Mali, the UN peacekeeping mission in the West African country said on Tuesday on Twitter. Mali is struggling to stem extremism that took root after a 2012 coup and has since spread from the West African country's arid north. Thousands have died and millions have been displaced across the Sahel region. Some of the groups have links to al-Qaeda and ISIS. At least 281 peacekeepers have been killed in Mali since the start of the mission in 2013, making it the deadliest UN peacekeeping mission in the world.—APP

Russia suspends key  
nuclear treaty with US

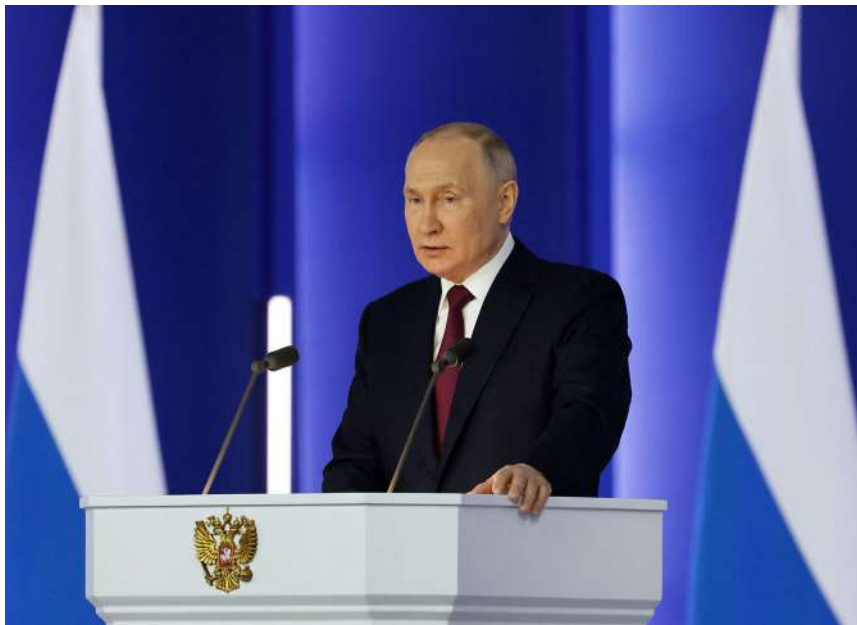
The West has been provoking conflicts in the post-Soviet space and has never ceased in its attempts to finally "finish off" Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday

## NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin declared Tuesday that Moscow was suspending its participation in the New START treaty – the last remaining nuclear arms control pact with the United States – sharply upping the ante amid tensions with Washington over the fighting in Ukraine. Speaking in his state-of-the-nation address, Putin also said that Russia should stand ready to resume nuclear weapons tests if the U.S. does so, a move that would end a global ban on nuclear weapons tests in place since the Cold War times. Explaining his decision to suspend Russia's obligations under New START, Putin accused the U.S. and its NATO allies of openly declaring the goal of Russia's defeat in Ukraine. "They want to inflict a 'strategic defeat' on us and try to get to our nuclear facilities at the same time," he said. Putin argued that while the U.S. has pushed for the resumption of inspections of Russian nuclear facilities under

the treaty, NATO allies had helped Ukraine mount drone attacks on Russian air bases hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers. "The drones used for it were equipped and modernized with NATO's expert assistance," Putin said. "And now they want to inspect our defense facilities? In the conditions of today's confrontation, it sounds like sheer nonsense."

Putin emphasized that Russia is suspending its involvement in New START and not entirely withdrawing from the pact yet. The New START treaty, signed in 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. The agreement envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance. Just days before the treaty was due to expire in February 2021, Russia and the United States agreed to extend it for another five years. Russia and the U.S. have suspended mutual inspections under New START since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic,



but Moscow last fall refused to allow their resumption, raising uncertainty about the pact's future. Russia also indefinitely postponed a planned round of consultations under the treaty. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg slammed Russia for suspending a nuclear weapons limitation treaty with the U.S., saying it marked the

end of Europe's post-Cold War arms control architecture. "I regret today's decision by Russia to suspend its participation in the New START treaty," Stoltenberg told a news conference. "Over the last years, Russia has violated and walked away from key arms control agreements. With today's decision on New START the

whole arms control architecture has been dismantled," he said. The West has been provoking conflicts in the post-Soviet space and has never ceased in its attempts to finally "finish off" Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. "For all the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the West never stopped trying to

inflammate post-Soviet states and, what is most important, ultimately finish off Russia as the biggest remaining part of our historic land. They have been pardoning international terrorists and pitting them against us, provoking regional conflicts along the perimeter of our borders, ignoring our interests and using means of economic restraint and pressure," he said in his State of the Nation Address. According to the Russian president, the operation of strategic enterprises and hence the socio-economic situation in many regions depend on large businesses. "And this means that the situation where the managers and owners of such businesses find themselves dependent on governments which are pursuing an unfriendly policy toward Russia is a big threat for our country and we cannot tolerate such a state of affairs," he said. The Russian economy and management system proved to be more stable than projected in the West, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday in his annual address to the Federal Assembly.

Pak-China desert locust control  
coop protect food security

## DNA

BEIJING: Pak-China desert locust control coop protect food security in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. The report quoted Mir Gul Muhammad, a farmer in Balochistan who cultivated around 20 hectares of cotton crops and almost all of them have been eaten. It is a loss of around 10 million rupees. Mir Gul said, it will take years to recover from this loss. "These nasty insects appeared like a dark cloud out of nowhere and ate 80 percent of my crop in a few days. In 2020-21, Pakistan experienced its worst locust outbreak in nearly three decades, causing severe crop yield reduc-

tion or even total failure in many areas. "According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), desert locusts affected 38 percent of Pakistan's land area. The swarms caused significant damage to food crops, including wheat, maize, and vegetables. And the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council showed that the locusts damaged over 3 million hectares of crops, leading to losses of around USD 3 billion," noted Prof Hidayat ULLAH from the University of Swabi. Luckily, with the joint efforts of experts from both China and Pakistan, the locust plague was finally brought under control. "The intensity has been reduced.

Swarms has been restricted to the eastern boarder of Pakistan due to effective aerial spray," Prof ULLAH said. With the support of the FAO, Chinese Government and other international organizations, various control measures have been implemented to mitigate the impact of the outbreak. "Nevertheless, we cannot relax our vigilance for even a second." Researcher Tu Xiongbing from the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) told China Economic Net in an exclusive interview. Not long ago, he and Prof Hidayat ULLAH co-published a paper entitled IPM-Biological and integrated management of desert locust.

In the paper, Tu mentioned that spraying chemical pesticides is the most effective way when the disaster-affected area is large. For smaller affected areas or relatively mild plagues, biological control measures can control the density. Preventive measures such as protecting natural enemies are also essential. "China's history is a history of fighting against locusts. All dynasties have specially established prevention and control institutions and regulations. After almost 60 years of development, China has made important achievements in the field of locust monitoring and control. We're willing to share all experience and technology with Pakistani counterparts."

EU imposes new  
sanctions on  
Myanmar's junta

BRUSSELS: The European Union adopted its sixth sanctions package Monday against the military junta in Myanmar for human rights violations. EU foreign ministers approved "restrictive measures against nine persons and seven entities in view of the continuing escalation of violence, grave human rights violations and threats to the peace, security and stability in Myanmar," the Council of the European Union, an EU institution representing member states, said in a statement. The top diplomats also reiterated that the bloc condemns "in the strongest possible terms the grave human rights violations," including sexual violence, the persecution of civil society, and "attacks on the civilian population, targeting also children and persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities across the country." Those blacklisted include the country's energy minister, prominent businessmen and high-ranking military officers who are facing measures such as travel bans and asset freezes, the statement said. "Also listed are politicians and administrators from the Yangon Region involved in the process of death sentences and the execution of four democracy activists in July 2022, and in Kachin State, where they oversaw air strikes, massacres, raids, arson and the use of human shields committed by the military," it added.—Agencies

Taiwan boosting  
military ties with  
Washington

TAIPEI: Taiwan has said it is steadily improving military relations with the US. President Tsai Ing-wen claimed that Taipei and Washington are working together to confront 'authoritarians' abroad. Speaking to a group of visiting US lawmakers who arrived in Taiwan over the weekend for a five-day stay, President Tsai said security ties with the US have continued to grow stronger. "Taiwan and the United States continue to bolster military exchanges, and going forward Taiwan will cooperate even more actively with the United States and other democratic partners to confront such global challenges as authoritarian expansionism and climate change," she told the lawmakers during a meeting in Taipei. READ MORE: Pentagon sends its China point man to Taiwan – media Though Tsai offered no details about the improved military cooperation, her statement follows reports that the Pentagon's top China official – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Chase – traveled to Taiwan last week for high-level security talks. He is the most senior US military official to travel to the island since 2019, when Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Heino Klink met with Taiwanese officials for a quiet round of talks.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of All Parties Conference (J&K) led by Mahmood Ahmad Safar meeting with President Arif Alvi at Aiwan e Sadr. — DNA

## China unveils global security paper

The document offers a sharp rebuke of "the Cold War mentality," hegemonism, and unilateralism

## MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, China announced in the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper it released on Tuesday amid growing risks and challenges that the world faces today, particularly in light of the Ukraine crisis, with the aim of eliminating the root causes of international conflicts and improving global security. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told a forum on Tuesday in Beijing that China had officially released the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, fully elaborating ideas and principles, clarifying cooperation mechanisms and underscoring China's responsibilities and firm determination to safeguard world peace by listing 20 major cooperation directions. The paper firmly supports a UN-centered security governance structure and supports its efforts to prevent war and lead in post-war reconstruction, calling for

major countries to play a leading role on global security issues, to reject hegemony and bullying and to build a peaceful coexistence, delivering stable and balanced relations between major countries, Qin said. The concept paper includes several core concepts and principles including remaining committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, taking legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously. It also highlighted that countries should remain committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains. The GSI represents a core idea underscoring a human community with a shared future, which has been welcomed and supported by over 80 countries and regions, Qin

said. To realize this vision, China will hold high-level GSI-related events and invite various parties to discuss security matters, which is not the privilege of a select few countries, the Chinese foreign minister said. "GSI is open and inclusive, and if any country would join the initiative and sincerely wants to safeguard world peace, we'll support that," Qin said. As part of the concept paper, China calls on all countries to practice true multilateralism, resisting a Cold War mentality, unilateralism, bloc confrontation and hegemonism. Countries should firmly uphold the consensus that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought and promote political settlement of international and regional hotspot issues. "It has been a year since the Ukraine crisis has escalated in an all-round way, and the situation has attracted international attention. The Chinese side is deeply concerned about the escalating conflict and potential for develop-

ments to spiral out of control," Qin said. Since the outbreak of the crisis, China's position has always been based on right and wrong and has abided by objectivity and fairness. Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward "four musts", "four commons" and "three points of thinking", which have played a responsible and constructive role in easing the situation and resolving the crisis, Qin said. China will continue to promote peace talks, provide Chinese wisdom for a comprehensive solution to the Ukraine issue, and work with the international community to promote dialogue and consultation to address the concerns of all parties to seek common security, Qin said. At the same time, we urge relevant countries to immediately stop adding fuel to the fire, stop blaming China and stop provoking the situation by using references like "Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow." During the speech, Qin also noted that China's development cannot be separated from a stable international environment.

Similarly, without China's security, there will be no global security. "The external suppression and containment of China has been continuously escalated and intensified, posing a serious threat to China's sovereignty and security," he said. Some attendees at the forum told the Global Times that they welcome China's proposal and that it's important to resolve global and regional issues of concern through dialogue and consultation, maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains. The GSI represents a core idea underscoring a human community with a shared future, which has been welcomed and supported by over 80 countries and regions, Qin said. To realize this vision, China will hold high-level GSI-related events and invite various parties to discuss security matters, which is not the privilege of a select few countries, the Chinese foreign minister said.

Chairman  
PARC  
inaugurates  
climate  
control  
glass house

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A national level seminar was organized by Arid Zone Research Center Umerkot at PARC-AZRC Umerkot to address the challenges to Biodiversity of the Thar Desert under Climate Change. The seminar was held at PARC-AZRC Umerkot. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council was the chief guest Dr. Jan Muhammad Marri, Pro Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member PSD, Dr. Maqsood A. Gill, Member NRD, Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, DG, PARC-SARC Karachi included dignitaries from PARC, research and agriculture extension departments of Sindh, academia, non-governmental organizations, and progressive farming community of Thar desert also attended the seminar.

While addressing to the seminar, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali appreciated the scientists of PARC-AZRC Umerkot for doing remarkable work for the development of Catalogue on flora of Thar with medicinal uses and description of separate plant species along with color pictorials and permits to publish the precious work which will be helpful for the diverse local farmers of the country. Dr. Ali also advised to share the germplasm to the NARC and allied institutes at different regions of the country and also acquires research material/germplasm from them in coordination for the adaptability. Chairman PARC also instructed to make exposure visit of the scientists to the research institutes under PARC at different regions of the country as to make strong coordination among them. Dr. Attallah Khan, Director of Arid Zone Research Center, Umerkot formally thanked the participants and presented the interventions of organization in conservation of biodiversity, ensuring food security under changing climate and models of climate-smart agriculture. He highlighted the impact of climate change on depletion of rich flora and fauna of Thar Desert and emphasized on the measures to protect nature from damages of changing climate and human activities. At this event, facility of climate control glass house was inaugurated by Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and dignitaries also witnessed the technical and field progress and appreciated the hard work of PARC-AZRC Umerkot team.

Mexico's  
Colima ranked  
world's most  
violent city

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's Citizens' Council for Public Safety and Criminal Justice (CCSPJP) published its 2022 ranking of the world's 50 most violent cities Monday, designating the west-central Mexican city of Colima as the most deadly. According to the CCSPJP, Colima reported 181.94 homicides per 100,000 residents. The northern city of Ciudad Juarez, however, holds the all-time record for the homicide rate. In 2010 during the height of Mexico's "war on drugs," it reached 229 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. In addition, Mexico also hosts the largest number of violent cities for the sixth year in a row. According to the ranking of the 50 analyzed cities with over 300,000 inhabitants, Mexico hosts 17, and nine of the top 10 most violent towns were also Mexican. The report says that Colima's rate is close to the rates that prevailed in Medellín, Colombia between the late 1980s and early 1990s due to the "war" of drug lord Pablo Escobar and his allies against the Colombian state to prevent his extradition to the US. The civil association criticizes Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's current administration, which has allegedly paved the way for criminal organizations active in the country to act unchallenged. "There is no precedent in the world of a national government – as is the case in Mexico today – that has adopted a public security policy of giving criminals a free hand to exercise violence."—Agencies



## Briefs

Govt imposes  
FED on first,  
business  
class travel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Following the implementation of demands of International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government has imposed Federal Excise Duty (FED) on first and business class international flights. The measure comes subsequently after National Assembly (NA) on Monday passed the Finance (Supplementary) Bill 2023, proposing additional taxes and duties of Rs170 billion to meet the conditions set by the IMF. Under the bill, it was proposed to impose a fixed amount of FED ranging from Rs250,000 to Rs75,000 of different tiers as per the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Following the approval of the bill, FED for Canada and America had been set at Rs0.25 million; while for Europe it had been fixed at Rs0.15 million. Apart from this, Rs0.075 million FED had been imposed on business and first-class tickets for the Middle East and Africa.

142 terrorists  
killed, 1,007  
held during  
last 3 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Security forces in their endeavor to wipe out terrorism from the country have killed at least 142 militants, besides arresting 1,007 in 6,921 operations during the last three months. Security forces have so far conducted numerous operations to arrest the new wave of terrorism. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,960 operations were undertaken out of which 1,516 were area domination operations, 301 intelligence-based operations, and 143 were area sanitization operations. In these operations, 98 terrorists were killed and 540 apprehended. In Balochistan, 3,414 operations were conducted out of these 2,980 were area domination operations, 67 intelligence-based actions, and 367 were area sanitization operations.

Shaban moon  
sighted in  
Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Shaban moon has been sighted in Pakistan and the first day of the month before Ramadan would fall on Wednesday. According to the details, the Shab-e-Barat would be observed on March 8 (Wednesday). The TV channel reported the crescent for Shaban was sighted in Punjab's capital city Lahore and the Zonal Committee has forwarded the evidence in this regard to the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee where its chairman Abdul Khabeer Azad announced the sighting of the moon. The Zonal Committee's meeting was chaired by Secretary Auqaf Punjab Dr Tahir Raza Bukhari while other committee members and representatives of Met Office attended the meeting. According to a statement released by the committee, a meeting chaired by Maulana Abdul Khadir Azad was held on the roof of the Pak Secretariat in Kohsar Block. — DNA

## France extends humanitarian aid to Pakistan

DNA

PARIS: At the request of French President Emmanuel MACRON, France is setting up an exceptional operation to provide emergency aid to the Pakistani population stricken by the consequences of the major floods currently affecting Pakistan. Ms. Catherine Colonna, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, underlined, during her telephone conversation on Sunday with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Bilawal Zardari-Bhutto, France's solidarity with Pakistan, as well as the will of the French Government to respond without delay to the request for international support expressed by the Pakistani authorities. On the basis of the needs expressed



by the Pakistani authorities, the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in close collaboration with the General Directorate for Civil Security and Crisis Man-

agement of the Ministry of Interior, coordinates this operation. As of Friday, a special flight chartered by the Airbus Foundation will transport to Pakistan 83 very high-capacity motor pumps, 200 family tents as

well as survival, hygiene and protection equipment. The plane will also transport Civil Security experts, in particular doctors and nurses who will be deployed on site, in conjunction with the Pakistani authorities. Given the scale of the destruction of infrastructure, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will also ship in the next few days by sea a nearly 50 meter long Bailey-type emergency bridge, which will be able to be rapidly deployed in disaster areas. These operations are carried out within the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. In addition, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will provide financial support to several French NGOs and the Pakistani Red Crescent, which provide aid to populations affected by the floods.

## Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci says

Turkiye indebted to Pakistan  
for whole-hearted support

Says at least 41 thousand people lost their lives and 105 thousand people injured because of these massive earthquakes. More than 250 thousand search and rescue personnel are currently on the field

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci has said, Pakistan was among the first countries to respond to Türkiye call after the devastating earthquake that hit the Kahramanmaraş province. In the very beginning of the earthquake-disaster, Türkiye had called for international help. 102 countries offered assistance, 59 countries were/are on the ground for search and rescue nearly with five thousand staff. The Government of Pakistan along with our Pakistani brothers and sisters, was among the very first responders to earthquake disaster. Ambassador Pacaci expressed these views while addressing a press conference on Tuesday. He said, Prime Minister Sharif got in touch with us and with our authorities in the very beginning of the disaster. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with other Federal Ministers visited the Embassy to express their condolences. The very recent visit of PM to Türkiye, to Adyaman, one of the most affected provinces from the earthquake, also means a lot for the Turkish people.

He said- Up to this date, at least 41 thousand people lost their lives and 105 thousand people injured because of these massive earthquakes. More than 250 thousand search and rescue personnel are currently on the field, whose work is coordinated by Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency-AFAD. In addition to those staff of AFAD on the ground, more three thousand foreign personnel from different parts of the world are exerting their efforts to save lives. Prime Minister Sharif announced that every possible support and aid will be provided to Türkiye and exert every effort to heal the wounds of the earthquake-affected areas. The Government opened an account - Relief Fund- for financial aids. The PM also instructed National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan to coordinate all in-kind aids provided by Pakistan with our authorities. The NDMA, the ambassador added, has sent nearly four thousand winterized tents, more than eight thousand



blankets to Türkiye since the first day of the disaster, in accordance with the needs of the earthquake-affected areas, all coordinated with our Embassy. Nearly three thousand winterized tents and 25 thousand blankets are on the way to Türkiye by road. They are all planned to be arrived in Türkiye/Hatay, one of the most affected province, on February 23. This week and next week more than four thousand winterized tents will be sent to Türkiye with chartered cargo flights'.

Upon the instruction of Prime Minister, in addition the airway and road way, a maritime bridge will also be established. A ship of Pakistani navy will start trip from Karachi port in the first week of March and will arrive to Türkiye-Mersin Port in thirteen days. This ship will be carrying three thousand five hundred tents. Pakistan, being the leading tent producing country in the world, with all its manufacturers will be providing most of the needed winterized tents of Türkiye, inshallah, Ambassador Pacaci added. We should also put a special emphasis on the search and rescue teams of Pakistan. The USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) teams of 84 staff, including army personnel and 1122 rescue teams, were dispatched to Türkiye in the first day of the disaster. Those were amongst the very first



USAR teams to reach the earthquake-affected areas'. They have saved many lives, 28 people alive from rubbles, including 10 years-old boy after 137 hours. Moreover, for relief operations of the international organizations and NGOs, like United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization of Migration (IOM) and International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), Pakistan have been one of the important global centers, as well. In these relief operations carried out in coordination with our Consulate Generals in Karachi and Lahore, NDMA has also been the main supporting institution. We are receiving hundreds of support messages and calls from also all provinces and walks of Pakistani society. Pakistani NGO's, including Pakistan Red Crescent and universities are also in contact with our Embassy and with our consulate-generals, he further told. To a question he said, they have been and still are providing in-kind assistance like medicines, food, medical equipment etc. to Türkiye. We should thank them once again in here. We also would like to extend our gratitude to our beautiful Pakistani brothers & sisters for their prayers and good wishes for the recovery of our country. We feel their prayers deep in our heart. We believe that we will overcome this disaster with their invaluable support, he concluded.

Thousands of  
trucks stuck  
at Pak-Afghan  
border crossing

PESHAWAR: A key border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan remained closed for a third day, with thousands of goods vehicles stuck and businesses facing losses as officials from both sides try to broker a solution. Taliban authorities on Sunday closed Torkham, the main point of transit for travellers and goods between Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan. The closure of the border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been causing losses to traders of the two countries. There are long queues of heavy trucks stranded on both sides of the border, said Zia Ul Haq Sarhadi, director of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said up to 6,000 trucks loaded with goods had been stuck on both sides since Sunday. The reason for the closure was not entirely clear, though officials on both sides have said they were in discussions to resolve the issue. The government in Islamabad has not commented publicly on the matter, Reuters said. A Pakistani official source said they had not been told the reason ahead of the closure. Sarhadi said Afghanistan relied on goods from Pakistan for much of its needs and many trucks were also destined for Central Asia using Afghanistan as a transit point. The traders and particularly those supplying fresh food items such as fruits and vegetables are facing losses as trucks are stranded on the way for the past three days, he said. — DNA

Minister denies  
involvement  
after 3 bodies  
found from well

QUETTA: Balochistan's Minister for Construction and Communications Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran on Tuesday denied any involvement in the grisly discovery of three bullet-riddled bodies from a well in the Barkhan district area last night. The victims, a woman and two men, were identified by the police as Giran Naz, age 40-45, wife of Khan Muhammad Marri and her two sons Mohammad Nawaz, aged 20-25, and Abdul Qadir, aged 15-20. A press release issued earlier by the police said the bodies, which were in sacks, were found yesterday (Feb 20) at around 8pm. The station house officer (SHO) of Barkhan Police Station was informed about the corpses in the well. As soon as the SHO was informed about the incident, he immediately reached the site with his police party, the statement said. The bodies were then recovered from the well and transported to Civil Hospital Barkhan. They were identified by Abdul Qayoom Bijrani Marri, whom the police described as an heir. The bodies were handed over to him after the completion of legal requirements, the press release stated. It added that on November 16, a police party comprising Barkhan superintendent of police (SP), sub-divisional police officer, deputy superintendent of police, SHO and an Anti-Terrorist Force team raided the Haji Kot house of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) spokesperson and Provincial Minister for Construction and Communications Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran but no one was found there. — DNA

Indian politician for rewarding  
men who 'trap 10 Muslim girls'

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian politician Pramod Muthalik has urged young Hindu men to lure "10 Muslim girls if we lose one Hindu girl" through what he called "love jihad" and promised to provide them security and employment. According to The Indian Express, Muthalik, the chief of the Hindu nationalist party Sri Ram Sena, while speaking at a public event in Karnataka's Bagalkote on Feb 19, alleged that thousands of Hindu girls were being "exploited in the name of love jihad", the belief that Muslims are seeking to deceive Hindu women through marriage and convert them to Islam. "We are aware of the situation. I would like to invite the youth here. If we lose one Hindu girl, we should trap 10 Muslim girls. If you do so, Sri Ram Sena will take responsibility for you and provide every kind of security and employment," the report quoted Muthalik as saying. "Our girls are exploited in love jihad. Across the country, thousands of girls are cheated in the name of love. We

should warn them," the politician further said. The report also stated that in a conversation with The Indian Express, Muthalik had said that he had made similar statements more than 10 times and would continue to do so to "protect Hindu women". "I am not saying this because elections are around the corner. My statements have always been in the interest of Hindus," the report quoted him as saying. The report added that Muthalik's comments have been widely criticised, with "love jihad" considered to be a baseless conspiracy theory that courts have rejected. The Indian politician's remarks were condemned by a number of civil society members in the country. Journalist Mohammed Zubair — who was arrested for allegedly insulting Hindu religious leaders on Twitter — asked why the Karnataka police was not taking action against Muthalik. Author and activist Rahul Easwar tweeted that "in our Arsha Bharatha Sanskriti, we consider woman as devatas [goddesses]". "It's up to every Patriot to serve & protect all women from all traps this way or that way," he added.

US dollar  
slashes  
Pakistani  
rupee

DNA


ISLAMABAD: As the political chaos is deepening and country's forex reserves are plummeting, the Pakistani rupee saw a tumbling against the US dollar during Tuesday's interbank trading. According to data provided by the money dealers, the previously resilient rupee slumped against the US dollar during early trading on Tuesday. The value of green-back was appreciated by 62 paises and it was trading at Rs262.50. Yesterday, the US dollar was closed at Rs261.88 after the local unit went up by a healthy margin of 94 paises. The decline in the value of Pakistani rupee could be attributed to ongoing political crisis in Pakistan and bleak economic macros. The country seems to have entered into an unending political struggles as opposition and government are wrangling over polls amidst severe economic morass. According to State Bank of Pakistan, the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) index depreciated to 92.8 in Jan 2023 as compared to 96.2 in Dec 2022. Faced with critically low foreign exchange reserves, the government has already halted most imports — apart from food and pharmaceuticals.

SC dismisses  
Imran appeal


ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday announced its detailed verdict on PTI Chairman Imran Khan's appeal against striking out his right of defence in a defamation suit filed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif against him. The three-member bench had heard the appeal and dismissed it with a 2-1 majority while upholding the trial court orders. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, who was heading the bench, and Justice Amin Uddin Khan dismissed the appeal, whereas Justice Ayesha A Malik dissented with their verdict. The 28-page judgment authored by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah stated that before parting with the order, "We find it necessary to observe that interrogatories serve as a useful tool to shorten litigation and reduce litigational expenses. However, the process of interrogatories has unfortunately been abused in the present case and in fact misused to prolong the trial and add to the expenses. — APP

Two Levies personnel  
martyred in ambush

QUETTA: Two Levies personnel were martyred after their checkpoint came under attack in the Babri area of Balochistan's Mastung district on Monday night, an official said on Tuesday. Talking to a media outlet, Assistant Commissioner Mastung Barkat Baloch said a group of armed militants attacked a checkpoint located along the Quetta-Taftan highway, causing the martyrdom of two personnel who were identified as Manzoor Ahmed and Muhammad Aslam. He said the bodies of the martyred personnel had been moved to a hospital. The deputy commissioner said the law enforcement personnel had launched a search operation in the area to nab the attackers. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack and said the nation paid tribute to its security forces for defending the country. He prayed for the departed souls and said the sacrifices rendered by security forces would not go in vain, according to the state news agency APP. In a separate statement, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo also strongly condemned the attack and expressed grief on the killing of two personnel. "The recent incidents of terrorism are a cause for concern as our enemy wants to spoil the peaceful environment of the province," he pointed out. — DNA



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