

murder with Kenya: FO AGENCIES

ex

con

over



lations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir has said the international community should take notice of these violations. Pakistan has expressed its concerns over the security of Palestinian people. This was said by Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in her weekly press briefing here Thursday.

She added Pakistan will continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris. She held Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto has recently completed his two days visit to hungary During his visit 3 memorandum of understanding were signed. One among these memorandum of understanding relates to mutual cooperation between foreign service academies of two countries. She stated the number of Pakistani students in the universities of Hungary will be increased by 100 percent. Foreign minister addressed annual con

dissolution of Assemblies Justice Minallahwonders whether

assemblies were dissolved as per the Constitution or not

Special correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday raised questions on the dissolution of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies. The observation from the judges came during the hearing of the suo moto notice on the election date for the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial had taken suomotu notice day earlier and formed a nine-member bench to hear the case. The bench held its first hearing today. Apart from Justice Minallah, Justice Shah and CJP Bandial, the bench includes Justice IjazUl Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice YahyaAfridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and

Continued on Page 06

Justice Naqvi faces complaint in SJC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A complaint has been filed in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) seeking an investigation against Supreme Court's Justice Syed Mazahar All Akbar Naqvi over alleged involvement in malpractice and misuse of authority. Mr Naqvi came in the spotlight after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah released an audio of an alleged conversation between the top court's

Continued on Page 06



cut a cake to mark the Emperor's Birthday MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Pirzada, Ambassador

of Japan Mitsuhiro Wada and others cutting a cake during a ceremony to commemorate Japanese Emperor's 63rd Birthday. – DNA

Emperor's 63rd Birthday

Japan Ambassador

terms Emperor as

symbol of unity

Ambassador WADA together with the guests

His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito stands as the symbol of Japan and the unity of the people. His Majesty and the Imperial Fam-

ference of Head of missions in Hungary. He also visited Germany and Luthuania. Foreign ministers held important meetings on the sidelines of Munich conference.

Continued on Page 06

Next 72 hours are very important

DNA



Rasheed has said that next 72 hours are very impor tant. In a mes-

sage on Twitter on Thursday, the nation has pinned hope with the judiciary only and rest is all disappointment. "Only the judiciary will steen the country from the crisis,' he added. He said that 13 parties could not win the elections at any cost. Sheikh Rasheed termed the prime minister's press conference on austerity measures as joke with the nation. "The inflation giant will devour the government. All are worried except Sharif family, Maulana Fazalur Rehman and Asif Zarddari," he added.

News Desk RAWALPINDI The military's media affairs wing said on Thursday that it had foiled an attempt to am-

bush a convoy of security forces in Balochistan's Kech district, adding that eight militants were killed in the follow-up operation. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), terrorists attempted to ambush a convoy of security forces on February 22 in the evening. The statement said "alert and combat ready troops foiled

Continued on Page 06



were martyred on Thursday when unknown armed persons opened fire on security check post on ChamanRoghani Road. According to a private news channel, unknown armed motorcyclists opened indiscriminate fires at the security personnel on Roghani Road near Chaman, as a result of which two security personnel have reportedly been martyred. After the attack, the unknown motorcyclists managed to flee. Security forces reached the site immediately after the incident and cordoned off the area while a search operation was un-

derway to arrest the culprits. - APP

Another news and pix on Back Page

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the implementation of the austerity policy, said the "historic" decisions made to promote austerity and simplicity would have a far-reaching impact that also got applause from the public. He directed the formation of a monitoring committee to **Continued on Page 06**

Austerity

policy to

be strictly

enforced

PM Shehbaz

directs to form

oversight body

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif on Thurs-

day said the austerity policy

he had announced a day

earlier would be enforced

strictly and no laxity in that

regard would be tolerated.

President Alvi signs finance bill

ISLAMABAD: President DrArifAlvi on Thursday signed the Finance (Supplementary) Bill, 2023, generally known as the mini-budget, as the government rushed to fulfil the IMF conditions to unlock an economic bailout that the country needs to avoid the risk of default. The Prime Minister Secretariat sent the bill to the President Secretariat on Wednesday evening for assent, two days after it was passed by the National Assembly. "The president gave the approval to the bill in accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution," the media wing of President House said in a statement today. – DNA

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the 63rd Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, the Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro hosted a reception at a local hotel in Islamabad on February 23rd. H.E. Mian-Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Human Rights, was the chief guest on the occasion. The reception was attended by the Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic community and other dignitaries from the public and private sector. Ambassador WADA together with the distinguished guests cut a cake to mark the His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday, which is on February 23rd. Since his accession to the throne on 1st May 2019 as the 126th Emperor of Japan,

ily also facilitate the good relations with foreign countries including Pakistan.

While welcoming the guests on the occasion, Ambassador WADA stressed Japanese businesses' high expectation in new business opportunities in Pakistan, referring to recent investments by Japanese companies. The Ambassador also emphasized that among the approximately USD 77 million that was announced at Geneva Conference, around half of its humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance has already been disbursed. He expressed his gratitude to the people of Pakistan for showing their trust and affinity toward Japan, and stated

Continued on Page 06



PPP Chairman Asif Ali Zardari. - DNA

inside.

President for creating awareness on noncommunicable diseases – Page 02

> RDA seals site office of illegal housing scheme - Page 03

Shahera stresses on enhanced role for women – Page 04

Pakistan's economy won't stabilise unless ruling elites give up privileges – Page 05

Russia's sports exile persists 1 year after invading Ukraine - Page 06

UN chief calls for immediate end to Israeli settlements - Page 07

PTI leaders being treated as terrorists in jails: Khan – Page 08



day, came down hard on a "cabal of five", among which were former and serving members of the judiciary, whom she accused of "conspiring" against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. Addressing a workers' convention in Sargodha, Marvam – who is shape her party's narrative - said: "Ever since this watch thief left the government, our ears are tired of hearing 'there was a conspiracy, there was a conspiracy'.

PML-N leader's cue, a video screen Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Umar be [the] chief and he needed pawns. showed a combo picture of the five peo- Sarfraz and Azam Swati could not be ple she held responsible, saying: "The produced in court. - DNA



Maryam criticizes senior judges

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad qibNisar, and two sitting Supreme Chaudhary has announced to set up Court judges, who are currently protest camps outside jails. Talking part of a top court bench hearing to the media on Thursday, he said a suomotu case to determine who that 214 workers were arrested from has the constitutional responsibil-Lahore. "The arrest of only 81 work- ity and authority to announce the ers has been registered while nothing date for elections in Punjab and is told about the remaining workers," Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Pakihe added. The PTI leader said that the stan Bar Council has called on one currently on a reorganisation tour to workers will raise their voice outside of the judges to "voluntarily recuse the jails where the arrested workers to remain as part of the bench". will be lodged. Meanwhile, the PTI "What can you see on the screen? Can workers arrested from Lahore have you see the cabal of five? Those visible been shifted to Mianwali and DG on the screen are responsible for Pa-Khan jails. On the other hand, the kistan's crisis," she said, alleging that "Today, I will tell the nation that the anti-terrorism court remanded Ab- the ex-ISI chief, who had "appointed real conspiracy took place against bad Farooq in the police custody for himself the chief of army staff", was Nawaz Sharif," Maryam roared. On the 14 days. However, PTI leaders Shah their head. "Because he wanted to

people of Sargodha should also see the ones behind the conspiracy". The pictures included ex-Inter-Ser-

vices Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed, former chief justices Asif Khosa and Sa-

Continued on Page 06

NURREE SPARKLETTO® Bottled Drinking Water ISO/IEC 17025 | ISO 9001, 22000, 14001 45001 Certified Company We Only Offer C A Genuine Pakistani Brand

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

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



NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Friday, February 24, 2023

SBP set to increase interest rates in offcycle review say investors

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is set to raise interest rates as early as this week in an off-cycle review, investors said, as the country faces pressure to mend its finances amid a \$1 billion loan it is seeking from the International Monetary Fund. Market participants in a recent treasury bill auction are expecting at least a 200 basis points increase in the central bank's policy rate, which stands at 17 per cent. The expected increase is based on the rates the government set in the auction to raise the funds.

The government raised Rs258 billion in the auction on Wednesday. The cut-off rates for the three-month, six-month, and 12-month tenors jumped 195 bps, 206 bps, and 184 bps higher than the previous auction. The cash-strapped country is undertaking key measures to secure IMF funding, including raising taxes, removing blanket subsidies, and artificial curbs on the exchange rate. While the government expects a deal with IMF soon, media reports say that the agency expects the policy rate to be increased.

The next meeting of the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled for March 16. Off-cycle rate reviews are not uncommon though.Assistant Vice President of Research at Pak Kuwait Investment Company, Adnan Sheikh, said that a rate hike is imminent, and it could be as soon as Friday. "The next policy meeting is too far. Given the circumstances, it's already being priced in," Sheikh said. The SBP and the IMF did not immediately respond to requests for comment. -APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on austerity measures. – DNA

President for creating awareness on non-communicable diseases

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: President, Dr Arif Alvi here on Thursday underlined the need for creating mass awareness about non-communicable diseases and active role of all stakeholders including political leadership and media in that regard.

Addressing as a chief guest during the third international public health conference on 'Breaking the manacle: non-communicable diseases" at Khyber Medical University (KMU), he said that most of the

diseases including cancer solid preventive measures, were non-communicable which was widely appreciand if diagnosed and treatated.

He suggested that special ed at early stage could save programs should be aired The president said lung and broadcast on media cancer was also curable if especially during morning diagnosed timely, and late shows for public awareness diagnoses and treatment about causes and treatof the disease could prove ment of communicable and fatal. He said precautionary non-communicable diseasand preventive measures es for a healthy and prosshould be taken on priority perous society. The president called for im-

to save people from commuplementation of the already non-comexisting health policies President, Dr Arif Alvi said in letter and spirit to save that Pakistan had achieved lives including mothers and great success against fatal children. coronavirus after taking

We have all the required

policies but lack implementation," he maintained. He said the rapidly increasing population was exerting extraordinary pressure on the economy and national resources, adding that about nine million preg-

nancies were being reported annually in the country including about 50 percent unwanted pregnancies. Dr Arif Alvi said that contraceptive techniques were being used in the world to control the unwanted preg-

nancies and high birth-rate and suggested the use of such techniques here also to overcome the issue of

overpopulation and pov erty with a view to create balance between economic resources and population. The president observed that wrangling among political forces would hardly serve any purpose rather focus should be made on resolution to the issues of national priority. Dr Arif Alvi advised the

doctors' community to do intellectual exercises and convince their patients during the treatment process for a healthy and prosperous Pakistan. Khyber Pakthunkhwa Governor, Ghulam Ali, Advis-

er to the caretaker chief minister, Dr Abid Jamil, Vice Chancellor KMU, Dr Ziaul Haq and others concerned were present. The president was accorded warm welcomed after arrival at KMU.

Earlier, the president was briefed about the objectives of the international conference by the vice chancellor and the organizers.

The conference was attended by national and international doctors, health experts, scholars, faculty members of KMU and students.

Golden Ring Economic Forum delegation visits ISSI

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Golden Ring Economic Forum (FREF), Lahore, led by its Chairman Lt. Gen. Sikander Afzal (R), visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Other members of the delegation included Engr. Hasnain Reza Mirza, President; Mr. Meher Kashif Younus, Vice President; and Dr. Shahid Hasan, Director BoG.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, led the ISSI side. Other participants included Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP. Ms. Mahrukh Khan, RF, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Salik, Research Fellow, and Mr. Muhammad Taimur Fahad Khan, Research Associate.

GREF delegation The highlighted its role as a think-tank focussing on long-term economic and strategic issues that are of importance to Pakistan. The discussions pertained to Pakistan's relations with Turkiye, Russia, China, Iran, and Central Asian Republics. The exchange of views focussed on the political, diplomatic, trade, investment, energy, and people-to-people aspects of these relationships.

Sohail Ambassador Mahmood underscored the importance of injecting enhanced economic content into these relationships, stressing that as an imperative. He underlined that while prudently handling the geo-politics, Pakistan's task was to accentuate its pivot to geo-economics. In this context, he added, mobilization of efforts for enhanced trade, investment, economic cooperation, and connectivity was indispensable.

Executive Director of Muslim Hands in Pakistan Syed Javed Gilani, speaking to a

news agency, said that 'Muslim Hands' has successfully reached 1 million beneficiar-

ies through its Emergency response in flood-affected

regions across Pakistan dur-

ing the past six months. The

organization perpetrated

KPEZDMC issues LoI to InfraCo Asia for solarization of economic zones

many precious lives.

nicable and

municable diseases.

KHAYAM ABBASI

ECOHOIIII Development and Zone Company Management (KPEZDMC) has issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) to InfraCo Asia to undertake a complete feasibility study for the solarization of economic zones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The LoI signifies the commitment of KPEZDMC and InfraCo Asia to work together in exploring the potential of solar energy and expanding its use in the province's economic

Solar energy is not only a critical component of ISLAMABAD: The Khyber the global efforts to comchange, but it also has the potential to play a transformative role in promoting sustainable economic development. By harnessing the province's immense potential for solar energy, KP can, thus, reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, minimize its carbon emissions, and create new opportunities for businesses and employment in the region, said a news release issued by the British High Commission in Pakistan.



Role of Muslim Hands in flood relief efforts lauded SLIM HAA Shujaat Hamza

"Innovation and collabora portunities for businesses tion are key to driving susand people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said Jo Moir, tainable economic growth. Through this partnership, we aim to harness the potential of renewable energy while also creating new op-

ic Development (SEED) Programme has been providing technical support to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since its inception, culminating in the signing of the LOI.

KARACHI: On behalf of Commanding Officer 8th FP, the ceremony has been arranged in recognition of INGOs/NGOs providing relief support in Operation MADAD (floods-2022) with Pakistan Navy.

Commander Coast Rear Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz HI (M) acknowledged the support and service of Muslim Hands in Sindh and Balochistan with the Pakistan Navy and ensured the same kind of support in the future for serving the vul-



nerable communities. Earlier this month, the "Muslim Hands", active in relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction projects in flood-hit areas of the country handed over 20 houses to flood victims in Mastung and Jafarabad while the construction of around 200 other houses has entered the final stage.

about USD 8 million for rescue, relief, and rehabilitation projects out of which USD 4 million have been spent/disbursed. He told that 222,928 people were provided with ready meals, and food baskets, 4,782 with winter kits, and 4,527 with other Non-Food Items. In the health sector, 259 medical camps and 10 basic health centers were established where more than 120,000 people were provided with free check-up medicines and other health facilities apart from 2400 herbal medicine and 64 wheelchairs.

80 companies participate in **GIKI** Career Fair

PESHAWAR: About 80 multinational and national companies from across the country participated in Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology Career Fair, said a press release issued here on Thursday. The event was inaugurated by Eric Zong, Director, Pakistan Partner Devel opment Department, Huawei. Distinguished officials of the companies, Pro-Rectors, deans and heads of the departments, faculty members, research associates, Engineers, directors, members of Career Fair committee and students have attended the ceremony.--APP

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK:Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf ex- Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi was shifted to Attock Jail here on Thursday amid a tight security in line with the jail filling movement launched on the call of PTI leader Imran Khan. He was kept in the relevant

barrack of the district jail the occasion, Syed Yawar reserved for the political Abbas and Qazi Ahmed Akdetainees with all facilities bar vowed that more than as per jail manual. While 500 PTI workers from Atshifting to Attock Jail he tock along with thousands was also extended warm activities from all over the

Tanoli,

Nawaz



verge of collapse besides Malik Ahmed creating miserable inflation for the general peowho expressed their complete solidariple. PTI leaders said that ty with Shah Mehmood the present rulers had Qureshi at the premises looted the people of the of Attock Jail. Speaking on country for their personal gains who were manipulating to get the elections delayed through political engineering as they were afraid of their defeat in the elections due to their

misdeeds They had tried to implicated their leader Imran Khan by registering 70 self-fabricated FIRs who was facing their atrocities for want of his people.

They stressed upon the care taker set up to conduct the elections within 90 days in pursuance of the Article 224 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. They also expressed their hope that Supreme Court of Pakistan would definitely prevail to initiate the election process if the government failed to fulfil its constitutional commitments, they added.

World shall commit to end India's use of sexual violence in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolutions (IICR) organized a roundtable debate titled Targeting Vulnerable Groups as a Weapon of War: India's Abuse and Impunity in Kashmir. Every year on 23 February Kashmiris throughout the world along with the survivors of Kunan Poshpora mass rape in IIOJK organize acts of resistance, remembering, and contemplating in commemoration of the horrific rape and torture of women in twin villagers in district Kupwara, north of Kashmir. The survivors of these atrocities continue to fight for justice and recognition even in the face of overwhelming odds. The fact that they are still seeking legal recourse is a testament to the

power of the law as a form of archiving memory, as well as to their own resilience and determination. The expert speakers for the roundtable discussion includedMs Mushaal Hussain Malik, chairperson Peace and Culture Organization; Ms Farzana Yaqoob, Former Minister

of Social Welfare and women Sayyami, Political Assistant development AJK;Dr.Salma to Ex-Chief Minister Punjab Malik, Professor at the deon Human Rights. partment of Defense and Strategic Studies Quaid e Azam University Islamabad; Dr. Waleed Rasool, Lectur-

The roundtable conference was moderated by Ms Neha Ayub, Research Scholar, Centre for International er, International Relations Peace and Stability, NUST. at Riphah International Uni-MsMushaal Hussain Malik

highlighted the issues of



Kashmiri women and expressed that the women in Kashmir are living under constant fear. Despite the threat of being abused or humiliated, they are playing an important role in freedom struggle of Kashmir. There are huge number of Kashmiri women living in refugee camps in Azad Kashmir who have faced worst kind of abuses by Indian occupational forces. We must present those cases at international forums and make joint petitions and educate people. Ms Urooj Raza Sayyami expressed her serious concern about the role of media towards Jammu and Kashmir. She stated that India is ille-

gally using weapons and are

violating the human rights

in Indian occupied Jammu

and Kashmir.

MURREE BREWERY

Open House for Diplomatic Missions

Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

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......051-28261210334-5421812



Airlines Turkish Airlines.....8494949



ISLAMABAD: An old man is busy in preparing traditional Basket weaving with Tree branches at his workplace in Golra area in Federal Capital. - Online

RDA seals site office of illegal housing scheme

The RDA spokesman said that the DG had advised the citizens not to invest in any illegal and unauthorized housing scheme and check the status of the housing projects on RDA website www.rda.gop.pk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of the Director General (DG) Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa here on Thursday sealed the site office of illegal housing scheme namely Capital Valley at Mouza Katarian and Thallian. According to an RDA spokesman, the RDA Enforcement Squad, in an operation against illegal housing schemes, sealed the site office.

He said Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering, RDA had also submitted applications at Police Station Rawat to lodge First Information Reports against which was not an approved project. The Enforcement Squad RDA including Incharge/Assistant Director of Building Control,

Deputy Incharge and Superintendent Scheme carried out the operation as the administration was running an illegal housing scheme's site office in violation of the rules.

that the DG had advised the citizens not to invest in any illegal and unauthorized housing scheme and check the status of the housing projects on the RDA website www.rda.gop.pk.

He said the DG had also directed the MP&TE Directorate to take strict actions against illegal and unauthorized housing schemes and encroachments without any discrimination. RDA had also requested Islamabad Electric Supply Company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd and PTCL not to extend their services to illegal housing schemes as their status was un-

Citizens urged not to allow children to fly kites

RAWALPINDI: The District Administration and Rawalpindi District Police have urged the citizens not to allow their children to violate the kite flying ban imposed by the provincial government else strict action in accordance with the law would be taken and the ban violators would be sent behind the bars.

According to a police spokesman, police rounded up 700 kite sellers and flyers during January and February and recovered over 25,000 kites with a large number of kite flying string rolls from their possession. He informed that Sadigabad police on Thursday managed to unearth a kite factory and rounded up three, Mirza Tofeeq, Abdul Wahad and the factory owner on recovery of thousands of kites and raw material.

He said Rawalpindi district police had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against kite sellers, flyers, aerial firing and strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the violators. He said that Police had registered cases against the kite flying ban violators. - APP

POL import bill contracts by 9.27%

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 9.27 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of the last vear, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-January (2022-23) stood at \$10,611.740 million, as against the imports of \$11,696.009 million during the same period of last year,

according to PBS data. Among petroleum com-modities, the import of pe-



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police...9266044 Motorway Police.9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad......9222596 Rawalpindi......9270601-20



Enguiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo......9280979 RailwayInquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA ..9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

CDA92	221334-43
CDA92	208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3	
	_

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 PotoharTown......9209224 Rawal Town......5773343

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

delay the onset of dementia, and even small amounts of exercise can be helpful. Dementia is not a specific disease but is rather a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions, which interferes with doing everyday activities, says the US Centres for Disease Control. It affects about 44 million people globally and that number

linked to delay in dementia onset ISLAMABAD: A long-term is projected to triple by 2050. study has found that re-About 40 percent of the maining physically active risk of dementia may be attributed to factors that can throughout adulthood may be modified. Physical activity is one such factor and has been linked to a modest reduction in the risk of allcause dementia, cognitive decline, and later-life cognition. The study conducted by researchers at University College London and published online in the Journal of Neurology Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, examined data from 1,417 individu-

OGDCL produces

33,061 BPD oil

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Lim-ited (OGDCL) has produced around 33,061 BOPD, 772 MMCFD gas and 730 TDP LPG during the first half of

The production witnessed a little decline as compared to

36,788 Barrel per Day (BPD) oil, 827 Metric Million Cubic

Feet per Day (MMCFD) gas, and 814 Tons per Day (TPD)

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) during the same period of

the year 2021-22 due to certain reasons, according to the

company's first-half financial report for the year 2022-23

available with APP. The company said it, being the nation-

al flagship of the country's Exploration and Production (E&P) sector, was making all-out efforts to play a pivotal

the current fiscal year, ending on December 31.

als who completed surveys regarding their exercise habits at various stages of adulthood, spanning from ages 36 to 69. The National reported . Participants who remained physically active at least once to four times a month during all five survey periods performed better on cognitive tests at age 69 compared to those who exercised frequently during only one period. The study, which set out to assess how timing, frequency and maintenance

of being physically active, spanning over 30 years in adulthood, is associated later-life cognitive with function, also found that individuals who began exercising in their 60s showed improved cognitive function compared to those who were inactive. Engaging in leisure-time physical activity, even at light levels, at any point in adult life has a positive effect on cognition, and the benefits accumulate over time, the study concluded. - APP

The company said it, being the national flagship of the country's Exploration and Production (E&P) sector, was making all-out efforts to play a pivotal role in enhancing the energy security of Pakistan

role in enhancing the energy security of Pakistan. "In this context, the company during July 2022 to December 2022 contributed around 46%, 29% and 37% towards the country's total oil, natural gas and LPG production respectively," it said. During the period under review, OGDCL drilled four wells comprising three exploratory/appraisal and one development that yielded three discoveries in Punjab and Sindh provinces. As of December 31, the company operated 49 exploration blocks, out of which 23 were with 100 percent share and 26 under joint ventures. - APP

Govt's 'austerity plan' will steer country out of economic crisis

The RDA spokesman said approved and illegal, he added. – API

The economic challenges facing the country at present were mainly due to the poor economic performance and corrupt practices by the previous government, he said while talking on a private news channel

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister and former deputy speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed hope that the government's austerity plan will steer the country out of the current economic crisis soon. The economic challenges facing the country at present were mainly due to the poor economic performance and corrupt practices by the previous government, he said while talking on a private news channel.

He said "big and bold decisions" were the need of the hour to stabilise the country's economy.

Replying to a question, he said that Pakistan People's Party did not believe in political victimization of any political leader as PPP itself faced victimization and rendered sacrifices for democracy which will always be remembered. He said that the inefficiency of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership was being exposed with each passing day, adding, PTI's so-called marches had failed badly and now its 'jail bharo tehreek' will fail as well. He further mentioned that Imran Khan's government

had adopted flawed foreign, domestic and economic policies due to which the country stood isolated, adding, PTI leaders were painting a rosy picture in the last four year's public gatherings, but the situation on the ground was vice versa.

He said the elections will be held on time and the coalition government will complete its term. - APP

troleum products declined by 14.73 percent, from \$5,734.241 million last year to \$4,889.800 million during the time period under review. Likewise, the imports of liquefied natural gas declined by 20.84 percent and dropped from \$2,769.741 million last year to \$2,192.489 million this year. – APP

HEC Launches Cohort III

DNA

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: National Academy of High-Education (NAHE). er Higher Education Commission (HEC) has launched the third cohort of National Faculty Development Programne (NDFP) for newly inducted faculty members of higher education institutions (HEIs) at HEC Regional Centre Lahore. Twenty-three faculty members from public sector HEIs of Pakistan are attending the programme.

NAHE has been organising NFDP since 2020 for the Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) applicants in online mode. However, in 2022, a programme was redesigned to face-to-face mode and was launched for the newly inducted faculty members.

NA Speaker condemns killing of 11 innocent **Palestinians**

Raja Pervez said cruelty and brutality of Israeli Army unleashed on innocent Palestinians was a serious violation of modern principles

elty and brutality of the

Israeli Army unleashed on

innocent Palestinians was a

serious violation of modern

principles. "International

human rights organiza-

tions should take notice of

the Israeli Army's aggres-

sion against Palestinians

living in Palestine," Raja

The Parliament and people

of Pakistan expressed full

solidarity with the Pales-

tinian people, he added.

Pervez Ashraf said.

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday strongly condemned the killing of 11 innocent Palestinians by Israeli forces. In a condemnation here,

the Speaker National Assembly said the killing of 11 innocent Palestinians and the wounding of 102 people due to the aggression of the Israeli Army was highly condemnable. Raja Pervez said the cruHe further mentioned that Pakistan would continue to provide diplomatic and moral support to the oppressed Palestinian people at all regional and international forums.

The National Assembly Speaker also prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs and the speedy recovery of the injured and expressed heartfelt sympathy to the affected families. - APP

FEBRUARY 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & **Diplomatic Affairs Magazine**

Find us on: www.centreline.com.pk www.dnanews.com.pl www.islamabadpost.com.pk

🤍 @Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews



11# Block 18-A. Awan Plaza, G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



three illegal housing schemes namely At- Cheema, the owner of Capital Valley

lantic City Housing Scheme, High

Capital City Housing Scheme

at Chak Beli Road Rawalpindi

and Century Town Housing

Scheme at G.T. Road

He informed that the

Enforcement Squad of

RDA was taking action

in accordance with the

He said a notice had also

Keeping active throughout life

been issued to Sohail Nawaz

law against illegal ┥

housing schemes.

Rawalpindi.

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

Eight wheat smugglers arrested with 4,710 bags

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Thursday caught eight wheat and flour smugglers and recovered 4,710 wheat, flour and fine flour bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the food Department Rawalpindi and Potohar Division Police conducted raids in Naseerabad, Taxila, Mandra areas and rounded up Usman, Ismail, Abdullah, Moaz Ali, Arshad, Shahid, Sabir and Asad on recovery of 4.710 wheat, flour and fine flour bags. 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 and flour smugglers. He said that the accused were trying to illegally ship out wheat flour and wheat out of 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

Excise office facilitates citizens at 22nd **ITCN** Asia exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Excise and Department Taxation (E&TD) Islamabad in collaboration with the National Information Technology Board (NITB) is offering exclusive services to citizens, including token tax and vehicle registration at the 22nd ITCN Asia exhibition. The Information Technol-Commerce Network ogy (ITCN) Asia began at Pak-China Friendship Centre on Thursday and will conclude on February 25. During the event, E&TD would provide efficient and convenient services to the ritizens at NITB booth from 10:00 am - 06:00 pm. Talking to APP, Director E&TD Bilal Azam said citizens can get facilitation of vehicle token tax payment, new vehicle registration. inspection, vehicle transfer. and International driving permit. "We encourage citizens to take advantage of these exclusive services to save time and effort", Azam said. He said that the staff members would be available at the booths to guide the citizens about their inquiries regarding necessary paperwork. He informed that this facilitation would give access to the citizens to important information and easy access to the officials. He informed that mobile van centers are also operating from Monday to Friday at various busy and popular spots in the city. Those visitors who are unable to visit the excise office can avail the services at designated spots, he added. -APP

Shahera stresses on enhanced role for women

The two days exhibition would feature seminars & workshops, cultural performances, food courts. kids' arena and will be live streamed for Pakistani trade missions and social media

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Women are 51 percent of Pakistan's total population and they cannot be ignored, so the government is working to empower them in order to enhance their role in the economic development of the country.

This was said by Ms. Shahera Shahid, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting while addressing as Chief Guest the pre-launch ceremony of "Her Hunar Exhibition" at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry being organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan on March 4th & 5th, 2023 at Pak-China Friendship Centre to promote women-led businesses of north region.

She said that women need a comfortable environment to unleash their potential and stressed that males should encourage and help them in this regard. She appreciated TDAP for organizing a dedicated exhibition for the women entrepreneurs of the north region



and assured that her ministry would fully back it. She launched the logo of the exhibition on the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that bringing women into the mainstream of economy is very important to achieve sustainable economic growth. He called upon the government to make more conducive policies for women with particular focus on promoting women entrepreneurs so that women could start their own businesses with ease and play an enhanced role in the economic development. Lauding TDAP for organizing women expo, he said that the event will provide them a suitable platform to showcase the

potential of their products, development networking, share knowledge & experiences and generate new business leads. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with TDAP in such positive initiatives. Muhammad Naseer, Director General, TDAP Islamabad said that women entrepreneurs of the north region have a lot of potential and the aim of this first-ever

dedicated expo is to provide them better exposure and market access. He said that TDAP would try to make it an annual event to promote the women entrepreneurs of the north region.

Rizwana Asif, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the expo would help women entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses and assured full support to make it successful. The women entrepreneurs of Chitral, Kalash, D.I.Khan, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal would participate in the expo to display a wide range of products including apparel & home textiles, gems & jewelry, carpets & rugs, food sector, handicrafts, fashion accessories, cosmetics, decorative items, dry fruits etc. The two days exhibition would feature seminars & workshops, cultural performances, food courts, kids' arena and will be live

streamed for Pakistani trade

missions and social media.

SC dismisses appeal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the appeal regarding illegal leasing of Railway land over withdrawal of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference under the new NAB law. A three-member SC bench, comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Athar Minallah, heard the NAB reference of illegal

leasing of railway land. During the course of proceedings, the Chief Justice remarked that the issue pertained to Railway land but there was no option as it was a matter of the law. On which the Additional Prosecutor General NAB said that this reference was for Rs 319 million, so it had been returned.

The Chief Justice said that this reference was returned as it was a Rs 319 million case which was less than Rs 500 million.–APP

NHA makes progress on Indus Highway dualization project

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has made significant progress on the Indus Highway N55 Sarai Gambira - Kohat section, which was divided into two sections of 60 kilometres each. Talking to APP here on Thursday, an official of NHA informed that 87 percent of the first section and 91 percent of the physical process in the second section were completed. He said that one of the most important places of this project along the highway for road users in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa south was Speena Morr. "This area was also known for being vulnerable to accidents, which have caused fatalities in the past," he added.

The official said that considering the importance and dangers the authority decided to address this issue once and for all and after conducting several studies, it was determined that bypassing Speena Morr was the best solution to the problem. He said that the construction of the Speena Morr Bypass, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, will be an 11.8-kilometre fourlane new construction.-APP

Bringing Pak forward for green, sustainable development

ISLAMABAD: Year 2023 is the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As one of the key enterprises participating in the construction of the CPEC, POWERCHINA has entered the Pakistani market as early as 1987, participating in various fields such as energy, electricity, water management, and infrastructure investment. Over the past 36 years, POW-ERCHINA has completed the construction of 103 projects in Pakistan, including the first roller-compacted concrete (RCC) dam in Pakistan - the Gomal Zam DamMultipurposeProject, and the first mainstream hydropower station on the Indus River - the Ghazi-Barotha Hydropower Project, the largest installed hydropower station - Tarbela 4th& 5thExtension Hydropower Project, and the largest wind farm - Tricon Boston 150 MW Wind Power Project In the past ten years, among the first 20 energy and infrastructure projects of the CPEC, POWERCHINA has participated in the investment and construction of 11 projects. Not only consolidating the traditional power business, POWERCHINA has also continuously increased the development of new energy and other fields. Pakistan's largest hydropower hub project currently under construction by POWERCHINA, the Diamer Basha DamProject, will become the tallest and largest RCC dam in the world, and is expected to provide Pakistan with 18.1 billion KWh of clean electricity every year. Following the progress of the project, it is expected to provide more than 20,000 job opportunities. Nadeem Ilyas, a Pakistani engineer of the project, said that the construction of the Basha project has many positive effects, one of which is to provide more jobs for the surrounding areas. As one of the leading enterprises in China, POWERCHINA has carried out high-quality clean energy project construction and operation in accordance with international standards.-DNA

How much should I weigh for my height and age?

ISLAMABAD: Many people wish to know the answer to this question: how much should I weigh? There is no single ideal weight for all individuals, but various tools and calculators can offer a guide. A note about sex and gender Sex and gender exist on spectrums. This article will use the terms "male," "female," or both to refer to sex assigned at birth. Click here to learn more. Everybody is different, and various factors play a role in determining each person's ideal weight. These factors can be biological, such as age, height, and natal sex, but mental factors can be just as important. An individual may define their ideal weight as the one with which they feel the most comfortable. However, maintaining a moderate weight can reduce

rently affect health, difficulties in managing weight could lead

to problems in the future. Read on to discover the different ways of working out a person's ideal weight. ADVER-TISEMENT Body mass index (BMI) Share on PinterestAt-Csomor/EyeEm/Getty tila Images BMI is a common tool that measures a person's weight in relation to their height. A BMI calculation provides a single number, which falls into the following categoriesTrusted Source: • A BMI of less than 18.5 means a person is underweight. • A BMI of between 18.5 and 24.9 is ideal. •A BMI of between 25 and 29.9 is overweight. • A BMI over 30 indicates obesity. Body mass index calculator To calculate BMI, a person can use BMI calculators or review the

accurate because it cannot determine the proportion or distribution of body fat. BMI calculator source: National Institutes of Health (NIH). Weight and height guide chart The following weight and height chart uses BMI tables from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)Trusted Source to determine how much a person's weight should be for their height. Height Normal weight BMI 19-24 Overweight BMI 25–29 Obesity BMI 30–39 Severe obesity BMI 40+ 4 ft 10 in (58 in)91-115 lb 119-138 lb143-186 lb 191-258 lb 4 ft 11 in (59 in) 94-119 124–143 lb lb 148-193 lb 198-267 lb 5ft (60 in") 97-123 lb128-148 lb 153–199 lb204–276 lb 5 ft 1 in (61 in) 100–127 lb 132– 153 lb 158–206 lb 211– 285 lb 5 ft 2 in (62 in) 104–131 lb 136–158 lb 164–213 lb 218-295 lb 5 ft 3 in (63 in) 107-135 lb 141-163 lb 169-220 lb 225-304 lb 5 ft 4 in (64 in) 110-140 lb 145-169 lb 174–227 lb 232–314 lb 5 ft 5 in (65 in) 114-144 lb 150-174 180-234 lb240-1h

324 lb 5 ft 6 in (66 in) 118-148 lb155-179 lb186-241 lb 247-334 lb 5 ft 7 in (67 in) 121–153 lb159–185 lb 191-249 lb 255-344 lb 5 ft 8 in (68 in) 125-158 lb 164-190 lb197-256 lb 262-354 lb 5 ft 9 in (69 in) lb 169-196 lb lb270–365 lb 5 ft 10 in (70 in) 132-167 lb 174-202 lb 209-271 lb 278–376 lb 5 ft 11 in (71 in) 136-172 lb 179-208 lb 2 1 5 279 lb 286-386 lb 6 ft (72 in) 140-177 lb 184-213 lb 221-287 lb294–397 lb 6 ft 1 in (73 in) 144-182 lb 189-219 lb 227-295 lb302–408 lb 6 ft 2 in (74 in) 148-186 lb 194-225 lb 233-303 lb 311–420 lb 6 ft 3 in (75 in) 152-192 lb 200-232 lb 240-311 lb 319–431 lb 6 ft 4 in (76 in) 156–197 lb 205–238 lb

Black Ice poses hazardous conditions for drivers

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23 (APP):Black ice is a thin, transparent layer of ice that forms on road surfaces when temperatures drop below freezing, which creates dangerous and potentially deadly conditions on roads and sidewalks. Talking to APP here on Thursday, an official of National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) said that black ice can be difficult to see and highly hazardous for drivers and pedestrians alike. He said that Black ice creates slippery surfaces, causing vehicles to lose traction, skid out of control, and making it difficult for pedestrians to maintain their footing, leading to accidents and injuries. He informed that northern regions of Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, experience hazardous driving conditions due to the formation of black ice on roads and sidewalks. The official said that in areas where snow clearing is necessary, snow hoovers and dumpers with edged blades are used. -APP

a person's risk of developing a number of health conditions, including: obesity • type 2 diabetes · high blood pressure

 cardiovascular disease (CVD) However, not everyone with excess weight will develop health issues. However, researchers believe that while this extra weight might not cur-

charts below. BMI Calculator Units: U.S. (Imperial) MetricHeight: Feet Inches Weight: Pounds CALCULATE This BMI calculator is for informational purposes only. Consult a healthcare provider before making health decisions. BMI is an indirect assessment of health risk and may not be

tor in BMI for adults, but it is for children. This is because they are growing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)Trusted Source use both age and natal sex in its BMI calculations for people between the ages of 2-19 years.- Online

246-320 lb328-443 lb BMI

based on age Age is not a fac-

128-162

203-263

Red Crescent starts rehab phase

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Habib Malik Orakzai has said that after providing extensive assistance to flood-affected families in the province, the rehabilitation of these areas is now our top priority. Therefore, he said, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is starting the rehabilitation phase for the affected in the districts of Charsadda, Swat, Kohistan, and Dir Upper. The other moment partners will also help in this regard, he said, adding that t the pre-rehabilitation assessment process of all four districts have been completed. These views were expressed at a meeting of the PRCSKP's Management Committee, in which seven new members were included. During the occasion, new members were briefed and told that Pakistan Red Crescent is a part of the world Red Cross Red Crescent movement and was established in 1974 under the Act of Parliament amended.-APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi being briefed about the overall security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at Chief Minister's House, Peshawar.– DNA

UAE investors show interest in doing business in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Investors delegation visited Federation Of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) capital Office, Islamabad and met with Mr. Qurban Ali, Former Vice President FPCCI & President Nagar Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed interest in Pakistan's economy for JVs and investment. The delegation comprised of Chief Executive Officer of Multi Jobs Construction & Advertising Company Ibrahim Alhai. CEO Ayan Construction Abdullah Al-Tahiri & Director Hussain Al-haaj. Sher Nabi Khan President Ghizar Chamber, Shafqat Hussain Commerce & Industry said VP Nagar Chamber, Muhamthat "We consider the UAE

mad Ali Ayan and other were to be an important stratealso present on this occision. gic and economic partner Abdullah Al-Tahiri & Ibrahim for being located in the Alhaj, showed interest in exneighbourhood, playing an panding their business globimportant role in ensuring ally and they are exploring peace, stability and ecobusiness and investment nomic development in the potential in Pakistan. They region and having potential said that UAE Investors for joint socio-economic development," He stressed plans to invest in Pakistan in various economic secthat both countries should tors as they want to expand develop strong trade and ecotheir investments in the nomic relations to achieve South Asian nation. UAE more beneficial results. He and Pakistan have good said that several companies potential to enhance bilatof UAE are already doing successful business in Pakieral trade and economic cooperation in many areas stan in aviation, oil, ports & shipping, banking, telecomincluding agriculture, food industry, tourism, hospitalmunications, insurance, real ity, healthcare and others. estate, food and technology Speaking at the occasion, sectors. He further highlighted var-Qurban Ali, Former Vice President FPCCI & Presious potential areas for inident, Nagar Chamber of vestment in Pakistan and

said that Both countries have

great scope to promote trade

in many areas. Pakistan has strong strategic, diplomatic, and economic relations with UAE. He said that Gilgit Baltistan Region, KPK, Punjab, Sindh, province of Pakistan & Azad Kashmir has great opportunities for the exchange of tourism. UAE Investors need avail the opportunity of the CPEC project, Tourism, Hoteling, Hydro, Construction, Infrastructure Development, and other Sectors. Pakistan's huge natural resources can be utilized for the enhancement of bilateral trade relations. Sher Nabi Khan, President Ghizar Chamber of Commerce & Industry Said that Pakistan is rich in natural resources, and to utilize these resources, the interest of investors is very keenly increasing. Pakistan

has lots of potential for

speedy economic growth.

Thousands of women martyred in IIOJK since Jan 1989

ISLAMABAD: The miseries and victimization of Kashmiri women by the Indian troops and police personnel continue unabated in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). This was revealed by a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of the Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day, on Thursday. The Day is observed on both sides of the Line of Control every year to pay tribute to the struggles and sacrifices of the survivors of mass rape and torture in Kunanposhpora. Call for the observance of the day as Women's Resistance Day was, first, given by Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society and supported by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in 2014. Indian troops had gang-raped around 100 women of all ages from eight to eighty years old on the night of February 23 in 1991 during a siege and search operation in Kunanposhpora in Kupwara district.

The report maintained that at least 682 women have been martyred by Indian troops since January 2001 till date Feb 2023. It pointed out that since January 1989, the unabated Indian state terrorism rendered 22,957 women widowed while Indian forces' personnel have molested 11,256 women. It said that thousands of women lost their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers in the occupied territory who were subjected to custodial disappearance by Indian Army, police and paramilitary personnel.

The report pointed out that over two dozen women and girls including Hurriyat leaders, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi and Naheeda Nasreen, were facing illegal detention in different jails of IIOJK and India. They are being victimized only for the reason that they represent the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their demand for the right to self determination, it said.-APP



Biden's fight-to-theend speech

Russia has suspended its participation in the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, say-ing that Washington must create the conditions for the re-sumption of the full functioning of the Treaty and, accordingly, "comprehensively ensuring its viability". That Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters on Wednesday that Moscow would reconsider its decision should the US stop its that Moscow would reconsider its decision should the US stop its reckless anti-Russian campaign points to the reason why its move should not be taken as a show of weakness or bravado on Russia's part but rather a natural response to the campaign the US is waging against it through a proxy. Something that US President Joe Biden reinforced with his fight-to-the-end speech at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on Tuesday to mark the first anniversary of the conflict in Ukraine. The one year anniversary of the Ukraine conflict should have prompted serious consideration of how to put an end to the conflict rather than pouring oil on the fire. The stage setting for Biden's speech was an ugly parody of that for the "Tear down this wall" address then US president Ronald Reagan made at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, on June 12, 1987, which heralded the end of the Cold War, if not the era of a unipolar world. The comparison between the two speeches only testifies to how poorly the US has played its hand in the course of the time span between them. The poor judgment of successive US administrations has made a mockery of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's claim that the US has been acting responsibly. That it has been acting to the contrary was highlighted by his admission that "we are posturing appropriately for the security of our own country and that of our allies". Even though the US is not being threatened and any perceived threats to its allies are a consequence of its own designs. With the US' intention of dragging down Russia at the cost of Ukrainian lives becoming more barefaced, there is no doubt that Europe is drifting further away from a lasting peace mechanism that it was trying to form on the continent. Something those wholeheartedly cheering Biden's speech in Warsaw on Tuesday night would never admit to, since no snowflake would ever feel responsible for an avalanche. But no matter how high Biden has enhanced his listeners' morale with his democracy-autocracy cliches, those in Warsaw and elsewhere that he was seeking to rally to the US' banner must beware the substantial changes to be brought about by the ball the Russian leader has kicked to their half of the court.

Islamabad POST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC CertifiedVol: 03 Issue: 174Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.comPhone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Modi vs the media

ollowing the deadly sectarian riots in Gujarat in 2002 – in which more than 1,000 people, overwhelmingly Muslims, were killed – Narendra Modi, then the state's chief minister, was asked whether he would have done anything differently in retrospect: "The one area where I was very, very weak ... was how to handle the media," the now prime minister replied. Last week's multi-day raid on BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai by tax authorities came just weeks after the government lambasted the corporation and blocked its documentary on his handling of the riots and treatment of the Muslim minority in India. The authorities say this is routine. But, as many in India have made clear, this looks more like retaliation than regular bureaucratic proceedings. A spokesman for the ruling Bharatiya Janata party took the opportunity to describe the BBC as the "most corrupt organisation in the world". Mr Modi's government has overseen a systematic and escalating crackdown on free media, dissent and civil society more generally, particularly where its aggressive majoritarianism has been challenged. Last year, human rights and press freedom groups warned that journalists have been baselessly charged under counter-terrorism and sedition laws and prevented from travelling abroad. Their targeting has emboldened Hindu nationalists to harass them online and in person. Indian companies and journalists are clearly at greatest risk. But the decision to take on the BBC is an indication of the BJP's growing confidence. Allegations that Mr Modi was complicit in 2002's violence are not new, though the documentary revealed that a British government document found him "directly responsible" for not stopping the killing of Muslims. Mr Modi, who has always denied any culpability, was cleared of all charges by a supreme court panel. By using emergency powers to block a programme never due to be aired in India, forcing social media companies to take down posts containing clips and links, and detaining students who planned screenings, officials merely fuelled the desire to watch it. Similarly, attacking the BBC does far more to discredit Delhi than the broadcaster. India is enjoying being courted by other nations as an economic giant and counterweight to China in Ásia. This year, it will host the G20; there is talk of a White House visit for the man who was barred from entering the US after the riots. But its standing rests not only on its economic and geopolitical might, but also its democratic status - despite its erosion by Mr Modi. The contrast between the outspoken criticism from embattled voices in India and complaisance from powerful leaders elsewhere, is glaring and disgraceful. David Cameron's government led the international rehabilitation of Mr Modi. That Mr Modi cares about his international reputation is evident from the attempts to silence critics.

Pakistan's economy won't stabilise' unless ruling elites give up privileges

Raza Rumi



Pakistan will have to focus on privatizing loss-making public sector enterprises

D akistan's economic crisis poses a great challenge for a coalition government struggling to keep the country afloat. The country's foreign exchange reserves lurk around \$3 billion, barely enough to finance 18 days of imports. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to sign off on yet another bailout package for Pakistan. This may provide temporary reprieve for the dollar starved economy, but with external debt piling up fast, and payment obligations of \$20 billion to be made by December 2023, it seems that even the IMF tranche would not substantially assuage concerns over Pakistan's balance of payments. The Parliament has approved a bill levying taxes and excise duties to meet the IMF condition of mobilizing an additional Rs 170 billion of additional tax revenues. The bulk of this revenue will come through the applicable sales tax rate, a type of an indirect tax, which has been increased from 17% to 18%. Concurrently, the government has also implemented a price hike in petroleum products, to contain the flow of runaway circular debt in the energy sector. Given constraints centered around debt, trade deficits and inflation, what appears to be a balance of payments crisis is in effect a crisis of governance. The rupee was already devalued to meet the IMF demand of leaving its valuation at the mercy of market forces. The net devaluation in recent months has been more than 30%, and this is proving to be a major driver of inflation which was recorded at 27.3% in January 2023, calculated year-on-year. The dollar value impacts transportation of goods and services, imports that the manufacturing sector relies upon, and necessities such as cooking oil and tea. Many of Pakistan's exported goods themselves use imported raw materials and, therefore, even a 1% devaluation has a multiplier effect. The country's exports, \$31 billion in FY 22, are not increasing, while its imports, \$80 billion in FY 22, are inelastic, thereby leading it into a perennial shortfall of foreign exchange and pushing it into a literal 'debt trap'.

With the exit of the United States from Afghanistan, and no immediate security imperative of the West, Pakistan's elites have been left high and dry, leaving those beneath them even worse-off. Given constraints centered around debt, trade deficits and inflation, what appears to be a balance of payments crisis is in effect a crisis of governance. Successive governments have failed to invest adequately in developing a skilled, healthy and educated workforce. Instead, they favored powerful groups and entrenched vested interests, and ensured that shady lobbies prospered at the expense of the taxpayer. Injections of aid from the developed world since the 1950s have helped maintain the status quo. The elites – particular-ly the military, the political class, large landowners and corporate industrial-IStS have ruled the country and have resisted reforms focused on restructuring of the taxation system, or investing in education, science and innovation, to create an export-led economy. With the exit of the United States from Afghanistan, and no immediate security imperative of the West, Pakistan's elites have been left high and dry, leaving those beneath them even worse-off. A 2021 study by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) cautiously estimated that the privileges and entitlements enjoyed by Pakistan's elite were worth more than \$17 billion per annum. This figure included benefits given out to real estate barons, the pampered industrial sector, and the military's corporate holdings, among others. The privileges they still enjoy today take the form of tax breaks, cheap input prices, higher output prices, or preferential access to capital, land, services, and even to some local markets. These privileges inevitably make the 'rules of the game' irrelevant, turning Pakistan into an unattractive destination for investment or innovation. The biggest recipient of state-financed privileges is the country's corporate sector, accruing an estimated \$4.7 billion per year. The second and third-biggest recipients of privileges were the country's richest 'one percent' - collectively owning 9%

of the country's total income – and the feudal land-owning class – composed of 1.1% of the total population, but owning 22% of all arable farmland.

The rich landowning feudal class has always maintained a strong presence in Parliament. Most major political parties draw their candidates from a pool of 'electables' that usually hail from the feudal landowning elite classes. Control of land, capital, and caste networks are the usual determinants of victory in many democratic contests across Pakistan, especially in the rural areas. In addition to the state's financial support through a massive chunk of the budget, and tax breaks for military-affiliated commercial enterprises, privileges for the military also include preferential access to markets and land earmarked for residential or other development. Senior oncers serving in the army in particu lar, and to some extent the air force and navy as well, accumulate immense perks and privileges as they rise up the chain of command. Military personnel also receive residential plots and commercial landholdings as benefits during service, in addition to pensions and cushy corporate jobs after retirement. As long as Pakistan's ruling classes are unwilling to give up a portion of their state-financed privileges - tax breaks, subsidies and concessions - the government's bloated yearly expenditures will not come down, resulting in a perennial budget deficit. For decades, the civil-military bureaucracy and the politicians who fronted for them have passed the burden of indirect taxes on to the general public. Truth be told, the IMF is not asking for anything radical: all it asks for is broadening the tax base and reducing the fiscal deficit. In the past, when faced with similar demands, the standard policy response by successive Pakistani governments has been to levy more indirect taxes and pass the burden onto the general public, particularly the poor and the fixed income groups. A recent news report that shocked many Pakistanis was how the Federal Board of Revenue had unilaterally decided to purchase 155 luxury vehicles, at a cost of over Rs. 1.6 billion, out of a World Bank loan meant to upgrade

its outdated information technology system. Provincial governments have placed orders for imported vehicles and even aircraft for bureaucrats and politicians. These are just a few examples in a long list of brazen expenditures that continue to divert public resources.

to divert public resources. For decades, the civil-military bureaucracy and the politicians who fronted for them have passed the burden of indirect taxes on to the general public. This strategy is quickly approaching its expiry date, as the political cost of transferring the burden onto the citizenry has become untenable for elected governments. The current ruling coalition is worried that rising inflation will erode its political capital and limit chances in the upcoming elections. And surely it will. The biggest recipient of state-financed privileges is the country's corporate sector, accruing an estimated billion per year. The second and third-biggest recipients of privileges were the country's richest 'one percent' and the feudal land-owning class. The antidotes to the current crises are well known: improving and expanding the tax system, mobilization of domestic and foreign investment which has been trapped below 15% of GDP, and fixing the energy sector that is a major source of the ballooning circular debt. Pakistan will have to focus on privatizing loss-making public sector enterprises that accumulated losses of more than Rs. 1 trillion each vear. The time has also come to open up the subject of rationalizing the defense expenditure. Undertaking reforms and cutting down such wasteful expenditures requires a national policy agenda that has the buy-in of all political stakeholders, including the military. Big political players - the ruling PDM alliance and former PM Imran Khan – are desperate to incarcerate and politically eliminate each other. As the 1990s remind us, such intense political conflict does not lead to stability vital for a policy consensus.

that accumulated losses of more than Rs. 1 trillion each year. The time has also come to open up the subject of rationalizing the defense expenditure. Undertaking reforms and cutting down such wasteful expenditures requires a national policy agenda that has the buy-in of all political stakeholders, including the military. Big political players - the ruling PDM alliance and former PM Imran Khan – are desperate to incarcerate

In the short-term, the ongoing intra-elite conflict is making matters worse. Given the rising inflation rates and deprivation, widespread social upheaval will be one of the inevitable consequences.

-Courtesy TFT

Overpopulation: Security-insecurity Paradox

Afnan Wasif

Above mentioned issues are disturbing. These all problems stem from population growth. Because we are creating such devastating problems through our own actions. And why we are doing so? Because existing limited resources make us unable to maneuver effectively in order to fulfill the needs of the masses. To overcome this problem, we are compelled to adopt artificial ways to increase our production. These ways in turn are degrading our planet immensely.

orld is facing immense problems. There was a clear distinction between natural and man-made challenges (world in the past. But in contemporary times, spheres of natural and man-made challenges are overlapping. One of the reasons for this overlapping is the sophistication of the world. All the challenges ranging from climate change to poverty, hunger, and lack of quality education, etc. revolve around one core issue and that is population. On 15 November 2022, the world's population reached 8 billion people, a milestone in human development. The world population is projected to reach 8.5 billion in 2030, and to increase further to 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion by 2100. According to World Bank, the most recent number of individuals in Pakistan is 231 million. It was only 45 million in 1960. Scientists have predicted that Pakistan's population may peak at about 314 million in 2062. Why is the increase in population alarming? Human beings are dependent on natural resources. And natural resources are inversely proportional to population growth. With the passage of time, natural resources are continuously depleting. For example, the land for shelter is a natural resource. And how it is depleting could be seen on 14 February 2023, when AntónioGuterres, UN Secretary-General, remarked that Rising seas are sinking futures. Sea-level rise is not only a threat in itself. It is a threat multiplier. Rising seas threaten lives, and jeopardize access to water, shelter, food, and healthcare. The danger is especially acute for nearly 900 million people who live in coastal zones at low elevations -

that's one out of ten people on earth. According to NASA, Antarctica is losing an average of 150 billion tons of ice mass annually. The Greenland ice cap is melting even faster - losing 270 billion tons per year.

Above mentioned issues are disturbing. These all problems stem from population growth. Because we are creating such devastating problems through our own actions. And why we are doing so? Because existing limited resources make us unable to maneuver effectively in order to fulfill the needs of the masses. To overcome this problem, we are compelled to adopt artificial ways to increase our production. These ways in turn are degrading our planet immensely. It is becoming a sort of Security-insecurity Paradox. Although this particular term is used in Strategic studies to understand the phenomenon of war stating that when two countries each have nuclear weapons, the probability of a direct war between them greatly decreases, but the probability of minor or indirect conflicts between them increases. It might be applied to the phenomenon of disproportion between population growth and limited natural resources. Securing the needs of individuals indirectly causes harm to our planet in the shape of climate change, sea level rise, and global warming, etc. In developing and underdeveloped countries the picture is different. They are even unable to go for man-made options to meet the requirements of their masses. For example, Pakistan is striving hard due to its economic crisis nowadays. One of the core problems of Pakistan's fragile economy is the population. Its economy and limited resources are unable to bear the burden of about 230 million people. It is destructing the social fabric and cohesion of society. As people are deprived of their basic needs. They have no access to quality education, health, food, water, and shelter. It cannot even afford sophisticated technology to boost its agricultural yield and place industries to increase the wealth pie of the nation. Industrialization and the use of technology in the agricultural sector have severe implications for the earth. The recent flash floods of 2022 in Pakistan are an example of the effects of carbon emissions from industries including agriculture. In fact, its contribution towards global warming is negligible. But we suffered a lot. Why because other nations are trying to fulfill the necessities of their masses by other means. Ensuring the security of the masses of developed nations makes insecurity for the nations like Pakistan. The entire struggle in both traditional and non-traditional paradigms of security revolves around the population. Developing and underdeveloped countries must have to think to control their population as China did from 1979 to 2016 by adopting the one-child policy. Awareness among young couples is far more necessary as could be seen in Chinese society. As now in China, couples could have three kids. But they are reluctant to bear new babies as the living costs are too high and most importantly upbringing becomes much more difficult. Such policies and awareness must be implemented and spread respectively, in order to prosper while effectively utilizing limited natural resources to meet the needs of the general masses.

The author is a student of Strategic Studies at National Defence University, Islamabad. He tweets at @afnanwasif

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs

SC questions dissolution of **Assemblies**

FROM PAGE 01

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar. During the hearing. Justice Athar Minallah remarked that it is to be seen whether provincial assemblies were dissolved as per the Constitution or not. While Justice Shah wondered whether the assemblies can be dissolved on someone's dictation. "How can the assemblies be dissolved at the directive of an individual if the representatives are elected for five years," he noted. The judge said that the court will also see if the assemblies' dissolution is constitutionally wrong and if the matter can be resolved through their restoration.

Earlier at the outset of the hearing, the court observed that the authority for giving the date of the elections after the dissolution of the assembly needs clarification. It stated that the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies were dissolved on January 14 and 17, respectively, and the elections have to be held in 90 days after the assembly dissolution as per Article 224/2 which provides a timeframe. The SC remarked that Punjab Governor BalighurRehman says that he has not dissolved the provincial assembly on the chief minister's advice. "It will be determined through the suomotu case who has the authority to give the election date," the court remarked.

Justice Naqvi faces...

FROM PAGE 01 judge and former Punjab chief minister ParvezElahi Following the audio leaks, the Pakistan Bar Council announced that it would file a reference against Justice Naqvi. The complaint has been lodged by MianDawood, a lawyer of the high court, stating that Justice Naqvi had violated "Code of Conduct for Judges of the Supreme Court issued under Clause (8) of Article 209 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan". He claimed that the judge and his family members had been found involved in malpractices and misuse of power in a criminal designed pattern during his service. "He used his position to facilitate his sons and a daughter studying abroad and getting financial gains from ZahidRafique (Owner of Future Holdings). Details are as following:- a. It is learnt from reliable sources that Iustice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi has managed to legalise his black income through sale of property. He sold House No. 375 DHA Phase-2 Gujranwala Cantt. in 2021 for Rs 60 million, however, he purchased it for Rs 4.7 million only," reads the complaint.

Russia's sports exile persists **PSL 8th Edition** 1 year after invading Ukraine

The Russian men's national soccer team was in the World Cup playoffs at the time, hoping to qualify for last year's tournament in Qatar, but Poland refused to play them

MOSCOW: One year after the sports is Ukraine's insistence it invasion of Ukraine began, Ruscould boycott rather than risk sia's reintegration into the world handing its enemy a propaganda of sports threatens to create the success or further traumatizing biggest rift in the Olympic move-Ukrainian athletes affected by the war. Other European counment since the Cold War. Russia tries have also spoken of boyremains excluded from many incotting the Olympics if Russians ternational sporting events, but are allowed to participate. that could soon change. Next year's Paris Olympics are fast ap-

The last major Olympic boycotts came four decades ago when the United States and more than 60 allies skipped the 1980 Moscow Games. The Soviet Union and its allies retaliated by boycotting the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

The actions of specific athletes to competition, the sports world are a separate issue. Russian must resolve two key issues that gymnast Ivan Kuliak taped a "Z" symbol to his chest, mimicking a marking used on the country's the invasion: How can Russian athletes return without alienatmilitary vehicles, while standing ing Ukrainians? And what can on the podium next to the Ukrainbe done about the Russians who ian winner at an event in Qatar support the war? As the first batlast March. He was banned for a tles raged, the Ukrainian fencyear. The IOC now says it will not support the return of any Russian against Russia at a tournament athlete who has "acted against in Egypt, holding up a sign readthe peace mission of the IOC by actively supporting the war in Ukraine," but hasn't defined what A year later, one of the biggest that means in practice.

Sports organizations took swift

action last year in response to the Russian invasion. A day after tanks rolled into Ukraine, Russia was stripped of the right to host the Champions League final in men's soccer and the Russian Grand Prix in Formula One. After four days, the IOC recommended excluding Russian and Belarusian athletes from events "to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants." The Russian men's national soccer team was in the World Cup playoffs at the time, hoping to qualify for last year's tournament in Qatar, but Poland refused to play them. Russia was then excluded from the competition - four years after hosting the 2018 tournament and reaching the quarterfinals.

As the Paris Olympics come into view, the IOC has shifted its emphasis to what it says is its duty to avoid discriminating against anyone based on nationality, and to create a path for Russians and Belarusians to compete as neutral athletes without national symbols. Safety concerns might be avoided. the IOC says, if Russia and Belarus were to compete in events in

Asia, including Olympic qualifiers at the Asian Games in China.

The IOC points to tennis, where the men's and women's professional tours have allowed individual Russians and Belarusians to compete without national symbols. Belarusian player Aryna Sabalenka won the Australian Open last month. Even in tennis, though, Russia and Belarus are excluded from national team competitions like the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup, and they were also barred from playing in last year's Wimbledon tournament. Russia and its athletes have been at risk of being banned at each Olympics since the steroid-tainted 2014 Sochi Winter Games. Previously, it was because of Russian state-backed doping and then the country's attempt to cover up evidence of that scandal.

Ukraine is fiercely opposed to allowing Russians back into world sports, and especially next year's Olympics. Ukraine says more than 220 of its athletes have been killed in the war, and hundreds of sports facilities lie in ruins. It points to precedents like the exclusion of Germany and Japan from the 1948 Olympics following World War II. "If. God forbid, the Olympic principles are destroyed and Russian athletes are allowed to participate in any competitions or the Olympic Games, it's just a matter of time before the terrorist state forces them to play along with the war propaganda," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told a summit of sports ministers and officials from more than 30 countries this month. That summit produced a joint declaration full of skepticism for how the IOC's proposed neutral process could work, with particular concern about whether the many Russian athletes with

ties to the military could compete. The IOC said Tuesday it found those questions "constructive" but that the nations did not address its concerns about possible discrimination. The clock is ticking for the IOC to find a solution for Russian and Belarusian athletes to have the opportunity to qualify for the Olympics. Qualifying has already begun in many sports and will start soon in others. - Agencies



Islamabad **POST**

Friday, February 24, 2023

Forces hunt down 8...

FROM PAGE 01 the cowardly attempt with-out any loss of life" and also commenced a follow-up operation to hunt down the terrorists using "ground and aviation assets". "Resultantly, on the morning of Feb 23 (today), a suspected hideout of terrorists was identified in Mazaaband Range where a sanitisation operation was launched. the ISPR said. The statement said that eight terrorists were killed in a "heavy exchange of fire" while a large cache of arms and ammunition, including explosives, was also recovered. "Security forces of Pakistan will continue to thwart any attempt by inimical elements, on [the] behest of hostile intelligence agencies, to disrupt hard-earned peace in the province," the ISPR said. The development comes amid a surge in terrorist activities in the country, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ba-

lochistan provinces, since the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November. On February 10, two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred after an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Balochsitan'sKohlu area.

Maryam criticizes...

FROM PAGE 01 He needed a political face. Nawaz Sharif could never

be that pawn [...] so who did

he choose? Imran Khan the

watch thief." She alleged

that a leader of a political

party, who is also a part of

the ruling Pakistan Demo-

cratic Movement (PDM),

told her that when Gen

(retd) Hameed was asked

why he was doing wrong

by Nawaz, the ex-spymas-

ter replied that the PML-N

Untroubled Swiatek into Dubai semi-finals

Coco Gauff and Madison Keys will meet in an all-American quarter-final. Fifthseeded Gauff advanced when Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina withdrew from their last 16 clash due to a lower back injury DUBAI: World number one Iga Swiatek swept past Liudmila Samsonova for the loss of just one game in the last 16 of the Dubai WTA tournament on Wednesday, earning praise from fellow three-time major winner Andy Murray. The 21-year-old Pole

proaching and qualifying events

are under way. The International

Olympic Committee is working

to bring athletes from Russia and

ally Belarus back into competi-

If Russian athletes are to return

became clear in the days after

ing team refused to compete

ing: "Stop Russia! Stop the war!

Save Ukraine! Save Europe!"

obstacles to a Russian return to

tion, but not everyone agrees.

only eight games in her last six matches, a stretch which saw her lift the Doha title last weekend. "She is different," tweeted men's former world number one Murray in appreciation. Reigning French and US Open champion Swiatek was to have faced former Dubai finalist Pliskova in Thursday's quarter-finals but the Czech said virus

ter struggling with a virus and cramps for a couple hours right after my match, I'm not able to continue." Pliskova had booked her last-eight spot with a 7-5, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2 victory over Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina. Australian Open champion Sabalenka Aryna made it 13

wins in 13

Imatches in 2023 by dethroning defendchampion Jelena Ostapenko 2-6, 6-1, 6-1. "In the first set, she played unbelievable tennis and I couldn't do anything." world number two Sabalenka said. "I was looking at my team asking like, 'What can I do?' but somehow, I

ing

Murray beats Zverev to reach quarter-finals

DOHA: Andy Murray continued his eventful start to the season with a notable win over Germany's Alexander Zverev to put him into the Qatar Open quarter-finals. Britain's Murray, 35, dug deep into his physical and mental reserves yet again to win 7-6 (7-5) 2-6 7-5 after an absorbing three-hour match in Doha. "I managed to stay strong, keep fighting and get the break at the end," said the former world number one. French qualifier Alexandre Muller, ranked 170th, awaits Murray next. "I would like to win the matches quicker but Alex is a top player and a great competitor, who always fights until the end," added Scot Murray after upsetting fourth seed Zverev. "In the third set I was hanging on and he was making better chances." It was another gutsy win from Murray in a year where all of his four wins have come in dramatic circumstances. At the Aus tralian Open, he survived a match point to beat Italian 13th

seed Matteo Berrettini in the first round and then fought back from two-sets down to win at 4am against Thanasi Kokkinakis in his next match. On Monday, he saved three match points before winning a final-set tie-break to beat Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in Doha. Elsewhere, at the Rio Open in Brazil, British number one Cameron Norrie reached the quarter-finals with a 7-5 7-5 win against Brazil's Thiago Monteiro. In a two-and-ahalf-hour epic, second seed Norrie created 21 break points, of which 16 were saved, and clinched a last-eight tie with Bolivia's Hugo Dellien on his sixth match point. Against 25-year-old Zverev, Murray eventually came out on top in an intriguing contest between two players who have both suffered serious injuries, and which acted as a gauge of their respective progress. Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray might not be blessed with the physical capabilities of his peak after the hip surgery which he thought would end his career. But, as we saw in Melbourne, the talent is still there to make the very best opponents solve the problems he creates and the desire

PM takes up matter...

FROM PAGE 01

Commenting on the recent violence in the West Bank where eleven Palestinians people have been martyred by Israeli forces, she said we condemn all acts that lead to the killing of innocent civilians including in occupied Palestinian territories. The Spokesperson said Pakistan's position on Palestine is consistent. We support a comprehensive approach for resolution of Palestinian question.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has maintained that there should be a total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem. There should be restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in an independent and viable State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

She called for a just resolution to the plight of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution.

The spokesperson said Pakistan remains concerned at the ongoing human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She said Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against grave human rights violations in the occupied territory.

the semi-finals when scheduled quarter-final opponent Karolina Pliskova pulled out with an injury. On Wednesday, Swiatek triumphed 6-1, 6-0 over Samsonova to follow her opening 6-1, 6-1 win over Leylah Fernandez. Swiatek has dropped

was then handed a walkover into

would force her withdrawal. "After playing the finals here a few years ago and doing very well this year, it's very disappointing for me," tweeted Pliskova. "But af

turned around this game, and started playing really incredible tennis." Coco Gauff and Madison Keys will meet in an all-American quarter-final. Fifth-seeded Gauff advanced when Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina withdrew from their last 16 clash due to a lower back injury. Keys booked her quarter-final spot with a 6-2, 6-1 win over former world number one Victoria Azarenka in just 57 minutes. - DNA

to beat them remains stronger than ever. - Agencies

Morata calls for life bans for racist chants

MADRID: Atletico Madrid striker Alvaro Morata says fans who chant racist insults should be banned for life, in light of multiple incidents of racism against players in the top flight this season, including repeated abuse directed at Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. Brazil forward Vinicius has subjected to racial abuse by opposing supporters on a number of occasions this season, with the latest incident taking place during Real's 2-0 win over Osasuna in LaLiga on Saturday. "The first time a person does that in a stadium he should be banned for life," Morata told ESPN on Wednesday before Real host Atletico at the weekend. "It's unacceptable and inexplicable. It should never have a place in football... I think it should be a reason to expel them. "We need to take the Premier League as an example. If a person does such a thing at a football field or outside... he will not be allowed again in a sporting event. That's how it should be here in Spain, too." LaLiga filed three legal complaints for racist insults during matches, including two aimed at Vinicius. it said on Wednesday. One Real Mallorca supporter was identified for insulting Vinicius and Villarreal's Samu Chukwueze, LaLiga said, adding that the police have taken a statement from the individual. - Agencies

supremo needed to be "cut to size". One of the two Lukaku fires Inter past Porto to serving judges shown on the screen, Maryam said, was part of the bench that boost Champions League hopes disqualified Nawaz in the Panama Papers case. "He

MILAN: Romelu Lukaku boosted Inter Milan's chances of reaching the Champions League quarter finals for the first time in over a decade after scoring the only goal in Wednesday's 1-0 win over Porto. Belgium forward Lukaku struck with four minutes remaining of the first leg at the San Siro on the rebound from his own header to decide an absorbing encounter at the San Siro. Simone Inzaghi's side travel to Portugal next month to decide who will go through to the last eight with a slight

advantage thanks to Luka-

ku's second goal in as many

games in all competitions. The 29-year-old, who has struggled with injury all season, struck his first league goal since August at the weekend and came off the bench in the second half to ensure Inter will have a lead to protect in the second leg as they seek a first quarter-final tie since 2011. "Winning is the most important thing ... I'm focusing on trying to do what's best for Inter," said Lukaku to Amazon Prime. "I'm pleased for the win, let's hope we can keep it going." Lukaku stuck as Sergio Conceicao's Porto were

playing with 10 men after

key midfielder Otavio, in his first appearance since the start of February, was sent off in the 78th minute for two bookable offences. The Portuguese champions have been a bogey side to Italian teams in recent seasons but will have to turn the aggregate score around if they are to add to the series of Serie A scalps which include Juventus and Roma. "It's a slight advantage that we'll try to make count against a good, physical team which is used to plaving in the last 16 and quarter-finals... It's a great win," said Inzaghi. "It was

is dreaming of becoming the chief justice [...] It has deserved for what we did on been five to six years since the pitch, but we know it's Nawaz was disqualified not finished here and the but he is still sitting as a second leg will be difficult." judge in every case against Inter should have been Nawaz." The PML-N leader ahead in the 13th minute claimed that when Imran's when Federico Dimarco 2014 sit-in failed, ex-CJP found Lautaro Martinez Khosa told the PTI chief with a deep cross, but the to bring the Panama case Argentina striker sent his before him so that Nawaz header way of the bar. could be disqualified. Five minutes later Hakan

Calhanoglu forced a fantas-Austerity tic save from Diogo Costa, the Turkey international policy to... playing a one-two from his own corner and whipping a beautifully struck effort shot which nearly went in

at the near post. – APP

his players to stop "playing City's game." "I

told them 'what are you doing, coming into a

game like this and standing deep - that wasn't

the plan." Rose said he was confident ahead

of the second leg in Manchester on March

14, but admitted "to go to City, we'd rather

"We can take plenty out of the game so that

we can not play another first half like we did

today." RB Leipzig manager Marco Rose said

sought-after centre-back Josko Gvardiol "is

our player and will stay our player". Gvardiol

headed in Leipzig's second-half equaliser and

also kept City star Erling Haaland in check

on an unhappy evening for the Norway for-

ward. In his second season in Leipzig since

moving from Dynamo Zagreb, Gvardiol's

form for Leipzig, as well as his performances

at the World Cup for Croatia, has reportedly

made him a target of several European clubs.

Gvardiol was recently quoted in the German

media saying "I might be out the door after

Christopher (Nkunku)" in reference to the

French striker's reported deal with Chelsea.

Rose, however, shot down speculation the de-

fender could be off to the Premier League,

saying "the headlines don't seem to be

bothering him". "He's a RB Leipzig player,

I think he'll stay a player for RB Leipzig.

have a 3-0 advantage to feel better."

FROM PAGE 01 oversee the implementation of the decisions. The committee would meet at least fortnightly. To be chaired by a cabinet member from a coalition party, the monitoring committee would comprise representation from all the allied parties. Other committee members would include Special Assistant to the PM Jahanzeb Khan, Principal Secretary to the PM and the Federal Finance Secretary. The prime minister said the austerity measures would help save national resources; however, effective outcomes depended on their full enforcement.

Japan Ambassador terms...

FROM PAGE 01

the commitment to continue his efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations. He thanked the U.S. for its support and solidarity with the people of Pakistan during the 2022 floods and its participation in the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan.

City manager Guardiola plots European progress Guardiola added: "Maybe in second leg I will be crazy and decide to play with nine strikers. But I've coached in this country and I analysed Leipzig and I needed this type of control"

DNA

LEIPZIG: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola joked he could throw caution to the wind to finish off Leipzig in the Champions League by fielding "nine strikers". City were held to a 1-1 draw in Germany on Wednesday in the first leg of their last 16 tie with Riyad Mahrez's opener cancelled out by a header from Josko Gvardiol.

"I didn't want to come here and lose 4-3. It will have to be more open in Manchester.' said Guardiola who coached Bayern Mu-

nich to Bundesliga titles in each of his three years in Germany and said City "could not compete" with the speed of German teams. "We don't have the team to compete with them with a lot of transitions, they are better than us and they are faster than us, except Kyle (Walker) and Erling (Haaland). "The pace they have, we don't have it."

Guardiola added: "Maybe in the second leg I will be crazy and decide to play with nine strikers. But I've coached in this country and I analysed Leipzig and I needed this type of control." The City manager gathered his team together on the pitch for an impromptu motivational session after the final whistle in an attempt to lift their spirits. "They had their heads down, I told them 'Why are your heads down, put your heads up," the Spanish manager told the post-match press conference. "It was a really good game the game you

played. If people don't like it, it doesn't matter, you played the game the way it should be

played." The City manager said the Champions League "used to be quite easy", but is now "such a demanding competition". "All of the teams in all of the leagues are really strong." Leipzig manager Marco Rose revealed how his half-time talk, which "started quietly and ended up a little bit louder", pushed



BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs EC bans its

UN chief calls for immediate end to Israeli settlements staff from using TikTok

BRUSSELS: The European Commission has banned its staff from using the Chinese-owned social media app TikTok, citing security concerns.

The move comes amid growing fears that Chinese tech firms are helping the government in Beijing collect troves of data around the world and its intelligence service is focusing on political targets, including in Brussels.

TikTok, the video-sharing app that is owned by Beijing-based ByteDance and rose to popularity during the pandemic, is under intense scrutiny from legislators on both sides of the Atlantic.

Commission staff received an email on Thursday morning requesting that they "uninstall TikTok from corporate devices and personal devices using the Commission mobile device service"

Around 32,000 permanent and contract employees work in the Commission. "This measure aims to

protect the Commission cybersecurity against threats," the executive arm of the European Union said in a statement on Thursday. "The security developments of other social media platforms will also be kept under constant review".

At a midday briefing, spokespeople for the Commission declined to comment on whether any specific security concern had prompted the decision.

They explained that staff had been given until March 15 to remove TikTok from their official devices and told they must also remove the app from their personal devices if they use these for work.-APP

Death toll from China mine collapse rises to 5

BEIJING: The death toll from a collapse at a coal mine in northern China rose to five on Thursday, state media reported, as searched for doz

News Desk

NEW YORK: The UN Sec-

retary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate end to the Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories as a major roadblock on the way to peace. "Across the occupied West Bank and Gaza, hopelessness is spreading, feeding anger and despair. Each new settlement is another roadblock on the path to peace," Guterres said yesterday at the opening of the 2023 session of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Referring to the "concerning news" early Wednesday that Israeli occupation forces killed 11 Palestinians and injured more than 100 others in a brutal raid on Nablus, Guterres said: "Deadly cycles of violence keep accelerating. Tensions are skyhigh. And the peace process remains stalled." "The status of Jerusalem cannot be altered by unilateral actions," he said. "Jerusalem's demographic and historical character must

be preserved - and the status quo at the Holy Sites must be upheld, in line with the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,"

he added. The UN chief said the "ultimate goal is to end the occupation, realize a two-state solution." "What is needed is the political will and courage to make the difficult choices for peace," the UN chief said. "A peace that ends the occupation and ensures two states - Israel and an independent, viable, and sovereign Palestinian state - living side by side within secure and recognized borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states," he said. "A peace in which Palestinians and Israelis alike enjoy equal measures of de-

mocracy, opportunity, and dignity in their lives.' While The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates today criticized as shy, weak and reflect double standards the international reactions to the Nablus massacre committed by Israel and which resulted in the death of 11 Palestinians, including three elderly people and a child, and the injury of more than 102 others,

Pak expresses its concerns

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed its concern over the security of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories following Israel's killing vesterday of 11 Palestinians and the injury of over 100 during an assault on the northern West Bank city of Nablus. Commenting on the Nablus events, Pakistani Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "We condemn all acts that lead to the killing of innocent civilians including in occupied Palestinian territories." The Spokesperson said Pakistan's position on Palestine is consistent: "We support a comprehensive approach for resolution of the Palestinian question." Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has maintained that there should be a total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem. "There should be a restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in an independent and viable State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," she said, calling for a just resolution to the plight of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution.-DNA

including seven in critical condition. "The international reactions were shy and weak, almost equating between the victim and the executioner, and not rising to the level of the Israeli occupation's massacre in Nablus, which rises

to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity," said the Ministry in a statement.

"These reactions are not consistent with the positions of states and the international community regarding their

Sderot and Ashkelon.-DNA concern about international law, international humanitarian law and human rights principles, or their alleged concern about the two-state solution and the peace process, especially since most

Israeli government fully and directly responsible for this and other crimes, their repercussions on the region, and their risks in fueling tensions that threaten to explode the entire area," added of them avoid holding the the Foreign Ministry.

Israeli air strikes

target Gaza

GAZA: The Israeli occupation army launched aerial

attacks on two resistance sites in the embattled Gaza

Strip on Thursday morning. According to local media

sources, an Israeli warplane bombed a resistance

post in the west of Gaza City. In central Gaza, four air-

to-surface missiles targeted a r sistance post near the

entrance of al-Bureij refugee camp. The airstrikes

reportedly caused damage to several homes near

the bombed sites. The attacks sent plumes of black

smoke rising over one of the targeted locations

north of Gaza City. For its part, the Palestinian re-

sistance fired anti-aircraft guns at the warplanes

as they were overflying Gaza. A spokesperson for

the Israeli army claimed the air raids were in re-

sponse to rocket fire from Gaza last night. Gaza

resistance factions said their rocket fire was in

retaliation for the deadly Israeli raid in Nablus on

Wednesday that claimed the lives of at least 11 citi-

zens and injured over 100 others. According to the

7.2 magnitude earthquake hits China-Tajikistan border

Islamabad **POST**

Friday, February 24, 2023

BEIJING: An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 iolted the China-Tajikistan border early Thursday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC).

CENC said the quake occurred near the border between the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China and the mountainous Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in eastern Tajikistan. The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported the magnitude of the earthquake as 6.8 and said the epicenter was 67 kilometers (41.6 miles) west of the town of Murghob on the Tajikistan side of the border.-Agencies

No prospects for normalizing ties with Russia

pects at all for normalizing relations with the current Russian government in the wake of Moscow's war on Ukraine, a former German general told Turkish media. Asked whether there could be normal relations with the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Klaus Wittmann said: "I don't think so. I see no prospect there. And he (Putin) has shown no sign of readiness for cooperation. He has developed Russia into a spoiler nation."

"And I have become quite sober, for instance, after having listened myself in Munich (Security Conference), President Putin's 2007 speech, and I have realized that with the present Russian government, it will not be probable or prospective to redevelop cooperative relations with Russia," the former brigadier-general added.

Wittmann did stress though that in the long-run, "security in Europe can only be developed with Russia, and not against Russia." "I, myself, have for many years, developed and published ideas for cooperative as opposed to confrontational security with Russia,' he said. Wittmann pointed out that Russia could play a constructive role in resolving regional and global problems, instead of relying "on regional military superiority, and now on aggression as we see." He lambasted "military threats" by Putin against NATO countries for their armed support to Ukraine. "I don't think a militarily weakened Russia would dare to attack NATO," he went on to say.-APP

Russia will not win this war: Spanish PM KIEV: Spain's Prime Min-

ister Pedro Sanchez is due to meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday on his visit to the war-torn country. Sanchez was greeted by Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evhen Perebyinis after he arrived in Kyiv by train on Wednesday morning. The premier was brought on a tour of

Irpin upon his arrival, a town in the Kyiv region that was devastated by Moscow's full-scale invasion. Sanchez was accompanied by the Mayor of Irpin, Oleksandr Markushin and shown apartment blocks bombed by Russian forces. He also travelled to Bucha where scores of Ukrainian civilians were massacred by invading soldiers in the early days of the war. "Bucha and Irpin show the wounds and scars of Putin's barbarism. Russia will not win this war. All of Spain stands with Ukraine," the Spanish leader said on Twitter. "We will stand by Ukraine and its people until peace returns to Europe," he tweeted earlier upon his arrival. Sanchez visited the Church of Andrii Pervozvanyi and laid flowers at a makeshift memorial at the site of a civilian mass grave. Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of war crimes in Bucha, an allegation the Kremlin denies. The mayor of Bucha said over 400 residents were killed by Russian troops, some with their hands tied behind their backs while more bodies showed signs of torture. Sanchez's visit comes a day after Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited the Ukrainian capital for talks with Zelenskyy, she pledged her country's continued support but ruled out the delivery of fighter jets.-DNA

China, Indonesia vow to safeguard regional peace

BEIJING: Indonesian President Joko Widodo met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang here on Wednesday, as both sides promised to jointly maintain regional peace and stability. Widodo, during the meeting, wished a successful outcome of the upcoming sessions of China's National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). He expected both sides to step up the implementation of the consensus reached at the Bali meeting between the two heads of state and duly prepare for the next phase of high-level exchanges.

The Indonesian president said Indonesia and China have seen fruitful practical cooperation in recent years, with bilateral trade and investment growing rapidly and China becoming the second largest source

said Asia is the center of global economic growth and should not be an arena of power struggle. Indonesia is willing to work with China to maintain regional peace and stability, and to facilitate the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, Widodo said. He said Indonesia appreciates China's support for ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) centrality and will address the Myanmar issue in line with the five-point consensus. For his part, Qin said the Chinese side is willing to work with the Indonesian side under the guidance of the important consensus reached between the two leaders, adhere to high-level guidance, strategic alignment and collaboration as major countries, and seek joint development in

the pursuit of modernization. The two sides should make every effort to ensure the Jakarta-Bandung

Indonesia, and encourage outstanding Chinese enterprises to participate in Indonesia's major infrastructure projects. Changes unseen in a century have seriously affected the Asia-Pacific region. Situations of great complexity call for stronger unity and cooperation between China and ASEAN to safeguard regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, he noted. The Chinese side fully supports Indonesia playing its role as the ASE-AN rotating chair to lead and push the construction of the ASEAN Community with a shared future and East Asia cooperation to reap greater fruits. Qin said, adding that the Chinese side will continue its support for ASEAN centrality and solving the Myanmar issue in "the ASEAN way".

During his visit, Qin and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi jointly chaired the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between the two countries. He also met with Indonesia's Coordinator for Cooperation with China and Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn separately.- Agencies

Hebrew media, rockets fired from Gaza lit up the night sky and triggered sirens in the Israeli areas of BERLIN: There are no pros-

ens still missing after a massive landslide hindered recovery efforts overnight. More than 50 people were trapped when a 180-meter-high slope gave way at the open-pit mine in the Inner Mongolia region's Alxa Left Banner area at around 1:00 pm (0500 GMT) on Wednesday, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Hundreds of rescue workers were dispatched to the remote site, but another landslide later that day temporarily halted efforts to save those trapped beneath the rubble. Rescuers have since resumed their work, with CCTV reporting on Thursday afternoon that at least five people had been killed in the incident, with six injured and 48 still unaccounted for. Footage from the broadcaster showed rescue workers in orange overalls and yellow helmets dwarfed by a mountain of rust-colored rubble, and excavators working to clear some of the debris.

Russia, Ukraine exchanged over 2,000 prisoners

KIEV: Over 2,000 prisoners have been exchanged between Russia and Ukraine since the start of the war on Feb. 24 last year, according to figures compiled by Anadolu. The first prisoner exchange in the war was announced on March 17 by Daria Zarivna, press secretary for the head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office. Ukraine's Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov was exchanged for nine Russian soldiers captured during the war. Since then, according to information released by the Russian Ministry of Defense. at least 800 Russian soldiers have been released by Ukraine in prisoner exchanges to date. Meanwhile, in a statement on Telegram on Feb. 4, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said prisoner exchanges have been going on for months, and that 1,762 Ukrainians have returned to their country since the start of the war. Ukraine also claimed that 1.596 Ukrainians were released by Russia in 2022, of whom 1,464 were soldiers and 132 were civilians.-Agencies

'Enemies seeking to create despair in Iran'

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says creating despair in Iran is among the main policies of the country's enemies. The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with the chairman and members of the Assembly of Experts in Tehran on Thursday. Ayatollah Khamenei said some enmities toward the Islamic Republic are "political enmity," adding, "For example, the Islamic Republic pursues a stance on the Palestinian issue and [world] powers have another position. [This] creates enmity." "These are not very important. The one that is more important is intrinsic enmity. The nature of the Islamic Republic creates this enmity," the Leader added. The Islamic establishment "opposes those who believe in the Western prescription, which is against any kind of religious interference in social affairs, or opposes the leaders of liberal democracy, who have hatched a plot to dominate over and plunder the world's resources behind the false flag of freedom and democracy," he said. The Islamic Republic, according to the Leader, has disrupted such a plot by putting "democracy and freedom" next to "religion". The Leader warned that some Western countries use liberal democracy to dominate the world, emphasizing, however, that the Islamic Republic brings democracy and freedom along with religion. Ayatollah Khamenei stated that a democracy based on religion leads to hostility because it foils the enemies' conspiracies. The Leader highlighted the remarkable popular power of the Islamic establishment which he said is "unique or rare in the world."-Agencies

of foreign investment in Indonesia. He said the two sides should speed up key projects including the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, the North Kalimantan Industrial Park and the construction of the new capital, and expand cooperation in industrial chains and new energy. Widodo

Osmani

welcomes

Pak envoy

PRISTINA: The President

received the credentials of

non-resident Ambassador of

Pakistan, Yousaf Junaid. Am-

bassador also met separately

with the Prime Minister of

Kosovo Albin Kurti. They dis-

cussed the relations between

the countries, with an empha-

sis on those in the economic

field. Prime Minister Kurti

informed them about the

progress made in the last two

years and the opportunities

and conditions that Kosovo of-

fers foreign investors. During

her meeting with the non-res-

ident of Pakistan, President

Osmani emphasized that 'the

institutions of the Republic

continue to be committed

to sustainable peace and

stability.' Osmani thanked

Ambassador Junaid for the

unreserved support that Pa-

kistan has offered to Kosovo

throughout all the important

processes that Kosovo has

gone through. - DNA

of Kosovo

Viosa Osmani

High-Speed Railway to be completed and opened to traffic as scheduled. and create more flagship projects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said the Chinese foreign minister. Qin said China is willing to import more bulk commodities and quality agricultural and fishery products from

Police officer shot in Northern Ireland

LONDON: A police officer has been wounded after being shot in Omagh, Northern Ireland, police confirmed Wednesday.

"One man, a serving police officer, has been taken to hospital for treatment after being injured in a shooting incident at a sports complex just before 8 p.m. this evening," Omagh police said in a statement.

A police presence continues at the scene of the shooting on Killyclogher Road, added the police. Following the incident, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak condemned the "disgraceful shooting" of the off-duty police officer.

'There is no place in our society for those who seek to harm public servants protecting communities, he said on Twitter.

Additionally, Jeffrey Donaldson, leader of the Democratic pro-union Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, also rejected the attack, saying: "We condemn outright the cowards responsible for this." Michelle O'Neill, vice president of the Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein and first minister-designate of Northern Ireland, also condemned the attack, describing it as "outrageous and shameful." "My immediate thoughts are with the officer and his family. I unreservedly condemn this reprehensible attempt to murder a police officer, she said on Twitter.-APP

PRISTINA: Dr Yousaf Junaid, Pakistan's non-resident ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo presents his credentials to President Viosa Osmani. - DNA

World faces 'grave risk' of nuclear war GENEVA: The veiled threats" to use nument, and the upcoming

Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) said Thursday that "a year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine," the world faces the grave risk that nuclear weapons could be used.

"In the week we mark a year since Russia launched its full-scale, brutal invasion of Ukraine, Daniel Hogsta, the interim executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, warned that the world faces a grave risk nuclear weapons could be used for the first time since 1945,' said ICAN

Hogsta said Russia has issued repeated "overt and

clear weapons in Ukraine, New START. and there is a growing risk that could happen as a re-

sult of the war. "The likelihood exists of some miscalculation or Russia responding to some perceived threat Moscow sees," said Hogsta.

"The longer Russia decides to continue its invasion, and military operations, the more likely dannuclear weapons will beger come a greater part of this ous conflict. It's something the world should be taking very seriously.'

Hogsta responded to Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement this week that Moscow is suspending its implementation of the last remainleaves us at the mercy of

ing arms control treaty with the United States, "President Putin's deci-

and

sion to suspend Russia's implementation of the New START trea-

> nities for breakthroughs, as he cited the Cuban Mis-

reckless sile Crisis in 1962 After that standoff beand needs to be widely condemned," said Hogsta. tween the United States and the former Soviet Why President Putin has done this now is a question Union, international negoonly he can answer, but it tiations led to the Partial Test Ban Treaty and then underlines how so-called nuclear deterrence, far the Nuclear Non-Proliferafrom providing security, tion Treaty.

Hogsta said: "The fact

nuclear-armed try, Russia, has used the threat from its nuclear weapons to facilitate an invasion of its non-nuclear neighbor, underlines the crucial need for comprehensive nuclear disarmament. "The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the only treaty that bans all nuclear activities, including nuclear threats, and it is attracting more and more support." The ICAN head said that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons now has 92 signatories and 68 ratifications - the same number the NPT

of the other nuclear-armed countries to the table." ICAN is a Geneva-based coalition of non-governmental organizations in 100 countries promoting



"The TPNW provides the framework for disarma-

leaders of nuclear-armed countries, like Putin." The head of ICAN, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, said it is important to remember that crises can offer opportu-

the personal decisions of

G7 summit in Hiroshima provides the perfect op-

portunity to kickstart a

new push to eliminating

these weapons," said the

"The G7 leaders, who ei-

ther command nuclear ar-

senals or support the use

of nuclear weapons, need

to present a credible plan

for how they intend to ad-

vance nuclear disarma-

ment and get the leaders

ban treaty. -DNA

ICAN head.







Briefs

British Chargé d'Affaires meets Ukraine Ambassador

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chargé d'Affaires at the British High Commission Islamabad, Andrew Dalgleish and Defence Adviser, Brigadier Simon Waddington welcomed the Ambassador of Ukraine, Markiian Chuchuk and Defence Attaché, Colonel Serhii Dolenko ahead of the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The two sides discussed the global impacts the war has had, including effects on Pakistan's economy and food and energy requirements. Chargé d'Affaires at the British High Commission, Islamabad, Andrew Dalgleish, while reaffirming the UK's strong commitment to help Ukraine win the war, said the following: "The UK and our internation al partners stand united in condemning Russia's aggression against a free and democratic country, targeting of homes and human rights violations. Russia's blatant violation of the UN Charter must not go unanswered, otherwise it opens the door for other states' territorial integrity and sovereignty to be attacked. UK will continue to do everything possible to help Ukraine. Ambassador, Ukrainian

Markiian Chuchuk said the following: "Russia denies the legitimacy of Ukraine as a sovereign state and seeks to destroy Ukrainian statehood by waging a highly intensive war on Ukrainian territory, killing many civilians, including women and children. Peace will come only after Ukraine's territorial integrity has been fully restored within its internationally recognized borders.

Turkey steps up rebuilding plans as quake toll nears 50,000



ISLAMABAD: A 9-member United States Senate delegation led by Senator Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PTI leaders being treated as terrorists in jails: Khan

'Jail Bharo Tehreek' enters 2nd day in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan said that the PTI leaders and workers are being treated as terrorists in the jails who surrendered before the authorities during Jail Bharo Tehreek, media reported on Thursday

second day of the Jail Bharo Tehreek in which a large number of leaders and activists surrendered before the authorities to protest against the incumbent government.

He said that those who presented themselves for arrests during Jail Bharo Tehreek are being kept with terrorists in the jails. The PTI chief said that they are political inmates which should be kept in a separate barrack.

Police to keep PTI leaders in separate jails

LAHORE: The leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) who volunteered their arrest in Lahore as part of the "Jail Bharo" movement would be detained in various cities. Sources said PTI's Senior Vice Imran Khan addressed the workers and supporters on the President Shah Mahmood Qureshi had been sent to Attock, General Secretary Asad Umar and Murad Raas to DG Khan and Azam Swati had been sent to Rahim Yar Khan. Former home minister Omar Sarfraz Cheema will be detained at Bhakkar jail while Waleed Iqbal will be kept in Layyah jail. Sources said 10 party workers would be kept with each leader in Khan criticised the government for sending the political a jail. Meanwhile, the Punjab Home Department has prisoners of Jail Bharo Tehreek to jails in different cities. created space to keep 10,000 people in the jails if "Are you thinking that we will be afraid after these steps? the PTI workers and party leaders presented them-Why people would come out of their homes in Peshawar if selves for the arrest. Sources said barracks had been cleared to accommodate the party leaders they are feared of their arrest? You will see people coming out in Rawalpindi tomorrow. If we do not adopt a peaceful and workers. Furthermore, police sources said the arrested people could be detained for one month way of protest, then the nation will be enraged and it will be disastrous." Regarding previous arrests and detentions, and would not be allowed to meet anyone. – DNA

Imran Khan said that Pervaiz Elahi's secretary is missing so far and no one knows about his whereabouts. A close relative of Moonis Elahi was abducted and brutally tortured. He said that Pervaiz Elahi has been given the position of

president in his honour after his inclusion in the PTI. He slammed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) once again. Khan said that they had never seen this kind of election commission so far. He alleged that ECP formed an anti-PTI caretaker set-up. Khan said that PTI had forwarded the names of 23 government officers for stopping their deputations due to their alleged involvement in May 25 incident. He added that the commission had deputed all those officers despite PTI's reservations.

Khan further alleged that the caretaker set-up is being controlled by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whereas, Maulana Fazlur Rehman's instructions are being followed in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). 'Both caretaker set-ups are partial to target PTI. The caretaker set-up is doing everything except free and fair elections. If elections are delayed, then what will be the legal position of the caretaker set-up after 90 days?" He criticised the record of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) regarding the Wazirabad gun attack has vanished. The PTI chief said that the current rulers are

PM for enhancing Pak-US ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday highlighting the significance of long-standing cooperation between Pakistan and the United States underscored the need to make this partnership diverse and multidimensional. He underlined that parliamentary exchanges between the two countries, as vibrant democracies, were vital to promoting understanding of each others' perspectives at the political level.

The prime minister expressed these views while welcoming a six-member U.S. Senate delegation from the Democratic Party, which led by Senate Major-ity Leader Senator Chuck Schumer called on him here. Other members of the delegation included Senators Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Gary Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto, and Peter Welch. – APP

Oman opens airspace, joining KSA in Israeli corridor

WEB DESK

DUBAI: Oman's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Thursday said the Gulf Arab state's airspace will be open for all civilian carriers, a move that would enable Israeli airlines to utilise a Saudi-Oman corridor to cut flight times to Asia. Saudi Arabia, which like Oman does not have formal ties with Israel, last summer said it would open its airspace to all air carriers, but Israeli officials had said the corridor could not be implemented

until Oman consented. "Enforcing international and local requirements against discrimination in dealing with civilian aircraft, the Civil Aviation Authority confirms that the sultanate's airspace is open to all carriers that meet the requirements of overflying," the CAA said in a statement on Twitter Mr Davie thanked staff for their courage and said nothing was more important than reporting impartially. The BBC, which is co-operating with the investigation, recently aired a documentary critical of Indian PM Narendra Modi. India's government called it "hostile propaganda" and attempted to block it being aired domestically. Mr Davie said the BBC would help staff do their jobs effectively and safely. "Nothing is more important than our ability to report without fear or favour," he said in the email. "Our duty to our audiences around world is to pursue the facts through independent and impartial journalism.

targeting the judiciary due to the fear of elections

ANTAKYA: Turkey has stepped up plans to house victims of the devastating earthquake which struck its border region with Syria, the interior minister said, as the combined death toll in the two countries crept towards 50,000.

Suleyman Soylu said 313,000 tents had been erected, with 100,000 container homes to be installed in the disaster zone which stretches for hundreds of kilometres inland from the Turkish and Syrian

The number of people killed in Turkey has risen to 43,556, Soylu said, while in Syria the death toll was close to 6,000. The United Nations said more than 4,500 were killed in Syria's rebel-held northwest, and the Syrian government said 1,414 people died in the area under its control. Soylu said more than 600,000 apartments and 150,000 commercial premises had suffered at least moderate damage. - Agencies

Ukraine defends front, Putin talks up nuclear arsenal

KYIV: Ukraine said its forces had repelled Russian assaults along the length of the front line on Thursday on the eve of the war's anniversary, as President Vladimir Putin, empty-handed after a bloody winter offensive, talked up Russia's nuclear arsenal. After a series of strident speeches in the runup to the anniversary of his invasion, Putin announced plans on Thursday to deploy new Sarmat multi-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles this year. Earlier this week he suspended Russia's participation in the START nuclear arms control treaty. Russia would "pay increased attention to strengthening the nuclear triad,' Putin said in remarks released by the Kremlin, referring to nuclear missiles based on land, sea and in the air.

Ukraine and its Western allies have brushed off the nuclear talk as a diversion from a failing Russian military campaign on the ground, a year after Putin launched the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two. The last weeks have seen Russia mount infantry assaults across frozen ground in battles described by both sides as the bloodiest of the war. At a Ukrainian tank park near Bakhmut, the small eastern city that has become Russia's main target, constant explosions could be heard echoing in the distance. "If we give up Bakhmut, everything else will get even more complicated. We can't give it up, under no circumstance. We will hold through," Junior Sergeant OlehSlavin, a tank operator, told Reuters. "We are in place for now and trying to get all the territory back." Western officials said Russia had planned an offensive to capture new territory ahead of the anniversary, using hundreds of thousands of reservists conscripted in recent months to give Putin a victory to announce. - Agencies

Khetran sent on remand as woman found alive

DNA

QUETTA: A district and sessions court in Quetta on Thursday granted police's crime branch a 10-day physical remand of Balochistan Minister for Construction and Communications Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran for his alleged connection with the gruesome murder of three people whose bullet-riddled bodies were found in a well in the Barkhan district on Monday night. Initially, Khan Muhammad Marri, a resident of Kohlu, claimed that the deceased are his wife and two sons. He then went on the allege: "Five slaves are still in the possession of Sardar Abdul Rehman." The triple murder saga took a dramatic twist, when a police surgeon, after the post-mortem examination of the bodies, revealed that one of the deceased was a 17 to 18-year-old female. She said that the deceased was raped and tortured before being shot dead. The medico-legal officer said that the autopsy finds that the girl was shot thrice in the head and her face and neck were mutilated with acid to hide her identity. She said that the girl may not be Giran Naz but her daughter. Moreover, the other two were also tortured before being killed, she added. Meanwhile, the suspect denied allegations of involvement in the gruesome murder of three people. Talking to Geo News, he claimed that he is a "peaceful and law-abiding person". "Accusations of owning a private prison and the murder of three people is a conspiracy to damage my political reputation," he added. The minister accused his own son was behind conspiracy. On Wednesday night, Levies personnel recovered Marri's wife Giran Naz – who had been presumed dead – and their five children including a girl, allegedly abducted by Khetran.

'Catastrophic': Palestinians recount fatal Israeli raid

Israeli forces have killed 11 Palestinians in Nablus in one of the deadliest raids since the 2000-05 uprising

MONITORING DESK

RAMALLAH: At least 150 Israeli soldiers in dozens of armoured vehicles swooped on Nablus on Wednesday in what turned out to be one of the deadliest military raids in the occupied West Bank since the mass Palestinian uprising or Intifada of 2000-05. Within four hours, the Israeli army killed 11 Palestinians and injured more than 80 people with live ammunition - some of them critically. The raid comes barely a month after 10 Palestinians were killed in a similar raid in the Jenin refugee camp about 41km (25 miles) away.

Jenin and Nablus, which have emerged as the centres of limited armed Palestinian resistance, have become the scenes of increased deadly Israeli attacks.

Among the victims of Wednesday's raids were three elderly men aged 72, 66 and 61 - and a 16-yearold boy, while hundreds of others suffered tear gas inhalation.

"They were shooting left and right, at anyone - those who had and didn't have weapons. I was standing 2 metres away from a guy, watching the events, and he was shot and injured right next to me," Khaled Jamal, a 25-year-old resident, told Al Jazeera. "It was catastrophic. Everyone inside and outside the hospital was crying at the scene before our eyes - men, women, children. Even the people who were at the hospitals for checkups were crying," he continued.

Israeli undercover forces entered the Old City of Nablus on foot at dawn on Wednesday dressed as religious Muslim men and veiled women and hid inside a mosque in the

al-Halabeh quarter next to a house where two Palestinian fighters were taking shelter. The Israeli soldiers remained hidden inside the mosque until the morning, during which dozens of other soldiers took positions in and around the house and the neighbourhood, including snipers on rooftops, according to local residents. The two fighters, Hossam Isleem, 24, and Mohammad Abdulghani (also known as Mohammad Jneidi), 23, who belonged to the Lions' Den armed group in Nablus, refused to surrender. A few minutes later, Israeli forces attacked the house with rocket-propelled grenades and armed drones, killing the men, according to residents. The Israeli army claims that Isleem, along with two other fighters in Israeli detention, Osama Taweel and Kamal Joury, was be-

hind a shooting that killed an Israeli soldier near the illegal settlement of Shavei Shomron in October. Akram Saeed Antar, a resident of the al-Halabeh area where the targeted house was located, said Israeli soldiers were firing indiscriminately. "It was at least three hours of destruction, explosions, and live ammunition that targeted all the residents in the area," Antar said. "They killed elderly people, children, on the streets." "The resistance fighters had basic rifles, they cannot resist shells, missiles, and drones," continued Antar. Amid the operation around the house, Israeli forces attacked large crowds of Palestinians in several busy locations across Nablus, with live ammunition and tear gas that contained pepper spray, including from drones, as widespread confrontations broke out with residents.

BBC: DG tells staff to report without fear

WEB DESK

LONDON: The BBC will not be put off from reporting without fear or favour, its Director-General Tim Davie has said in an email to staff in India. It follows searches at BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai by tax officials.

