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PM launches mobile schools to promote child literacy in Pak

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German envoy lauds poverty reduction steps

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Historic trade delegation visit to open chances

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Briefs

Pol prices reduced, says Dar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a relief for the masses, the federal government Tuesday announced decreasing the price of petrol by Rs5 per litre to Rs267 per litre for the next fortnight. In a press conference, Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar said that the price of diesel would be maintained at Rs296 per litre till the next review. Meanwhile, according to a statement issued by the Finance Division, the price of kerosene oil is cut by Rs15 per litre.

Siraj accuses ECP of aiding govt

SHAMIM SHAHID

CHARSADA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader Siraj ul Haq blamed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for joining hands with the coalition government. Speaking about the electoral watchdog, Mr Haq stated the ECP had failed to perform its duties and responsibilities, and that the Supreme Court had filed a petition to have the ECP perform those duties. He urged the apex court to announce all the elections together. Mr Haq slammed his political opponents, saying, "Both PDM and PTI are fighting for their personal gains." He claimed the PDM and PTI were the slaves of IMF. Mr Haq labelled his opponents as "political terrorists."

Rana slams 'attack' on complex

STAFF REPORT

SAHRAWAL: Interior Minister Rana Samadullah said Tuesday that the government would take action against "attacking" perpetrators for "sabotaging the judiciary's dignity during PTI Chairman Imran Khan's appearance in Islamabad courts. In a press conference alongside PML-N leaders Arma Bakhari and Talal Chaudhry, minister said that the culprits would be booked and arrested on terror charges.

Election suo motu SC set to announce verdict

After political parties fail to reach consensus, the five member bench has reserved the verdict



COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Tuesday reserved the verdict in the suo motu notice taken over the election date of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab, with the decision set to be announced today (Wednesday) at around 11:30am. A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Jamsil Khan Monday conducted the hearings for two consecutive days - from Monday to Tuesday. "I would like to thank all the lawyers who have assisted us throughout the hearings. I cannot say when will we be back to announce the verdict," the CJ said after the

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Justice Isa shows anger over benches' reshuffling

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Casting doubts on the transparency of the case-assigning procedure, Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) judge Justice QaziFaez Isa Tuesday refused to hear the scheduled cases after the registrar shook up the benches without keeping the concerned judges and other stakeholders in the loop. The registrar reshuffled the benches and replaced Justice Hasan Raza with another judge after which Justice Isa and Justice YahyaAfridi raised objections to the allocation of cases. The judges questioned the procedure of assigning cases in the top court. During the hearing, the court also

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Imran Khan secures bail in three cases

Non-bailable arrest warrant in the Toshakhana case quashed by IHC Sharif, Zardari trying to delay polls: Fawad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday secured interim bail in three cases - including attempted murder and prohibited funding cases - while a non-bailable arrest warrant was issued against him in the Toshakhana case by a district and sessions court in Islamabad. Amid a busy schedule, the PTI chairman appeared before the banking court, anti-terrorism court and the sessions court at the Judicial Complex in Islamabad. He, however, skipped the hearing related to Toshakhana gifts. PTI chief Khan secured interim bail from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the attempted murder case. IHC's Justice Samer Farooq granted Khan interim bail till March 9 against a surety bonds worth Rs100,000. As Imran Khan arrived at the judicial complex in the federal capital, a large number of PTI workers entered the building by knocking its gate down. Earlier, a district and sessions court in Islamabad issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for the PTI chief in the Toshakhana case against him.

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SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader FawadChaudhry said on Tuesday that the PTI chairman and PPP's Zardari group are following in former military ruler General (ret'd) ZiaulHaq's footsteps as they are "trying to delay the elections in the country." They [Sharif and Zardari families] have proved themselves as the successor of General ZiaulHaq who imposed martial law in the country and postponed the elections for nine years," he said while speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court. He made these remarks following the hearing of the suo motu case regarding delay in the announcement of the date of provincial assemblies' elections in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being welcomed by students at the inauguration of "School on Wheels" project - DNA

Taliban forces kill top ISKP commanders

DNA

KABUL: Afghan Taliban said that their security forces killed two key Daesh or Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) commanders in an overnight counterterrorism raid against their hideout in the capital, Kabul. Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement that the intelligence force conducted an operation on Daesh's hideout in Kabul city, killing two key members of the group and capturing another one. "One of the killed terrorists was Qari Fateh, known as the intelligence chief and a former minister of war of the IS-Khorasan province," said Zabihullah Mujahid.

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PM launches mobile schools to promote child literacy in Pak

In the first phase, the mobile schools will provide primary-level education

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday terming children the "future builders of the nation" said the government would provide maximum educational facilities to them. Addressing the launch of mobile schools under the project "School on wheels", he said the step would increase the literacy rate in the country, particularly in the rural areas. In the first phase, the mobile schools consisting of eight buses will provide primary-level education to the children of Islamabad and adjoining areas. The buses have been equipped with computers, desks, whiteboards, and LCDs, to create an effective teaching and learning environment. Shehbaz Sharif said the government would increase the number of buses and expand the project to the rest of the country and Azad Kashmir. He expressed satisfaction that the project would mainstream the children in rural areas who faced the unavailability of modern educational facilities.

Lauds ADB's financing across key sectors

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank has expressed its readiness to continue working closely with Pakistan in addressing its economic challenges. The commitment was expressed by a delegation of Executive Directors of the Asian Development Bank of China, Japan and South Korea, which called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today. The delegation expressed satisfaction over government's efforts in addressing big challenge of devastation caused by the recent floods. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for ADB.

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Moody's slashes Pak credit rating

NEWS DESK

SINGAPORE: Moody's Investors Service Tuesday slashed Pakistan's sovereign credit rating to "Ca3" amid critical loan talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), arguing that the worsening liquidity situation was "significantly raising default risks." The cash-strapped nation has been in talks with the IMF to secure a \$1 billion loan, which has been pending since late last year over policy issues. It is part of a stalled \$6.5 billion bailout package, originally approved in 2019. Marriyum said that the "foreign agent" was appealing to the banking court for granting bail. In the Toshakhana case, charges are to be framed against him, yet he refused to appear. She said if Imran Khan fails to appear in court, he should be arrested so that his desire to fill the jail will also be fulfilled. She said, "If Nawaz Sharif could appear in court with his daughter on daily basis, why Imran Khan could not appear with Bushra and Farah Gogi?" She said Imran Khan

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Mariyum blasts Khan over lame excuses

"Foreign agent" was appealing to the banking court for granting bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday castigated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan for his lame excuses for not appearing in courts. In a statement, the minister said that the courts continue asking about Imran's whereabouts but he continued to evade. Marriyum said that the "foreign agent" was appealing to the banking court for

granting bail. In the Toshakhana case, charges are to be framed against him, yet he refused to appear. She said if Imran Khan fails to appear in court, he should be arrested so that his desire to fill the jail will also be fulfilled. She said, "If Nawaz Sharif could appear in court with his daughter on daily basis, why Imran Khan could not appear with Bushra and Farah Gogi?" She said Imran Khan

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Russia open to talks, but will keep annexed regions

Dmitry Peskov says Russia would never renounce its claims to four Ukrainian regions that Moscow declared it had annexed last year

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Tuesday repeated its position that Russia was open to negotiations to end the Ukraine conflict, but that new "territorial realities" could not be ignored. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Russia would never renounce its claims to four Ukrainian regions that Moscow declared it had annexed last year following referendums that Kyiv and the West slammed as bogus and illegal. "There are certain realities that have already become an internal factor. I mean the new territories. The constitution of the Russian Federation exists, and cannot be ignored. Russia will never be able to compromise on this, these are important realities," Peskov said on Tuesday. Russia proclaimed it had annexed the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions last September in a grand ceremony in Moscow. The regions were subsequently named as constituent subjects of the Russian Federation in a constitutional decree. Peskov said Russia was open to negotiations if Kyiv accepted Moscow's control over the

Russians tighten noose on Ukraine's Bakhmut

KYIV: Russian forces on Tuesday pressed forward their weeks-long drive to encircle and capture the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut in the country and postponed the elections. Forces described the situation as "extremely tense". Capturing Bakhmut, scene of some of the war's bloodiest battles, would be Russia's first major prize in more than six months and open the way for taking the last remaining urban centres in the Donetsk region, one of four Moscow claims to have annexed in its "special military operation" in Ukraine. Ukraine does not publicly claim responsibility for the attack inside Russia. If it was behind the Kofomna incident, it would be its closest attempted drone strike to the Russian capital since Russia invaded Ukraine just over a year ago.

Earlier, Russia's defence ministry also accused Ukraine of launching two attempted drone attacks against two southern Russian regions overnight but caused no damage. Around Bakhmut, Russian troops, including mercenary fighters from the Wagner Group, are trying to cut the Ukrainian defenders' supply lines and force them to surrender or withdraw. "Despite significant losses, the enemy threw in the most prepared assault units of Wagner, who are trying to break through the defences of our troops and surround the city," said a Colonel General Oleksandr Syreskyi said in a statement. An unnamed soldier from Ukraine's 93rd Separate Mechanised Brigade,

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regions. "With a favourable state of affairs and the appropriate attitude from the Ukrainians, this can be resolved at the negotiating table. But the main thing is to achieve our goals," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the FSB security service on Tuesday to bolster security in the four regions - currently only partially controlled by his forces - and also to counter what he described as growing espionage and sabotage operations against Russia by Ukraine and the West. He was speaking after a Russian regional governor said a drone had crashed near a natural gas distribution station on Tuesday in an apparent failed attack near the town of Kolomoia, just 110 km (68 miles) southeast of Moscow. Russian forces do not fully control any of the four regions, and Moscow says it is fighting to "liberate" them from the control of Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Kyiv and the West say this is a baseless pretext for an illegal land-grab. Ukraine says Russian troops must leave every inch of its territory including the four annexed regions and the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow unilaterally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, before a peace plan can be discussed.

Ashraf rules out any possibility of Pakistan's default

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly said that there is no possibility of Pakistan's default and the current economic crisis would be overcome soon to make Pakistan a strong economy. He said that he has talked to the finance minister about IC's issue and this issue would be resolved soon to facilitate the business community in import of essential manufacturing items. He said that the business community is playing key role in the economy and the government should consult them while making business and economic policies. He said that he would support ICCI representation in CDA Board and if rules allow, he would invite ICCI members to the meetings of NA standing committees. He said that he would cooperate with ICCI in efforts for charter of economy. He stressed that the business leaders should play role to develop national unity and harmony as division in society is not good for the country. He expressed these views while addressing as Chief Guest at 'ICCI Business Role Models Awards' ceremony at Chamber House. He distributed awards to the business leaders and congratulated them for their achievements. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the business community is the key stakeholder in the development of the federal capital and ICCI should be given representation in CDA to help resolve their key issues more effectively. He said that ICCI should be invited to the business related standing committees of National Assembly including Finance & Revenue, Commerce, Board of Investment, Industries & Production Committees. He said that ICCI is ready to bring all political parties on one platform to develop consensus on a charter of economy in order to ensure long-term economic policies that should not be disturbed with the change of government and said that Raja Pervaiz Ashraf should support ICCI in these efforts. He said that business leaders are rendering great services to the business community by dedicating their time and efforts to resolve their issues and the purpose of organizing ICCI Business Role Model Award is to acknowledge and recognize their role in society. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI stressed that the government should fully support ICCI in establishing a new industrial zone in the region. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader stressed that the government should finalise economic policies in consultation with business community and allocate land to ICCI for industrial estate. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President, ICCI said that business leaders should be acknowledged to promote them as role models in society. He said that Pakistan needs to develop brands to emerge as a strong economy. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in a group photo with award receivers at ICCI Business Role Models Awards. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President, ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi and others are also seen. DNA

German envoy visits SRSO to learn about poverty reduction

The delegation also met with rural community representatives and beneficiaries of SRSO's programs, including Malteser International Cash Grants, the German delegation appreciated SRSO's work aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

DNA
KARACHI: German Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Alfred Gramann and his Embassy team including Deputy Council Karachi, Andreas Wegner and Secretary Ms. Julia Klein visited the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), Mirpurkhas, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. According to SRSO Spokesperson, Jamil Ahmed, the aim of his visit was to learn about the organization and its poverty reduction initiatives supported by the Government of Sindh. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Muhammad Dital Kalhoro shared his organization's approach and highlighted interventions made at the community level for financial, social, and economic empowerment through small entrepreneurship with a woman-led household-based approach. He said that the delegation also met with rural community representatives and beneficiaries of SRSO's programs, including Malteser International Cash Grants. He further said that it achieved great success in the targeted districts of Sindh. It is pertinent to mention here that the SRSO is also involved in disaster response and recovery efforts in partnership with Malteser International and AHH. The German Delegation appreciated SRSO's work aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Earlier, the delegation was decorated with German-made Ajrak by rural women. The meeting concluded with the distribution of hygiene kits to promote good health and hygiene.

poverty, environment, social security, shelter, employment and basic livelihood but also helped in achieving the objective and targets of universally accepted Sustainable Development Goals(SDP) of which Pakistan was a signatory. The delegation also met with rural community representatives and beneficiaries of SRSO's programs, including Malteser International Cash Grants. He further said that it achieved great success in the targeted districts of Sindh. It is pertinent to mention here that the SRSO is also involved in disaster response and recovery efforts in partnership with Malteser International and AHH. The German Delegation appreciated SRSO's work aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Earlier, the delegation was decorated with German-made Ajrak by rural women. The meeting concluded with the distribution of hygiene kits to promote good health and hygiene.

IGP conducts surprise visit to Mattani Police Station

PESHAWAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Haya Khan, made an unannounced visit to the Mattani police station located in the suburbs of Peshawar on Tuesday. During his visit, the IGP inspected the cleanliness of the police station, checked the functionality of the CCTV cameras, and reviewed the security measures in place. He also examined various registers and reviewed the registration of cases. The surprise visit by the IGP is part of the government's efforts to ensure the provision of better services to the public by the police force. The IGP stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness in police stations, as it is crucial for building public trust in the police force. The visit was also aimed at ensuring that police officers were following proper procedures and guidelines when registering cases. He urged police officers to be diligent in their work and ensure that justice is delivered to the citizens. The IGP's surprise visit has been praised by the public and is seen as a step towards improving the performance and accountability of the police force in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—APP

SCCI urges banks to promote activities in merged districts

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Muhammad Ishaq called upon the commercial banks to focus on promotion of trade industrial activities in merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ishaq while talking to Regional Head of the National Bank of Pakistan, Pakkhar Zaman and Chief Manager NBP, Saif ul Geer Khan Afridi during a meeting held here at the Chamber House on Tuesday said role of banking sector is vital in boosting up trade and economic activities as well as industrialisation in new industrial estates in merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He called for proactive measures by commercial banks for provision of all facilities to the business community and availability of loans on easy terms and conditions to promote small and medium and large-scale business and industries in the province. The SCCI vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi and Secretary General of the chamber Sajjad Aziz also present during the meeting. Ishaq appraised the government is taking measures for promotion of economic, trade and industrial activities in merged districts of KP. He, however, stressed that commercial banks should provide facilities to investors under one-window operation in tribal and settled areas of the province. — APP

District admin taking all measures for public welfare

QAZI SHOH
ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has said the district administration is taking all possible measures for public welfare. 26 price magistrates are working in the district to control inflation, who conducted 16,000 inspections in February and collected about 1.6 million rupees in terms of fined and arrested 198 people. While addressing a crowded press conference at the DC Office, Attock, he said all possible measures are also being taken to stabilize the prices of poultry and action is being taken against illegal housing societies and those who have been robbing the common people. The DC said the referral system would be minimized by eliminating the problems of THQ Hospital, Hazro while the post of chief officer TMA, Hazro would be filled soon. "Day after day, I will go to every tehsil and hold an open court so that people's problems could be solved at their doorstep." He said there were currently 11,403 teaching staff posts in government schools across the district, out of which 2,866 posts were lying vacant and recruitment would be started after the elections. He said that steps were being taken to increase the beauty of Attock district and instructions have been issued to the relevant institutions in that regard. "More trees will be planted to combat severe climate change." While responding to a query, the DC said a letter would be written to the local government for the appointment of the chief officer in the vacant seat of TMA Hazro and the cleaning of the drain on Grand Road would be ensured. A special cleaning campaign has been started across the district in which all government, semi-government and private organizations are playing a full role, he added. Talking about health related issues, the DC said the district administration was trying hard to provide the best medical facilities in Isfandiyar Bukhari District Hospital. "New blocks are also being constructed and IQCs are visiting hospitals and health centers and addressing the lack of facilities there on an emergency basis." He said state-of-the-art mother and child care hospital is going to be completed in Attock very soon at a cost of 5 billion rupees where all medical facilities for mother and child will be available.

UNO must play role to create peace

M. A. RASHID
FAISALABAD: The whole world is concerned about the daily atrocities of Israel on the Palestinians and the United Nations should make special arrangements and policy to deal with these worldwide challenges faced by the suppressed communities. It is a very sad reaction of politicians in Pakistan to gain political objectives by making judges controversial. No one can use a neutral institution for political purposes. The survival of Pakistan lies in the fact that all religious and political institutions might take concrete measures to protect the country. Allama Tahira-Ul-Hassan expressed these views in his special statement and added that the Israeli army's bombing attack on oppressed Palestinian protesters in Gaza is an open terrorism violating humanitarian laws. Bomb attacks and atrocities on Palestinians from day to day are extremely unacceptable & it is an inhuman act on which the world is silent. He further said that the entire international community should focus & stop the violation of human rights in Kashmir and Palestine and wherever human rights are being violated under international law. The powerful countries of the world should play their role. He further elaborated that strictly noticed and should be noted that the increasing atrocities and bombings on the oppressed people is not a solution to any problem and for this, dialogue is the best way to bridge the gaps between the people. United Nations must come one step ahead in preventing inhuman treatment by observing its responsibilities. He said & expressing deep sorrows that Pakistani politics has become a hallmark of criticism and confrontation, and political parties use institutions for their own purposes for the sake of their power, and judges of the judiciary are also being criticized, and the doors of justice are being closed. Day and night, handing over the key of power to such politics made encouragement, if it had the same judiciary provided justice to the poor people of Pakistan, politicians would not have openly criticized it. Undoubtedly still the judiciary of Pakistan is a respectable.

INVITATION TO BID

Soleid E-Bids are invited through SAP Archa. Non eligible contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tender(s):

Sl. #	TENDER DESCRIPTION	TENDER NO.	BIDDING FEASIBILITY	TENDERS AVAILABILITY
1	Buyer Works of Canopy, Office Building at Rohan S/S (CP)-Karachi District	RC-17052-SRR	Single Stage - Two Envelope	These tenders will be available through SAP Archa Portal Only
2	Procurement of LPG up to 1,000 MT for the Month of March - 2023 (2nd Forthright)	CF-17139-JA	Single Stage - One Envelope	Partial Only

TENDER FEE - PakRupees 2,000/- (Non-Refundable) in favour of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited. (Five Each Tender)

FOR S.NOS 1 & 2	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAPARIBA)	02/03/2023 to 17/03/2023	08:30 AM to 04:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAPARIBA)	20/03/2023	TILL 02:15 PM
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAPARIBA)	20/03/2023	04:00PM ONWARDS.

NOTE: For Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding procedure, commercial bid opening date and time will be communicated later to the technically qualified bidders only.

Note: For Tender # RC-17052-SRR/Valid FEC certificate in Category C6 is required for issuance of Tender documents.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
Any party interested to participate in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents through SAP Archa Portal in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Archa Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No."
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
 - Valid NTN, GST/PST certificates, CNIC of owner/ authorized representative. Vendor should be an ad-hoc tax payer.
 - Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (mentioning the tender #) as Tender Fee in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 9600 2385 3217
Account No. 409-60-2385-3217 Branch code: 0708 HBL Plaza Branch
11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

This advertisement is also available on PSO website: www.pso.gov.pk/procurement/ PFRA website: www.pfra.gov.pk/

Please note that interested vendors not having Archa Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Archa Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.
<https://link.pso.gov.pk/REG/>

The bidders are urged to visit PSO / PFRA website regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time.

PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
20F, BLOCK, P.O. HOUSE, BANGLORE, KARACHI. TEL: 37307070 FAX: 37307027
Mobile: 9993300000000000. Website: www.pso.gov.pk/

PIDDK No. 2501/22

Philippines may become potential sugar market for Pakistan, says Amb. Maria

ISLAMABAD: Philippines Ambassador Ms. Maria Agnes Cervantes said on Tuesday that her country might become a potential sugar market for Pakistan. Talking to Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khuram Tariq, she said the relations between the two countries must be capitalised in terms of economic cooperation. She said that her country was interested in importing sugar, agricultural machinery and textile products from Pakistan, and it could also extend technical services to Pakistan for promotion of tourism. She said that a sugar mill in the Philippines had been blacklisted while another is at

the verge of closure. This situation might cause sugar shortage, and hence her country intends to fulfil its domestic needs by importing sugar from Pakistan. She also mentioned a long list of items which could be imported or exported between the two countries and said that in this connection "we must encourage direct links between the business community of the two countries". She also promised

to play a role in arranging trade delegations or B2B (business-to-business) meetings so that business people could finalise their economic deals with their counterparts. The ambassador also promised to visit Faisalabad in mid-March to have direct contacts with the business community. She said that Philippines was importing textile products from Pakistan, but its share was minimal, which could be enhanced to a reasonable level. She said that earlier Philippines was providing services to Pakistan, which were lowered to the minimum; however, these are still gaining momentum after improvement of overall economic situation in the world. Dr. Khuram Tariq appreciated the cooperation between the two countries and said that Pakistan had the potential to fulfill the entire textile needs of Philippines. Similarly, Philippines could help Pakistan to reorganise its tourism industry on modern lines.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

- MARCH**
 March 01 / Bosnia National Day
 March 03 / Bulgaria National Day
 March 06 / Ghana Independence Day
 March 12 / Mauritius National Day
 March 17 / Ireland St. Patrick's Day
 March 20 / Tunisia Independence Day
 March 21 / Namibia National Day
 March 25 / Greece National Day
 March 26 / Bangladesh National Day
 March 27 / Myanmar Armed Forces Day



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494849



Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
 Bomb Disposal.....15
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/Isalambad.....1122 & 16
 Emergency Ambulance 1122 & Rescue Services 4451122
 Motorway Police.....9266944
 Motorway Police-9270601-20
 Women Police Stations Isalambad.....9225294
 Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
 PIA Flight Info.....114
 PIA Cargo.....9287095
 Railway Inquiry.....117
 Railway Exchange 9270831-5
 WASA Rawalpindi.....5554849
 CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
 MH.....5611116
 Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
 DHQ.....5556311-4
 BGH.....9290301-7
 Holy Family.....9290322-7
 PIMS.....9291170-79
 Polyclinics.....9218309-09
 Sids International 4603666



Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
 CDA.....9208301-04
 Met Office.....9250360-6
 RDA.....5555864
 TMA.....5770886
 Containment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209924
 Potshar Town.....9209924
 Rawal Town.....5773343



Water Tank

- Isalambad.....0321-5744480

S Embassy works to counter the trafficking in persons

“The exchange of ideas and coordination amongst all players is a critical part of addressing the issue of trafficking in persons”

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy in Islamabad conducted a two-day conference on “Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) in Pakistan” to strengthen institutional capacity to reduce trafficking in persons and also help victims get needed support. In his opening remarks at the event, US Ambassador Donald Blome said, “Human trafficking erodes the rule of law, the safety of our communities, the security of our borders, and the strength of our economy.



The US Embassy in Islamabad conducted a two-day conference on “Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) in Pakistan” to strengthen institutional capacity to reduce trafficking in persons and also help victims get needed support.

When we work together—across government, business, and civil society—to achieve the goals of combating human trafficking, we create a fairer and more equitable world.” He was joined by chief guest Sindh Assembly Deputy Speaker Shehla Raza, who acknowledged the efforts

‘Another 1320 MW added to national grid system’



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division Engineer Khurram Dastgir on Tuesday said that total power generation from local Thar coal stood at 20,640 megawatts (MW) with formal commissioning of 1320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that the project which faced inordinate delay due to criminal negligence of past Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government finally has not only been completed in a short time but also started power supplying to the system. Another 330 MW TharNova Thar coal project has already been synchronized in mid of this month, he added.

He said in short, the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif added a total of 1980 MW cheap electricity to the system from indigenous coal resources in just 10 months. The Thar coal project not only help reduce power load-shedding in summer season but also help in power tariff reduction, he added. The minister said there were 175 billion tons of coal reserves at Thar which was sufficient to generate 100,000 MW of electricity. Power generation from Thar coal has buried all doubts that electricity could not be generated from local coal which was a good omen for the entire country, he said. He thanked the entire leadership including Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, and Sindh’s Energy Minister Intiaz Sheikh for their full cooperation to achieve this milestone. Khurram said another project, Bolan-Gwadar Transmission Line has also been completed which would help import 100 MW electricity from Iran to Gwadar. The PM would shortly inaugurate the project, he added.

Amin meets SGC Deemah Al Yahya

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Syed Amin Ul Haque on Tuesday met with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (SGCO) Deemah Al Yahya during the GSMA MWC-23 Barcelona summit. During a meeting, the minister said, “Government of Pakistan desires to build a strategic partnership with DCO to leverage the true potential of ICT for the socio-economic growth in the region, as envisaged in the DCO Foundation Charter” said news received here on Tuesday. MWC Barcelona is the largest and most influential event for the connectivity ecosystem. The World Mobile Congress organized by GSMA started on February 27 and will conclude on March 2 in Barcelona. Government delegations and representatives of cellular and technology companies from around the world are attending the event. He said that for Pakistan, it is important to be able to get concrete benefits from its membership in DCO including attracting business and investment digital/ICT/telecom sector, training/capacity building in emerging technologies and suitable employment opportunities with the DCO.” - APP

Peshawar Bypass project to be completed by March 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Peshawar Northern Bypass project, aimed to ease traffic congestion in Peshawar, is set to be completed by March 2024. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, an official of the National Highway Authority (NHA) said that the land issues had previously hindered progress on the project, but NHA along with the provincial commissioner, deputy commissioner, and other officials, worked together to resolve the issues through effective teamwork. He said that through hard work and commitment, the contractor had been mobilized, adding the work was currently in progress. The official expressed the determination of NHA to complete the project by March 2024 and said efforts were afoot to ensure that the target is met by end of the current year. He said that package one of the project had already been completed successfully, while package two, which spans 12 kilometres, was gaining full mobility. He highlighted that to ensure early completion, contractors were instructed to run a double shift for reducing the inconvenience being faced by the local community and commuters. Upon completion, the project was expected to bring about a significant improvement in the traffic situation in Peshawar city, he said, adding that the bypass was set to be a “game-changer for the region”, and many were eagerly anticipating the day when traffic congestion will be a thing of the past. He informed that project 3A of bypass had achieved the progress mark of 80 per cent while for 3B project commencement was being issued. - APP

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ANF seize 909 kg of drugs worth US\$ 257.456 mln

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 909.006 kg of drugs worth US\$ 257.456 million internationally, arrested 27 drug peddlers including 3 foreigners and impounded 8 vehicles while conducting 19 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country. The seized drugs comprised 215.208 Kg heroin, 282.723 kg hashish, 27 kg opium, 203.302 kg Methamphetamine (12x), 300 kg morphine and 0.775 Kg Xanax Tabs (3875 x Tablets). ANF in KPK recovered 87.118 Kg of Drugs in 4 operations while arresting 4 persons involved in drug smuggling and impounding 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 0.595 Kg of Heroin, 68.523 Kg of Hashish and 18 Kg of Opium. The force in Sindh recovered 200 Kg of Methamphetamine (10x) drugs in an operation while arresting 6 persons including 3 foreigners involved in drug smuggling. ANF North recovered 138.795 Kg of drugs in 7 operations, arrested 11 persons in drug smuggling and impounded 4 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 2.093 Kg of Heroin, 125.400 Kg of Hashish, 8.400 Kg of Opium and 2.902 Kg of Methamphetamine (10x). All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process. - APP

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‘Pak workers demand increasing at int’l level’

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Sajid Hussain Turi said on Tuesday that the demand of Pakistani workers was increasing at the global level. Addressing the ceremony, wherein a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Poly Technical Institute Gigit-Balistan and Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), the minister said that the main purpose of such MoUs was to extend the skills based training for people in the backward areas of the country. Sajid Hussain Turi said the foreign employment opportunities would be provided on an equal basis to the youth of all the provinces, including that of Gigit-Balistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). He said that the OEC would train the people to meet the requirements of the international employment market. The minister said that Pakistan would send over 5,000 workers to Iraq through OEC and Overseas Employment Promoters (OEPs) to discourage illegal migrants. - APP

1,638 new IT companies got registered with PSEB in 2022

ISLAMABAD: Around 1,638 new IT companies got registered with Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) in 2022, said an official of the IT ministry. He said that during the same period, about 701 call centers and 1,463 freelancers were also registered with the PSEB. He said the ministry was also establishing specialized incubation centers in agriculture and textile, aerospace technologies, gaming and animation to create more businesses in these areas and boost exports. For the provision of early-stage investment, he said Ignite was starting an accelerator programme so that early-stage startups can sustain their businesses. Ignite is collaborating with international partners like Plug & Play, orbit, DMZ, 500 global and hub 71 so that the local startup ecosystem can be exposed to international investors. He said that about 33 million people have got themselves registered for freelancing courses under the DG Skills Programmes of Ignite, which is 73% more than the target. By June 2022, the freelancers trained with DG Skills have earned a whopping \$290 million, adding to the country’s foreign exchange reserves. - APP

No increase in power tariff: Power Division

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Power Division on Tuesday refuted a news item appeared in a section of press about Rs 14.24 per unit increase in power tariff. There is a proposal to gradually recover deferred fuel surcharge on electricity bills for August and September 2022 in next eight months, which will end in October 2023, said a statement issued here. - APP

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Briefs
Govt focusing to stabilize economic conditions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif Tuesday said that the incumbent government focusing on stabilizing the economic conditions of the country aiming to provide relief to the common people. Talking to a private news channel, he said that all the current issues should be discussed and resolved in the Parliament, and Imran Khan was not a part of the Parliament at the moment. In response to a query, he said Imran Khan abandoned the "Jail Biano Tahreek" by requesting pre-arrest bail in various cases. By asking the workers to file the jail, they themselves were shying away from the process, which was another example of Imran's contradictory actions, he claimed. "Imran Khan, who gives speeches on the supremacy of law and the constitution, is avoiding facing the law by using different delaying tactics," he added.—APP

Nine kite sellers held during crackdown

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested nine kite sellers and confiscated hundreds of kites and rolls of string from their possession during a crackdown here on Tuesday, informed police spokesman. During course of action, the Saddiqabad police held Naeem and recovered 17 kites, while 18 kites were recovered from Arif. Similarly, the Race Course police arrested Meraj and recovered 15 kites from his possession. Likewise, the Airport police arrested Omar and recovered 16 kites from his possession. The Saddar Wah police recovered 250 kites and 12 rolls of string from Nabil, while the Gujjar Khan police recovered 35 kites from Ismail, and 50 kites from Nadeem and as many kites from Irfan. Separate cases have been registered against the accused. SSP Operations, Capt. (Retd) Mohammad Amir Khan Nizai appreciated the performance of police team and said that the actions against kite sellers and those involved in kite flying would continue.—APP

Amir Paracha assumes charge of President OICCI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) for the 2023 term, this was announced at the 163rd Annual General Meeting of the OICCI held at the Chamber on Tuesday. Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited, Rehman Muhammad Shaikh was elected as the Vice President, says a press release issued here. The other elected members of the OICCI Management Committee for 2023 include Syed Anis Ahmed, Abbot Laboratories (Pakistan) Ltd., Ahmed Zahid Zabeed, Chevron Pakistan Lubricants (pvt) Ltd., Umar Ahsan Khan, Dawakana (pvt) Ltd., Kamran Attallah Khan, Dupont Pakistan Operations (pvt) Ltd., Eram Shakir Rahim, Galbassum-itkhline Pakistan Ltd., Najeel Ahmad, Hitachi Energy Pakistan (pvt) Ltd., Ali Asghar Jamali, Indus Motor Company Ltd., and Waqar Ishaq Siddiqui, Shell Pakistan Ltd. In this message to the members, Amir Paracha said, "Pakistan's multi-fold challenges are evident to all of us and now is the time for leaders across all sectors to unite as a force for good and lead Pakistan back on a path of growth. Foreign investment is the research gateway with which developing economies like Pakistan can access innovative technology and increased market access resulting in improvement of human capital.—APP

Efforts to prevent mental disorders

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for joint efforts by stakeholders including the federal and provincial governments, the community and health professionals to cater to the prevention and treatment of mental health disorders. He said that it was a matter of serious concern that 24 percent of the country's population was suffering from mental health-related issues, whereas only 500 to 600 mental health professionals were available in the country to cater to the needs of this population. He emphasized the need for increasing the number of mental health professionals besides strengthening the capacity of general health professionals by training them to address the challenge of rising mental health disorders. The president expressed these views while chairing a meeting on mental health through the video link. President of Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America (PAPANA), Dr Muhammad Zeshan, representatives of the National Commission of Human Rights, World Health



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on mental health, at Awwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.—DNA

Organization, Pakistan Psychological Association, Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Tasken Health Initiative, and Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, attended the meeting. Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at Well Cornell Medical College, Prof Dr M Waqar Azeem, Professor of Psychiatry and Program Director at the University of Nevada, Dr Mujeeb Shahid, Executive Vice Chair and Professor of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Prof Dr Asim Shah, Director Muslim Mental Health Consortium, Prof Dr Farah Abbasi, Child Fellowship Director at the Harvard Medical School, Dr Zehra Goyum, and Program Director Residency and Addiction Fellowship at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Dr Nauman Ashraf, at-

tended the meeting virtually. The participants gave various suggestions to cope with the challenge of mental issues. At the meeting emphasized the need for raising awareness about the diseases, educating people about mental health, eliminating the stigma attached to it, and providing quality counseling and treatment to mental health patients. The participants also called for capacity-building and training of health professionals in Pakistan, adding that a central coordinating mechanism among various stakeholders, was also essential to avoid duplication of efforts. The meeting also underscored the need for developing a national autism plan. Prof Dr Kirwan Taj from PIMS informed the meeting that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination had established an autism centre at PIMS, adding it would be a role model for provinces and other hospitals to follow. The president appreciated the role of overseas Pakistani medical professionals, especially PAPANA, for supporting the initiative on mental health.

Admin finalizes arrangements for digital census

RAWALPINDI: All arrangements have been finalized to launch the first-ever digital population census in Rawalpindi Division from March 1. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chaudhary had finalized all the arrangements for the digital census. The Commissioner had directed the authorities concerned to complete all the arrangements on an emergency basis, he said. The Commissioner had also instructed the officers to perform their duties with commitment and dedication and warned that negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. The Deputy Commissioner of the division were directed to ensure the establishment of a control room and the provision of funds for the census. The authorities of all the districts were also directed to nominate their focal persons for coordination at the district level and to review the administrative issues and remove the problems if any. The spokesman informed that the Police on the directives of RPO Rawalpindi Region Syed Khurran Ali had also finalized foolproof security arrangements for the census. The RPO had directed the District Police Officers of the region to finalize the best arrangements in this regard. According to Regional Coordinator Census, Syed Hasan Raza, 9,362 blocks had been established for the census in Rawalpindi Division in which a total of 5,610 supervisors and enumerators would perform duties. Two enumerators would perform census duties, he said and informed 5,545 tabs were distributed across the division. He said that the digital census would be started across the country from March 1 in which teams would visit the households to collect data and the census would be completed within one month.—APP

US deliberates over-hype of balloon worsen tensions

A defense and military expert Adnan Daniyal said that Balloon hype-up is another manifestation of America's fear of China, holding a wrong opinion that China will replace the US as super power

DNA
ISLAMABAD: In an interview with a news channel, a defense and military expert Adnan Daniyal said that Balloon hype-up is another manifestation of America's fear of China, holding a wrong opinion that China will replace the US as super power. He said that the US administration is overreacting to the balloon incident, which is a minor event. He said that the US administration is trying to create a narrative of a "China-Specific Threat" by establishing the fact that America is becoming a terminal patient of its own created "Balloon Conspiracy". He said that the US administration is trying to create a narrative of a "China-Specific Threat" by establishing the fact that America is becoming a terminal patient of its own created "Balloon Conspiracy". He said that the US administration is trying to create a narrative of a "China-Specific Threat" by establishing the fact that America is becoming a terminal patient of its own created "Balloon Conspiracy".

America to let better sense prevail but the US state department has turned non-responsive. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China repeatedly made it clear that the entry of a Chinese civilian unmanned aircraft, which is for meteorological purposes, into the US airspace was due to force majeure and totally an accident. However, the day the balloons were spotted, Washington hyped it to the extent of hysteria and now it has been made a hilariously dramatic challenge. It is believed that despite the fact that Pentagon has attempted to mislead the public by a spring object flown by China, sensible American people did not buy this idea. Objecting the rat in the issue as China has questioned the authenticity of the events. According to the story published on the

New Yorker" on February 18, boozing points were raised. They were "why we didn't track them earlier", "why we didn't know about them earlier", and so forth. Still, there are no satisfactory answers to these US public's queries asking if the balloon was lifted for surveillance purpose and entered in the US air territory and why it was not detected since its launch. It kept drifting days and became part of discussion of public domain when a civilian sighted it. Simultaneously, in order to strike a balance between myth and reality, the US administration said that analysts are now examining the possibility that China didn't intend to penetrate the American heartland with its airborne alleged surveillance device. "The balloon floated over Alaska's Aleutian Islands thousands of miles away from Guam, then drifted over Canada, where it encountered strong winds that appear to have pushed the balloon south into the continental United States, the officials said as quoted by US daily newspaper. A defense and military expert Adnan Daniyal said that Balloon hype-up is another manifestation of America's fear of China, holding a wrong opinion that China will replace the US as super power. He said that the US administration is overreacting to the balloon incident, which is a minor event. He said that the US administration is trying to create a narrative of a "China-Specific Threat" by establishing the fact that America is becoming a terminal patient of its own created "Balloon Conspiracy".

N-5 Highway will start in months with Chinese grant: NHA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A senior official of the National Highway Authority (NHA) praised Chinese contractors for their quality work and informed that work on Hala-Sakrand section of the National Highway 5 (N-5) will start in few months with Chinese grant. Asim Amin, Member PPP, NHA was responding to queries during a live interaction, according to Gwadar Post on Tuesday. He said that NHA has evaluated bids offered by three Chinese state-owned firms for rehabilitation of the 51 kilometer Hala-Sakrand road will be one of the finest roads, as whatever road project in Pakistan has been executed by the Chinese contractors, the work quality is of optimum level. He said that the Chinese grant for the project is a gift for the Pakistani people by the Chinese government. The official also said in response to another question that the Chinese and Pakistani experts will soon start the feasibility study of Babusar Tunnel and Babusar-Naran road. "We have sought technical and financial assistance from China for the project, which may cost around \$100-125 billion", he said, adding that the project will reduce the distance between Babusar Top and Gijit by 90 kilometers.

Security to remain high alert for PSL matches

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police would ensure foolproof security for Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches and to ensure aerial surveillance with the help of modern cameras. Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan presided over an important meeting regarding the security of players and matches of PSL. It was decided that elaborate security would be made around accommodations and for the movement of the players while CPO security would supervise all the security arrangements. The meeting was attended among other CPO headquarters, CPO security, CPO operations, SSP Security and officers of other law enforcement agencies. The meeting was held that all routes will be thoroughly checked through bomb disposal squads and to be monitored with the help of cameras. Quick response teams will be alert at all times during the movement of players while full dress rehearsals will be carried out before the arrival of players.—APP

What is the average weight for women?

ISLAMABAD: American women aged 20 years and above weigh an average of 170.6 pounds (lbs), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source. Height-wise, the average adult female is 5 feet 3.7 inches, and her waist measures 38.2 inches. While these numbers may be the average, they are not a measure of health. One of the commonly used indicators of being "overweight" or "obese," which represents a worrying trend for the nation's health. So, what is the ideal weight range for women, how would a person best measure it, and what can women do to achieve their ideal weight? Average weight and obesity rates worldwide. Share on PinterestA commonly used indicator for measuring well-being is BMI. At 177.9 lbs, the average body mass in North America is the highest of any continent worldwide, according to 2005 statistics published in 2012 Trusted Source by BMC Public Health. North America also has the highest percentage of people who are overweight, with 73.9 percent classed as such. The following table shows the weight data for different world regions: Region Average body mass (kg) Percentage of people overweight/obese 57.7 (127 lbs) 64.2 Europe 70.8 (156 lbs) 55.6 Africa 60.7 (133 lbs) 28.9 Latin America (Caribbean) 67.9 (149 lbs) 57.9 North America 80.7 (177 lbs) 73.9 Oceania 74.1 (163 lbs) 63.3 World 62.0 (136 lbs) 34.7 In a 2015 review, the U.S. also had the highest rate of childhood obesity out of the world's 20 most populated countries, with a rate of 12.7 percent, although Egypt topped the table for adults at 35.3 percent. What is the ideal weight range for women? An "ideal weight" is where a person is at their healthiest and fittest in terms of what they weigh. There is a variety of different ways to calculate ideal weight ranges: BMI BMI is the most commonly used system for calculating ideal weight range, as it is relatively easy to work out. An individual can work out their BMI by applying their height and weight to the following formula: • divide weight in kilograms by height in meters • divide the answer by height again For those people more familiar with using imperial measurements, there are various online calculators Trusted Source for working out BMI scores. BMI calculations are the same for men and women, and BMI is seen as correlating fairly well Trusted Source with a person's percentage of body fat. Despite this, BMI can give a false picture, as muscle weighs more than fat. Research in the journal Sports Health Trusted Source, showed athletes rating as "overweight" or "obese," despite being in peak condition. One study Trusted Source also criticizes BMI for underestimating the prevalence of obesity in both sexes and being increasingly inaccurate as women age. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Trusted Source, BMI ranges are as follows:—Online

China "Peace Plan" light at end of tunnel

DNA
ISLAMABAD: China "Peace Plan" is light at end of tunnel on Russia-Ukraine conflict, says a report carried by Gwadar Post on Tuesday. According to the report, China's "Peace Plan" to iron out Russia-Ukraine conflict is the only glimmer of light at the end of tunnel. It unveils a game-changing opportunity for all stakeholders to liberate the world from quagmire as sending weapons will never bring peace, but add fuel to fire to exacerbate tensions and cause sufferings for ordinary people. The recipe of "Peace" is a win-win situation for everyone. The more the

goals through political and diplomatic means. Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry has also expressed its approval of China's 12-point peace plan for Russia's war with Ukraine, saying it is "worthy of support" based on UN principles. Every world forum like the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (UNGA) should be used to push out peace talks abandoning mindset of blind "supremacy and ego". World powers can really make a difference by extinguishing flames of war. Realizing their suras and impacts, the US, NATO and the EU should subscribe to peace negotiations to end the war as soon as possible. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his press conference to mark the first anniversary of the conflict said that he is open to considering parts of a 12-point peace plan put forward by Beijing, Russia said it appreciates continuity that has been established throughout a year of ongoing conflict between



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan H E Frederico da Silva with a courtesy visit today to Sri Lanka High Commission in Islamabad and met with the High Commissioner Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickram.—DNA

Cold War mentality prolonging Ukraine conflict

On a Saturday, thousands of people took to the streets in central Berlin to protest against the German government's decision to supply more weapons to Ukraine and to urge it to de-escalate the crisis by paving the way for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia instead. Similar protests also took place in other German and European cities over the weekend. The protests are a clear indication of the fact that more and more people in Europe now realize that it is the continent that is bearing the brunt of the war, and that their governments' actions are fueling the conflict rather than helping to bring an end to the year-long fighting. The continuous supply of evermore advanced weapons to Ukraine by Western countries have not only escalated the hostilities but also protracted the conflict. With no end to the fighting in sight, instead of making the European countries more secure the supply of weapons only makes Europe's security prospects more precarious. To put out a fire, one doesn't keep stoking it with firewood. The European countries should stop blindly following the United States' lead, as it cares not a whit for their interests. They should ignore Washington's Cold War scaremongering and look at the situation calmly and objectively. The only way to put an end to the Ukraine crisis is by means of a sustainable political settlement. In this regard, China's position paper on the Ukraine crisis, released on Friday, offers a launch pad for efforts to secure a cease-fire, promote peace talks and ultimately establish an effective security framework for the Eurasian continent. It calls for the sovereignty of all countries to be respected, the Cold War mentality to be abandoned, the cessation of hostilities, the resumption of peace talks, the promotion of the humanitarian crisis and the protecting of civilians and prisoners of war, keeping nuclear power plants safe, reducing strategic risks, facilitating grain exports, stopping unilateral sanctions, keeping industrial and supply chains stable, and promoting post-conflict reconstruction. As the document states, there is no simple solution to a complex issue. All parties should support Russia and Ukraine resuming direct dialogue as quickly as possible, to de-escalate the situation and ultimately reach a comprehensive peace agreement that can be the basis for building a consensus on a balanced European security architecture that can ensure common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security on the Eurasian continent. Unfortunately, the end of the Cold War more than three decades ago did not see the end of zero-sum thinking and prejudices based on ideology. Yet as the Ukraine conflict shows, clinging to the Cold War mentality and stoking bloc confrontation only leads to antagonism and confrontation. The European countries should free themselves from Washington's malign influence and let the Cold War lie in the past where it belongs. They should uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter so that peace and stability define the times.

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TikTok target of anti-China paranoia

The furor in the United States over so-called Chinese spying, sparked by the Joe Biden administration's botched response to an errant Chinese meteorological research balloon, has been given a new lease on life, with the White House on Monday giving government agencies 30 days to remove the Chinese video-sharing app TikTok from all federal devices and systems, alleging that it poses national security risks. Canada, which always toes the US' line in its anti-China strategy, also announced it is banning TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices. Some US agencies, including the departments of defense, homeland security and state, already have restrictions on the Chinese app in place, as Congress passed the "No TikTok on Government Devices Act" in December, which requires the social media app to be removed from the information technology of federal agencies. The ban does not apply to entities not associated with the federal government, or to the millions of US people who use the hugely popular app. While the Biden administration claims the ban is due to its intensifying scrutiny concern and data privacy, it is nothing more than an ideologically motivated move. It is apocalyptic for a US using national security as an excuse to abuse state power in its clampdown on Chinese high-tech companies. The ban, in addition to many other restrictions targeting China's high-tech sector, including advanced semiconductors, has been introduced based on the spurious claim that the popular app is being used by the Chinese government to "manipulate and monitor its users while it gobbles up Americans' data to be used for their malign activities". There has been nothing to support this allegation except the anti-China hysteria of some US politicians. It is the app's Chinese ownership that is the app's "original sin". The ban in December was passed without any deliberation, and unfortunately that approach has served as a blueprint for other world governments, as TikTok spokesperson Brooke Oberwetter said, describing the ban as being "little more than political theater". The ban has also drawn criticism from within the US. Americans have a right to use TikTok and other platforms to exchange our thoughts, ideas, and opinions with people around the country and around the world", the American Civil Liberties Union said on Monday. It said that the ban will "limit Americans political discussion, artistic expression, free exchange of ideas and even prevent people from posting cute animal videos and memes". It is sad that despite the world becoming increasingly interdependent and interconnected economically, the ghost of McCarthyism still haunts the US, riding on the paranoia about anything related to China.

Housewives are happier

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

An analysis of 28 countries found statistically significant and robust, happiness advantage for homemakers compared to full-time working wives. A notion that "homemaking is quiet death" finds no support today as opposed perhaps to the 1960s. Happiness is a complex phenomenon; we can't categorically conclude that homemaking is the only factor which guarantees happiness. However, overemphasis and exceptional campaigning under the umbrella of liberalism can't promise satisfaction for women. We need to remain pragmatic while considering alternatives to determine appropriate choices in life. A balanced and rational analysis of situation linked with ground realities can help married couples negotiate gender roles for a happy

human progress has transformed innumerable concepts of life on this planet and even beyond. We are witnessing unprecedented scientific and technological revolution for the last hundred years which according to some estimates have gained exceptional pace and now every decade represents a century in terms of knowledge expansion and growth. Social norms have also evolved. There are several dimensions of social life which surprise us being unimaginable just a century ago. History of mankind suggests that market forces do influence shaping up of societal values but it seldom happens that a custom once transformed returns to the past. Industrial revolution led to women liberation and empowerment movements aiming gender equity and equality. Our generation witnessed hot debates on gender roles which still continue but not to that extent probably due to behavioral adjustments or turnaround in our approaches. Debate on gender specialization used to conclude on expressions such as conservative, old-fashioned, orthodox, traditional and what not. Domesticity and housewifery were synonymous to oppression and exploitation. Women education was promoted with the belief that employment would liberate women from unfair family responsibilities. So much so that some enthusiastic activists started demanding that mankind should search possibilities of sharing childbearing pains with both genders. Nevertheless the spirit of entire debate remained economic wellbeing leading to happiness with the active contributions of both men and women. Despite the fact that contemporary sociology suggests structural-functionalism offering an essentialist defense for gender specialization leaving childbearing to women with expressive role within the home and the instrumental leadership in the occupational system to men, still dichotomy of thoughts continues. Scientific data suggests that in spite of the drudgery associated with stereotypically female work around the house, many women do, in fact, report personal gratification and meaning in the activities of caring for home and family. According to a few studies more married women achieved prestigious, highly paid and presumably meaningful careers due to increased women's labor force participation. However, contrary to the early feminists' expectations the general happiness of

American and European women declined - at least as compared to men's. Judith Treasfrom University of California and her colleagues contend, "Research has yet to resolve whether the relationship of women's life satisfaction and their paid employment is positive or negative. Theoretically, homemaking has been described as rewarding not only by gender conservatives, but also by contemporary feminists who champion the value of unpaid care labor. This contradicts the liberal feminist view of homemaking, which emphasizes the demoralizing aspects of domestic tedium and a restricted social role. As for paid work, there are arguments that women's labor force participation undermines their life satisfaction and equally firm contentions that it promotes their well-being. Questions such as these need attention: Are homemakers happier than working women? If so, is this relationship dependent on mediating factors, such as the division of household labor? Does the relationship hold across countries? Or, do some countries have features that alter the gains to homemaking or buffer the strains of paid work?" According to some other studies during this millennium, "Normative pressures and role conflicts are invoked as reasons that housewives will be happier. Social conservatives and cultural feminists hold that satisfaction comes from fulfilling traditional gender roles. A wife's employment will erode her wellbeing if her paid work is out of step with the gender conventions of her social world. Public opinion still questions the advisability of married women's paid work, at least full-time employment when children are preschoolers. Because of disproportionate responsibilities for the home, children and family employed women are vulnerable to dissatisfaction arising from the stress of work-family conflict. The strain results from diminished time available to satisfy household demands. Mothers who report having insufficient time with loved ones have lower well-being than do others. There are work-to-home spillovers, such as fatigue and emotional upsets which contribute to the dissatisfaction of working women." Studies in developed countries do serve as an eye-opener to determine the effectiveness of our century's long struggle to ensure women participation in economic activities. These countries being leaders for such movements are reporting dis-

pointing results. U.S. panel data confirm that married women who move into full-time employment are less happy with their marriages than housewives. Australian women who shift into full-time employment experience a decline in life satisfaction. In Germany, where the breadwinner-homemaker model is entrenched single-earner couples, who conform to this model, are happier than two-earner couples. Probably we need to look beyond traditional and religious perspectives to understand outcomes of these modern-day studies which emphasize gender specific roles. Because according to contemporary researchers such as PetraBoehnke from University of Hamburg Germany religiosity is positively related to life satisfaction. On the other hand according to researchers such as Kei Nomaguchi from Bowling Green State University Ohio and her colleagues, for working mothers, children exacerbate perceptions of time deficits leading to dissatisfaction. An analysis of 28 countries found statistically significant and robust, happiness advantage for homemakers compared to full-time working wives. A notion that "homemaking is quiet death" finds no support today as opposed perhaps to the 1960s. Happiness is a complex phenomenon; we can't categorically conclude that homemaking is the only factor which guarantees happiness. However, overemphasis and exceptional campaigning under the umbrella of liberalism can't promise satisfaction for women. We need to remain pragmatic while considering alternatives to determine appropriate choices in life. A balanced and rational analysis of situation linked with ground realities can help married couples negotiate gender roles for a happy and peaceful life. In my opinion, it is little too much to demand equal participation in economic realm from women when they are already contributing significant and probably more than equal share to the mankind by raising families and managing domestic lives. Now we have started understanding that doing jobs besides childbearing and domestic responsibilities is actually a kind of exploitation not liberation. We need to remain just and recognize that women should be allowed and facilitated to perform their gender specific roles conveniently without any coercion to contribute to the earning of a family.

Role of cottage industries in economic development of Pakistan

Muhammad Anwar Farooq



In Pakistan, cottage industries are particularly important because they provide employment opportunities to women and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have access to formal education or training. Cottage industries also contribute to the economy by generating income for households

The cottage industry refers to a type of small-scale, decentralized manufacturing or production of goods typically carried out in people's homes or small workshops. The term originated in England during the 18th and 19th centuries when rural people produced goods such as textiles, pottery, and handicrafts in their cottages as a way to supplement their income. Cottage industries can be found in a wide range of sectors, from food and beverage production to handmade goods, jewelry, and other creative pursuits. The internet has also enabled the cottage industry to reach a wider audience, with online marketplaces providing a platform for artisans and craftspeople to sell their products worldwide. The cottage industry plays an important role in economic development, particularly in developing countries. The cottage industry provides employment opportunities to people, especially in rural areas where there may be limited job opportunities. It allows people to work from home or nearby, which saves them time and money on transportation. It provides an opportunity for people to earn additional income beyond their regular jobs or other income-generating activities. It helps to preserve traditional skills and knowledge that might otherwise be lost. By producing traditional crafts and products, the cottage industry can help to keep cultural heritage alive. It supports local production and consumption, which can help to reduce dependence on imported goods and improve local economies. It can encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, allowing people to develop their own businesses and products. The cottage industry can be more environmentally sustainable than large-scale production, as it often uses local and natural resources and generates less waste. The share of the cottage industry in the Pakistani economy is difficult to determine precisely, as it is largely informal and operates outside of formal economic channels. However, estimates suggest that the cottage industry accounts for a significant portion of employment and economic activity in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. According to a report by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Author-

ity (SMEDA), the cottage industry employs over 10 million people in Pakistan and contributes significantly to the country's exports. The report suggests that the cottage industry accounts for over 70% of non-farm employment in rural areas and generates about 25% of the country's total exports. Moreover, a study conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that the informal sector, which includes cottage industries, accounts for about 70% of employment in Pakistan. The ILO study also suggests that the informal sector contributes significantly to the economy, accounting for around 30% of GDP. Despite the potential benefits of the cottage industry in Pakistan, there are several challenges that limit its growth and sustainability. Here are some of the key problems facing the cottage industry in Pakistan. Many cottage industries in Pakistan struggle to access credit and cheaper imported products, which can make it difficult for them to compete on price and quality. These challenges pose significant obstacles to the growth and sustainability of the cottage industry in Pakistan. Addressing these problems will require a concerted effort from the government, industry, and

civil society to invest in infrastructure, training, and support for cottage industry workers and businesses. No doubt, promoting the cottage industry in Pakistan can have several benefits, including an increase in employment opportunities, an increase in economic growth, cultural preservation, poverty reduction, and improvement in environmental sustainability etc. In Pakistan, cottage industries are particularly important because they provide employment opportunities to women and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have access to formal education or training. Cottage industries also contribute to the economy by generating income for households and supporting local communities. The future of cottage industries in Pakistan depends on several factors, including government policies, access to finance and markets, and technological advancements. The government can play a crucial role in supporting cottage industries by providing access to credit, training, and technical assistance to small-scale entrepreneurs. In addition, advances in technology, such as e-commerce platforms, can provide new opportunities for cottage industries to reach a wider customer base and expand their businesses. Overall, cottage industries are likely to remain an essential part of the Pakistani economy, particularly in rural areas. With the right policies and support, cottage industries can continue to thrive and contribute to sustainable economic growth in Pakistan.

—About the Author
Currently, the writer is working in the Institute of Humanities and Arts, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan. He has nineteen years of teaching and research experience. Currently, he is teaching Philosophy, History and International Relations. He is also the author of twelve books. He is fond of book reading, discussion and traveling. He also used to write for newspapers and magazines.

Briefs

SC set to announce verdict

FROM PAGE 01
parties involved in the case wrapped up their arguments. Although the verdict was expected, the CJF's secretary said that the decision will be unveiled Wednesday. The top court had also earlier asked the political parties – the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the ruling alliance – to agree upon a mutual date for the elections, but they could not reach a consensus. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) lawyer asked the court to continue the proceedings as the coalition partners needed more time to consult with each other. The SC had taken the sumo notice of an apparent delay in the elections of the two assemblies, on February 23, following President Arif Alvi's announcement of the date of polls, a move that drew strong criticism from the government. As per the CJF, the sumo notice had been taken to assess who was eligible to issue the date for polls and who had the constitutional responsibility of conducting elections and when. A nine-member larger bench was constituted initially to hear the case but the bench was reconstituted after four judges – Justice Ijaz-ul-Abbas, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ahsan Ishaq, Justice Yahya Atrifi – of the bench resigned themselves. Meanwhile, the ruling alliance – PML-N, Pakistan Peoples Party and the Jamaat-ul-Islami (JUI-F) – also withdrew their plea for the formation seeking a full court bench after the reconstitution of the bench hearing the case. At the outset of the hearing today, Attorney General for Pakistan Shehzad Anwar Ishaq informed the court that he was ready to give arguments. He also raised an objection to the Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid Zuberi, saying that his name had been removed from the judicial order. At this, CJF Bandial said that the case was the SCBA as an institution. "What is written in the court is not part of a judicial order. It becomes an order when the judges sign it," he remarked. After this, Zuberi started his arguments. "Supreme Court has declared it in the past that the elections should be held in 90 days," Zuberi stated. At this, Justice Mandoorah remarked that the presidents and governors were bound to follow the Cabinet's advice as per the Constitution. "Can the president or governors give the election date on their own," he inquired. Meanwhile, CJF Bandial remarked that the governor was constitutionally bound to follow anyone's advice regarding the appointment of a caretaker government or deciding the election date. While Justice Maqar added that "no one's advice is needed where there is discretion." Moving on, the CJF asked that the notification for the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly had been issued under the law secretary. At this point, Justice Akhtar remarked that the 90-day period starts right after the assembly has been dissolved.

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The prestigious COMBEX-Roshan Khan Team Squash Championship will be kicked off today (Wednesday) being organized by Pakistan Navy in collaboration with Combox Sports at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jhangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi. Chaired by the client features of the championship, the organizing secretary Lieutenant Commander Rahmatullah said that in the men's event, seven teams from Pakistan Army, Navy, Wapda Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan will compete in the event adding that five teams from WAPDA, Army, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan will participate in the women's category. He said that the final of the championship will be played on March 5th with colourful closing ceremony. Former World Champion and squash legend Jahangir Khan, who was present on the occasion, said that it is important to continue the events in search of new talent in squash. "Due to the elimination of departmental teams, the teams of a few institutions are not participating in the event, but the absence of Air Force team in the event is surprising".

Combox-Roshan Khan Team Squash starts

“Due to the elimination of departmental teams, the teams of a few institutions are not participating in the event, but the absence of Air Force team in the event is surprising”



AFZAL JAVED

Scaloni to stay with Argentina till 2026

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's World Cup-winning coach Lionel Scaloni has signed a new contract until the 2026 World Cup, the Argentine football federation announced on Monday. Scaloni, who took over the role in 2018 and guided Lionel Messi's team to glory in Qatar in December, agreed to the deal while attending the FIFA Best awards in Paris. Argentine football chief Claudio Tapia and Scaloni met to finalize the extension of his contract, until 2026, a statement from the federation read under the headline "Continuity assured". Scaloni, 44, led Argentina to the Copa America title in 2021. The Albiceleste's first international trophy since 1983. He then masterminded the South American World Cup title with a penalty shoot-out victory over France in the final in Doha. He took over as coach from Jorge Sampaoli after a last-16 exit at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, initially on an interim basis before making the job his own. At the time, not even Messi had welcomed the arrival of the under-rated Scaloni at the helm of the national team. The late Diego Maradona, himself a former Argentina manager, offered a particularly withering assessment, praising Scaloni's character but telling the Clarin newspaper that he was not capable of directing traffic. "Scaloni had no previous experience as a head coach, and was only supposed to be in charge for two months while the federation searched for Sampaoli's successor. He inherited a squad scarred by a series of near-misses – the 2014 World Cup final defeat, followed by back-to-back Copa America final losses to Chile on penalties in 2015 and 2016. His vision for the team impressed, among others, Messi, who was left disillusioned with international football after the 2018 World Cup exit. Scaloni led Argentina on a 36-match unbeaten run heading into last year's World Cup, the highlight of which was the 2021 Copa America triumph in Brazil, which ended a 28-year trophy drought. – Agencies

Scandal-hit French football chief Noel Le Graet quits

PARIS: French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet resigned on Tuesday following accusations of sexual and psychological harassment, bringing to an end more than a decade in charge. The 81-year-old's time at the helm had coincided with the revival of the French men's national team as a force, with their victory at the 2018 World Cup followed by a run to last year's final in Qatar, which they lost on penalties to Argentina. But Le Graet's resignation comes 13 days after the publication of a damning report into management practices at the Paris-based FFF which had been commissioned by the French sports ministry. "Considering his conduct towards women, his public comments and the governance failings of the FFF, Mr Le Graet no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent French football," the report said. Le Graet had already agreed in January to step down pending the outcome of the audit, which concluded that he should not return to the role because his "behavioural excesses are incompatible with the carrying out of his functions." It was revealed last month that Le Graet, whose mandate was due to run until 2024, was being investigated for sexual and psychological harassment following allegations made by a female football agent, Sonia Saoud. He was already under pressure after making dismissive remarks at a radio interview in early January about France legend Zinedine Zidane's potential inclusion in coaching the national team. That was after long-serving coach Didier Deschamps had his contract extended until 2026. Le Graet announced his departure at an executive committee meeting of the federation on Tuesday, with members of the committee telling AFP that Philippe Diallo would remain in the role of interim president. Diallo, the federation vice-president who had initially moved up to fill in for Le Graet when he first stepped back in January, is expected to remain in charge at least until a permanent successor is voted for in June. Le Graet, a former president of the British town of Gungaham, oversaw the rise of the local football team that became a top-flight force during his time as club president and then became president of the FFF in 2011, at a time when the French game was reeling in the wake of the appointment of Deschamps to the 2010 World Cup, when the players went on strike. Le Graet oversaw the appointment of Deschamps as coach in 2012, and France reached the Euro 2016 final as hosts before their back-to-back World Cup final appearances. He also oversaw France's successful hosting of the 2018 Women's World Cup. "He is a great leader. This federation is one of the best-run federations," insisted the veteran Lyon president Jean-Claude Aulas, an influential member of the FFF executive committee, on Tuesday. However, Le Graet's departure also comes amid a deepening crisis within the France women's team. Several star players, led by captain Wendie Renard, had last week announced that they would no longer play for France under the current set-up, with just five players set to attend the women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. That has placed the future of coach Corinne Diacre, who had the backing of Le Graet, in serious doubt. – Agencies

PSL 8th Edition
WEDNESDAY 07:00 PM
MARCH 01, 2023
Pindi Club Ground, Rawalpindi

Russians tighten...

Imran Khan secures...

FROM PAGE 01
Additional session judge Zafar Iqbal, who conducted the hearing of the case, announced the decision as Khan failed to appear before the court despite repeated orders. During the course of proceedings, Khan's lawyer Ali Bukhari and Election Commission Pakistan's (ECP) lawyer Saad Hasan were present in the court. The hearing of the case was conducted by Justice Zafar Iqbal. Khan's lawyer informed the court that the former has left Lahore a while ago. "Imran Khan has to appear before two courts in the judicial complex." He said that Khan will not be able to appear in this court today.

Sharif, Zardari...

FROM PAGE 01
A five-member larger bench of the apex court led by Chief Justice Pakistan Umar At-Bandial concluded the two-day long proceedings in the case on Tuesday and a verdict in the case would be announced on Wednesday (tomorrow) before 11am. "Supreme Court is the saviour of the Constitution... their primary job is to protect the Constitution... don't make Supreme Court a part of public debate," Pasand warned against referring to the ruling PDM's leader's criticism of the top court.

Marrityum blarri...

FROM PAGE 01
should realise that in his difficult time, Bushra Bibi and Farah Gogi left him alone to face court cases. She said that "watch brief and foreign agent" should answer why ToshiKhana gifts were stolen and why did he sell the watch with a value of the Holy Kaaba. Marrityum asked Insan to appear in court and tell why did Bushra Bibi sell ToshiKhana's diamond necklaces. "I can also tell the court why foreign agents used charity money in politics," she said.

Moody's slashes Pak credit rating

FROM PAGE 01
Moody's has also reduced the rating for the senior unsecured MTN programme to P2+ from P3+ as of currently, it has also changed the outlook to stable from negative. "In particular, the country's foreign exchange reserves have fallen to extremely low levels, far lower than necessary to cover its import needs and external debt obligations at an immediate and medium term," said Moody's in a statement. The rating agency said that although the government was implementing some tax measures to meet the conditions of IMF programme and the disbursement of a loan tranche might help to cover the country's immediate needs, weak governance and heightened social risks impede Pakistan's ability to continuously implement the range of policies that would secure large amounts of financing and decisively mitigate risks to the balance of payments. – APP

Schedule of remaining PSL 8 matches

POINTS	MATCHES	POINTS	MATCHES	POINTS	MATCHES	POINTS	MATCHES
1	1	4	2	8	3	12	4
2	2	4	2	8	3	12	4
3	3	4	2	8	3	12	4
4	4	4	2	8	3	12	4

STANDINGS

1 Mar - Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 1 Mar - Lahore Qalandars v Multan Sultans, Gaddafi Stadium, 5 Mar - Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 6 Mar - Quetta Gladiators v Karachi Kings, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 7 Mar - Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 8 Mar - Peshawar Zalmi v Lahore Qalandars, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 9 Mar - Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 10 Mar - Pakistan Women's League Exhibition Match 2, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Peshawar Zalmi v Multan Sultans, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 11 Mar - Pakistan Women's League Exhibition Match 3, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Quetta Gladiators v Multan Sultans, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 12 Mar - Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings, Gaddafi Stadium, 15 Mar - Qualifier (1 v 2), Gaddafi Stadium, 16 Mar - Eliminator 1 (3 v 4), Gaddafi Stadium, 17 Mar - Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1), Gaddafi Stadium, 19 Mar - Final, Gaddafi Stadium - DNA

hore Qalandars, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Islamabad United v Karachi Kings, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 8 Mar - Pakistan Women's League Exhibition Match 1, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Peshawar Zalmi v Quetta Gladiators, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 9 Mar - Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 10 Mar - Pakistan Women's League Exhibition Match 2, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Peshawar Zalmi v Multan Sultans, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 11 Mar - Pakistan Women's League Exhibition Match 3, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Quetta Gladiators v Multan Sultans, Pindi Cricket Stadium, 12 Mar - Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings, Gaddafi Stadium, 15 Mar - Qualifier (1 v 2), Gaddafi Stadium, 16 Mar - Eliminator 1 (3 v 4), Gaddafi Stadium, 17 Mar - Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1), Gaddafi Stadium, 19 Mar - Final, Gaddafi Stadium - DNA

Taliban forces kill top ISKP commanders

FROM PAGE 01
The statement also said that Qari Fateh was the main mastermind for the Daesh or Islamic State in Pakistan Province (ISKP) and was responsible for planning several attacks, including those on Russian, Pakistan, and Chinese diplomatic missions in Kabul. Qari Fateh previously served as Amir-ul-Harb (military leader) for Khorasan, head of Kunar province, and head of the eastern zone. Mujahid also confirmed the killing of Ijaz Amin Ahangar, also known as Abu Osman, the so-called first Amir of the Islamic state Hind province and a senior leader of the ISK in southern Afghanistan along with two other members of the group. The statement further added that several other Daesh members, including foreign nationals, had been detained who planned death by attacks in recent days. Since the return of the Taliban to power in the country, the IS-Khorasan group has been the main security challenge and adversary to the government.

Over 10 businessmen signed up for trade delegation

The ambassador said the heroic people of Ethiopia had registered a big triumph on this day by fighting imperial powers on its land. "We are the only nation in Africa that never colonized in the past and that has only been made sure by our brave people"

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Bekker Abdula on Tuesday said so far more than 70 businessmen have signed up for the historic trade delegation flying to Addis Ababa on March 5 for exploring business and investment opportunities. "We are going to make history as the number of delegates we are expecting may cross the mark of 100 before the deadline for registration which is March 1," said the ambassador while addressing a news briefing here which was entirely focused on the five-day business trip to Ethiopia. He said a lot of efforts and energy was invested in the

initiative as his team worked day in and day out to make the historic bilateral relations' he hoped. Jemal Bekker said the bilateral trade between Ethiopia and Pakistan amounted to only \$78 million, but "one thing I can assure you is that with this business delegation, our bilateral trade will get a major boost." "In this delegation, we have included business people from different sectors of the economy especially those which have trade and investment potential in Ethiopia," he said, adding Pakistani business community on their first visit to

Ethiopia would find a big market for rice, pharmaceutical products, medicine, equipment, sports items and construction material. Jemal Bekker said Pakistani businessmen could also import agricultural products such as coffee, tea, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables from Ethiopia which would eventually help a mitigate the growing demand for the edibles. The ambassador said Ethiopia was the fastest growing economy in the world offering lucrative business and investment opportunities with low cost of production and a wide range of clean energy and skilled labour. "We have almost completed the largest Grand Renaissance Dam with a capacity of 6,500 MW capacity," he said, adding his country had also been exporting energy to South Sudan, Djibouti and others. Jemal Bekker said the government of Ethiopia was supportive of foreign investors as it has opened up its economy and encouraged the private sector to lead for the development of the country. Multiple incentives and one-window services were among the other initiatives to attract investment. Direct investment, the envoy added. "We are heading to become an icon of Africa's economic revival," he maintained. To a query, he said the trade delegation would

Justice Isa shows..

FROM PAGE 01
summoned the registrar of the Supreme Court along with all the records. "I am a Supreme Court judge and have been the chief justice of Balochistan High Court for five years," said Justice Isa, adding that he wanted to become the first side to win back-to-back titles, meanwhile Islamabad United will aim to become



Briefs

US seeks extradition of El Chapo's son

MEXICO CITY: The United States has officially asked Mexico to extradite Ovidio Guzman, a son of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the former leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, for smuggling narcotics into the US. Since December 2021, the US State Department has offered an award of up to \$5 million for information leading to his arrest. According to the State Department, Ovidio and his brother Jaquim Guzman-Lopez are heading a transnational drug empire that oversees 11 methamphetamine labs in the state of Sinaloa producing an estimated 3,000,000 pounds of methamphetamine per month. Ovidio was arrested in October 2021, prompting criminal groups to respond violently. He was released on the orders of Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to ensure residents' safety in the face of attacks by armed men seeking to free him. The result of the failed operation, later called "El Culiacano," or "Black Thursday," left nine people dead. Shortly after Ovidio's second arrest on Jan. 5, a district judge from Mexico City ruled that he should not be delivered to the US government or any other state. The motion was moved by Ovidio's lawyers, who appealed against Guzman's extradition.—APP

Japan to provide \$60M humanitarian aid to Myanmar

TOKYO: Japan on Tuesday announced that it will provide additional \$60.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. In response to the rapid increase in the need for humanitarian assistance due to the deteriorating situation since last year, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, Tokyo will provide additional humanitarian assistance totaling \$60.3 million to the Southeast Asian nation. The aid will reach the affected people through international organizations, including UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). "Japan will provide food, medical items and shelters as well as water and sanitation infrastructure, nutrition improvement, medical services, access to education, and measures to combat illegal drugs," the ministry said. Since the military coup of Feb. 1, 2021, Japan said various parts of Myanmar "are still experiencing violence." "As a result, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate further," it noted. It said 17.6 million Burmese people, including internally displaced persons, "are in need of humanitarian assistance."—APP

Eleven EU states unite to strengthen nuclear power

STOCKHOLM: Eleven EU member states voted on Tuesday to "strengthen cooperation" on nuclear energy, which they said would help Europe move away from carbon-emitting fossil fuels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia agreed to support new projects "alongside existing nuclear plants, according to a statement released during a meeting of EU energy ministers in Stockholm. "Nuclear energy is one of many tools for achieving our climate targets", to produce electricity to meet consumer demand and "for security of supply", they said. Ministers from the 11 countries also considered the opportunities for further scientific cooperation on nuclear energy and to share best practices to address safety issues. France — which has long relied on atomic power — has spearheaded the effort to build closer European nuclear energy ties.—DNA

Binken voices support for sovereignty of Kazakhstan

The President of Kazakhstan also welcomed the efforts of the U.S. in advancing the C5+1 cooperation and emphasized the importance of holding the meeting of the foreign ministers of Central Asia and the U.S. in Astana

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has received today U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken who arrived in Astana for an official visit, Kazinform has learned from the Akorda press service. Welcoming the American diplomat, the Head of State said that since the moment of establishment of diplomatic relations, Kazakhstan and the U.S. had built exemplary interaction both in bilateral and multilateral formats. Addressing the guests, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted the importance of giving additional impulse to building the strategic cooperation between Washington and Astana. He commended the reliable long-term partnership relations in such strategically important areas as security, energy, trade and investments. The Kazakh leader expressed readiness for further development of the cooperation, expressing gratitude to the U.S. side for constant and firm support of Kazakhstan's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Speaking on economic cooperation, the President



said that the U.S. is one of the largest investors of Kazakhstan with the total amount of investments at \$2 billion US dollars. The President of Kazakhstan also welcomed the efforts of the U.S. in advancing the C5+1 cooperation and emphasized the importance of holding the meeting of the foreign ministers

of Central Asia and the U.S. in Astana. For his part, the U.S. Secretary of State thanked Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for hospitality and conveyed good wishes to him on behalf of the U.S. President. Antony Blinken noted the importance of boosting the achievements reached in more than 30 years of bilateral relations,

deepening and strengthening the Kazakhstan-U.S. partnership at the bilateral level. The U.S. Secretary of State said Kazakhstan and the U.S. are linked by strong relations and they will keep strengthening. The U.S., in his words, will stay committed to this course. "At the same time we are thankful to you and your team for

gathering the Central Asian leaders here in Astana. I hope that together with our colleagues — foreign ministers — we will participate in a more specific work on unification of the region, by creating stronger ties and closer interaction. I believe that this will be of great significance for the people of Central Asia and the U.S.

Belarus has been reliable friend of China: Lukashenko

MINSK: Belarus highly appreciates the high level of cooperation with China, Belarusian said in an interview with Chinese media, BelTA has learned. When asked about the state and prospects for relations between the two countries, the head of state recalled their history and his first visit to China. "I traveled to China when I was a member of parliament. I was interested in free economic zones, their legal regimes, the benefits they might bring to the state," he said. "In the parliament I was the main lobbyist (as they say now) for cooperation with China. The visit solidified this conviction of mine. Then, rather intuitively, I felt that just in a couple of decades China would



become one of the world's superpowers and that we needed to learn from China." "The visit took place just after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Belarus was looking for ways out of the difficult situation in which it found itself," he proposed to turn to the experience of China. The Belarusian parliament, especially its nationalist wing, did not listen to this much, and I was strongly criticized for this. But, the government (led by Vyacheslav Kebich then already had some ties with your country," Aleksandr Lukashenko said. Then, according to him, the belief of the need to tap into the Chinese experience grew stronger especially since Belarus, already sovereign and independent, had something to offer to that country. "In the Soviet Union, the technological level, the level of innovation, new ideas was enormous. Belarus was the center of new technologies. Back then all our negotiations were not only about trade, but primarily about investment and new technologies. China was interested in any new technology. We shared the

technologies that the Chinese people and the state were interested in. Looking ahead, I will say that today it is Belarus who is learning new technologies from China: from biotechnology to defense. You've made significant progress. Since then, you have become the world's major power. Not a single problem can be resolved without you," the Belarusian leader said. The president expects that there will be no obstacles from China in this process. "We didn't spare anything for China then. It is China's turn to help us. First of all, I mean new areas of cooperation. Great Stone. We are waiting for more companies from China, high-tech enterprises to register with the park," he said.—APP

Opposition parties in Nigeria call for fresh elections

ABUJA: Nigeria's main opposition parties are calling for fresh elections, describing results currently being announced by electoral body as "heavily doctored and manipulated," in a joint press conference in the capital, Abuja. They said their parties would no longer be part of the ongoing collation process in the capital Abuja and added they had lost confidence in the electoral body Chairman Mahmood Yakubu, said a joint statement from the Peoples Democratic Party, Labour Party, and African Democratic Congress in Abuja on Tuesday. The parties called for new polls to be held under a new chairman for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). "We call on the international community to note that the results being declared at the National Collation Centre have been heavily doctored and manipulated and do not reflect the wishes of Nigerians expressed at the polls on February 25, 2023," they said. The election process has been dogged with controversy, and the announcement at the national collation center in Abuja has seen some tense moments, with opposition party members walking out of the collation center as the results were being announced Monday. Several observers including the European Union have said the election fell short of expectations and "lacked transparency."—Agencies

Sanctions dubbed 'poison' for EU

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: EU sanctions against Russia are missing the mark and instead chipping away at the bloc's economic independence, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Tuesday. She slammed the tenth package of EU sanctions, which was unveiled on Saturday to mark the one-year anniversary of Moscow's military campaign against Ukraine, as "poison" for the European Union. "The only thing is that they, first of all, 'kill' the economic sovereignty of the European Union. The EU can slap itself with any number of restrictions regarding trade with Russia; this will only increase its dependence on its direct competitors," she explained. Zakharova also blasted the bloc's crackdown on Russia's media, noting that Brussels was "deliberately destroying the foundations of democratic society, undermining the principles and values the EU was built on in the first place." The spokeswoman also offered a reminder that "the EU, the US and their satellites found themselves alone in imposing sanctions on Russia."

Georgia's foreign agent law widely condemned

THISIS: A proposed 'foreign agent' law in Georgia has been widely condemned by civil society, the media and EU member states, and condemned as "deliberately destroying the foundations of democratic society, undermining the principles and values the EU was built on in the first place." The law, currently being pushed through parliament in Tbilisi, would make all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media outlets that receive more than 20% of their funding from abroad register as 'agents of foreign influence' and report their revenue. "Concerns have been raised that the law will have implications" and harm Georgia's EU accession process. However, supporters claim change in the law will improve transparency. Harold Chambers, an analyst of Georgian politics, told Euroneews: "The new law 'threatens the role of civil society and independent media as highly admirable for their persistence in holding the government accountable,'" he added.—Agencies

Canada bans TikTok on all gov devices

TRENTON: Canada banned TikTok from all government devices Monday for security reasons and it could be the start of a further crackdown, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "This may be a first step, it may be the only step we need to take, but every step of the way we're going to be making sure that we're keeping Canadians safe," Trudeau told reporters on Monday shortly after the ban was announced. "Obviously, we take very seriously the freedom of expression, the freedom of Canadians to engage how they want online," he said. "But we also have a responsibility to protect our national security principles around protection of data, protection of Canadians' safety and security that we will always step up to meet." Global Affairs Canada sent an email advising employees that the video-sharing platform app is now banned following a review by the country's chief information officer. The ban takes effect Tuesday. TikTok is owned by Beijing's ByteDance technology company and concerns arose over the parent firm allowing the Chinese government to access TikTok's personal user information. The move follows a probe of TikTok announced by the government last week.—APP

Azerbaijan files arbitration case against Armenia

BAKU: Baku has filed an arbitration case against Yerevan under the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), an international agreement focusing on cross-border cooperation primarily in the fossil energy industry, for exploiting energy resources in the Karabakh region, which was under 30 years of Armenian occupation. "In a Notice of Arbitration served on Armenia, Azerbaijan seeks redress and financial compensation for Armenia's violation of Azerbaijan's sovereign rights over its energy resources during Armenia's nearly 30-year illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's territory from 1991 to 2020," a statement by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The statement said Armenia breached multiple provisions of the ECT, as well as fundamental principles of international law, by denying Azerbaijan from accessing its energy resources in the region, exploiting Azerbaijan's energy resources for its own benefit and depriving Azerbaijan of further developing its energy resources. Armenia's initiatives in this regard include the exploitation of the Karabakh region's hydropower resources and facilities, and the construction of at least 37 additional unauthorized hydropower facilities, the statement added.—Agencies



OSLO: Yiding Yang Head of Mission Chinese embassy Norway received Pakistan's Ambassador to Norway Saadina Qazi, on Tuesday.—DNA

Finland moves closer to joining NATO without Sweden

Hungary has signalled a vote on the Nordic countries' applications is likely to happen in March

HELSINKI: Finland on Tuesday kicks off a parliamentary debate aimed at accelerating the country's NATO bid, increasing the bill passed through the parliament and military partner Sweden behind. Finland, which has one of Europe's longest borders with Sweden, has been in the process of applying to join the alliance in May last year after Ukraine's invasion. But facing fewer diplomatic hurdles than Stockholm, Helsinki appears set to move forward even before Finland's April general election, as the country's support for membership. The two countries have the backing of all but two of NATO's 30 members, the holdouts being Hungary and particularly Turkey. Many Finnish MPs have pushed for legislation affirming that Finland accepts the terms of the NATO treaty to

be passed before the elections on April 2. Finland will debate the bill on Tuesday and a vote is expected by Wednesday. Having the bill passed means that Finland can act swiftly even if the ratifications come in before a new government has been formed. "The time is now to ratify and to fully welcome Finland and Sweden as members," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday during a visit to Finland to meet with the political leadership. "My message is that both Finland and Sweden have delivered on what they promised in the trilateral agreement they made with Turkey last June in Madrid," he said. Stoltenberg noted that Finland and Sweden are much more secure now than when they applied, citing security assurances by several members. "It's inconceivable that there will be any threat against Finland or Sweden

without NATO reacting," he said. "Complications? The legislation is expected to pass without much opposition, as the initial membership bill in May was supported by 188 of the 200 members in parliament. Helsinki has so far stressed its preference to join the alliance together with Sweden, but some have interpreted the bill as signaling that Finland is ready to move forward alone. Turkey has meanwhile blocked the bids, accusing Sweden in particular of providing a safe haven for what it considers "terrorists", especially members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). In contrast, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday that Turkey looked favourably on Finland's bid. "We may separate Sweden and Finland's membership process," he said. While Sweden sympathizes with Finland's position, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson

has said Finland's joining alone could "complicate" the close military cooperation between the Nordic countries as Sweden is left alone outside of NATO protection. While passing the bill does not mean that Finland will automatically join NATO after ratification by Turkey and Hungary, it puts in place a deadline for how long it can wait for its neighbour. The government's chancellor of justice, Tuomas Pentti, said that after the bill is approved by parliament, the president can sign a maximum of three months to wait it. After the president has signed the legislation, there is still some time to wait for Sweden, "a few weeks at most", before depositing the instruments of accession to Washington. Finland's President Sauli Niinisto told reporters on Wednesday that he intended to sign the law "as soon as it is

approved by Parliament", but "if there are practical reasons, I can wait." "But not beyond the elections," he added. Some MPs left alone outside of NATO protection. While passing the bill does not mean that Finland will automatically join NATO after ratification by Turkey and Hungary, it puts in place a deadline for how long it can wait for its neighbour. The government's chancellor of justice, Tuomas Pentti, said that after the bill is approved by parliament, the president can sign a maximum of three months to wait it. After the president has signed the legislation, there is still some time to wait for Sweden, "a few weeks at most", before depositing the instruments of accession to Washington. Finland's President Sauli Niinisto told reporters on Wednesday that he intended to sign the law "as soon as it is

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Briefs

Sunak in Belfast to sell new Brexit deal

BELFAST: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in Northern Ireland on Tuesday to sell his new deal with the European Union to ease post-Brexit trade, a measure he hopes will finally break the political deadlock in the province. Sunak is trying to secure the backing of all sides in Northern Ireland so he can reset relations with the EU - and the United States - without angering lawmakers in his own party and in Belfast who are most wedded to Brexit. His deal seeks to resolve the tensions caused by the Northern Ireland protocol, a complex agreement which set the trading rules for the British-governed region that London agreed before it left the EU in 2020, but now says are unworkable. In order to keep open the politically-sensitive border with EU-member Ireland, Northern Ireland remained in the EU single market for goods, raising the prospect it would slowly diverge from the rest of the United Kingdom, fueling fears in unionist communities. - Agencies

China hits out at US over TikTok ban

BEIJING: China has accused the US of overreacting after federal employees were ordered to remove the video app TikTok from government-issued phones. On Monday, the White House gave government agencies 30 days to ensure that employees did not have the Chinese-owned app on federal devices. The order follows similar moves by the EU and Canada in recent weeks. A spokesperson for China's foreign ministry accused the US of abusing state power to suppress foreign firms. "We firmly oppose those wrong actions," spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters during a news briefing on Tuesday. "The US government should respect the principles of market economy and fair competition, stop suppressing the companies and providing an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for foreign companies in the US." "How unwise of itself can the world's top superpower like the US be to fear young people's favourite app like that," she added. Western officials have become increasingly concerned about the popular video sharing app - which is owned by Chinese firm ByteDance - in recent months.

US dollar crushes rupee's winning streak

ISLAMABAD: The mighty dollar struck back against the Pakistani rupee in interbank market on Tuesday and the hit was hard as the greenback recovered the lost amount it conceded in the morning and their rocketed by Rs1.83. At the start of the business, the Pakistani rupee recorded its fifth successive gain against the US dollar as the local currency went up by 42 paise straight way, but the world's most powerful currency snapped rupee's winning streak and scored a massive gain of Rs1.83. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Executive Directors of Asian Development Bank calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Sanjrani hails Pak-Kazakh cordial bilateral relations

Chairman Senate Sanjrani extended a warm welcome to the Ambassador and expressed his appreciation for Kazakhstan's continued support to Pakistan. The Chairman highlighted the significant progress made by Pakistan in different areas and stressed the importance of strengthening economic, cultural, and educational ties between the two nations.



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House in Islamabad. The meeting served as a

platform to enhance the existing cordial relations between the two countries and explore areas of mutual interest. Chairman Senate Sanjrani extended a warm welcome to the Ambassador and expressed his appreciation for Kazakhstan's continued support to Pakistan. The Chairman highlighted the significant

progress made by Pakistan in different areas and stressed the importance of strengthening economic, cultural, and educational ties between the two nations. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him. He acknowledged Pakistan's pivotal role in the region and commended

the country's efforts towards regional peace and stability. The Ambassador further expressed his willingness to deepen the existing relationship and work towards enhancing bilateral trade and investment, cultural and educational exchanges, and other areas of mutual interest. During the meeting, discussion was held on the opportunities for cooperation in various fields, including trade, energy, agriculture, tourism, and transportation. Views were exchanged on regional and international issues of common interest, reaffirming the commitment to regional peace and security. Kazakhstan Ambassador concluded that Both Pakistan and Kazakhstan are committed to enhancing their partnership and exploring new avenues of cooperation to benefit their peoples. Last week, President Dr Arif Alvi called for improving Pakistan-Kazakhstan trade and economic relations as both countries have great scope to expand cooperation in the areas of trade and economy. He was talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan Nauman Bashir Bhatti in Islamabad. The President said maximum facilitation to investors from Kazakhstan should be provided to establish their businesses in the already established Special Economic Zones across Pakistan. He congratulated Nauman Bashir Bhatti over his appointment as Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan and urged him to take effective steps for further improving bilateral relations between the two countries. - Online

Contempt of court petition against Maryam

LAHORE: The contempt of court plea against Maryam Nawaz for delivering contemptuous speech against the judiciary came up for hearing before single bench of Lahore High Court (LHC) Tuesday. Single bench of LHC led by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan took up the case for hearing. The court while adjourning the hearing of the case till today (Wednesday) has sought more arguments from the petitioner. The court inquired during the hearing of the case "tell us how your petition is maintainable. Tell us how this court has powers to hear this petition. This pertains to the judges of Supreme Court (SC) and you should go there. The petitioner took the plea the derogatory remarks against the judges of SC were given in packed public meeting. The court remarked, "you should tell us law that I should issue order under what law. The petitioner said I have filed contempt of court petition. I have requested to initiate proceedings under this law. Maryam Nawaz has said six contemptuous things. - Online

Prices of petroleum products likely to increase

ISLAMABAD: Price of petroleum products is likely to be increased by Rs 13.00 per liter as OGRA has sent summary to government to determine the prices of petroleum products. The proposal for imposition of 5 percent GST on petrol and diesel per liter is included in these two proposals. In the event of imposition of 2 percent GST, the price of petrol is likely to be increased by Rs 5.44 per liter and in the case of levying of 5 percent GST, the price of petrol is likely to be enhanced by Rs 13.00 per liter. Proposal has also been sent to impose levy from Rs 5 to 10 on diesel besides increasing the price of diesel from Rs 10 to 15 per liter. OGRA has also given proposal to maintain the prices of petroleum products. The international market has recorded record reduction in the prices of crude oil during the last 15 days. During this period the price of crude oil 74 dollars per barrel in international market. - Online

Pak, Kuwait celebrate 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD: A joint event was organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies of Kuwait in Islamabad today to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar was the chief guest at the event. Minister of State Khar hailed the historic bilateral relationship conceived over past six decades. She highlighted deep-seated nature of relations between the two countries, characterized by fraternal ties, common aspirations and values as well as bright prospects for future cooperation. The Ambassador of Kuwait in Islamabad Nasser Abdulrahman Jasser Almutairi also shed light on the history of brotherly relations between two countries and its people, spanning over sixty years. A commemorative logo of 60th Anniversary was unveiled in the joint event. A photo exhibition was also inaugurated by the Minister of State, depicting various aspects of the bilateral relations between the two countries as well as high-level exchanges. Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, UN and Government officials, business community, academia, media, and civil society attended the joint event. Kuwait hosts a significant Pakistani diaspora playing a critical role in the development and prosperity of both nations. The joint event marked the beginning of year-long activities that would be organized both in Kuwait and Pakistan with a view to transforming the fraternal ties into more concrete and mutually rewarding economic relations. - DNA

Committee briefed on status of PSDP projects

ISLAMABAD: Under the Chair of Senator Dr Muhammad Humayun Mohmand, the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination on Tuesday held a detailed discussion regarding the Scrutiny of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) proposed by the Ministry of NHR&C for the next financial year 2023-2024. The committee was briefed in detail on the status of various projects under PSDP, including cost, duration, throw forward and projected demand. The committee after a threadbare discussion unanimously approved 36 ongoing projects conditionally. The committee decided to visit the ongoing projects in August this year to learn about their status after completion. The Ministry failed to satisfy the Panel with its proposed 14 new projects for the year 2023-2024. The Chair showed displeasure over the non-provision of the details of the new projects and asked the Ministry to provide the list of projects priority-wise with full details in the next meeting. The Committee also showed intent to call representatives of PWD in the next meeting. The members while thoroughly discussing the proposed projects gave their suggestions/recommendations pertaining to the different schemes of the Ministry. The Committee was also informed about the schemes related to the installation and operation of MRI Machines in different government hospitals in the Capital. - DNA

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Migrant boat wreck Two Pakistanis arrested in Italy for trafficking

ITALY: Italy has arrested three people who they believe trafficked up to 200 migrants aboard a wooden boat that smashed apart on rocks off southern Italy on Sunday, killing at least 64 people, police said on Tuesday. Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Lippolis said a Turkish man and two Pakistani nationals had sailed the boat from Turkey to Italy despite the terrible weather, and were identified by survivors as "the main culprits of the tragedy". According to initial investigations, they allegedly asked the migrants for about 8,000 euros (\$8,485) each for the deadly journey, said Lippolis, commander of a finance police team in the region of Calabria. "All three have been arrested." One of the Pakistanis was a minor, a judicial source said, adding that police were looking for a fourth suspect who is Turkish.

The boat hit rocks and broke up early on Sunday in heavy seas near the town of Steccato di Cutro on the toe of Italy. Rescuers pulled a dead man from the sea on Tuesday, bringing the number of bodies retrieved so far to 64, including about 14 children. There were 80 survivors, who said that the boat had been carrying between 150 to 200 migrants. "We will carry on searching... the sea until we are certain that we have found everyone," said Rocco Mortato, a member of the underwater diving team of the fire brigade. The boat had set sail from the port of Izmir in western Turkey towards the end of last week. Rescuers said most of the migrants came from Afghanistan, with others from Pakistan, Iran, Somalia and Syria. Teams from the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity were providing psychological support to the survivors. "They

are heavily traumatised. Everyone has lost someone," said Sara Eliana Tunno, an MSF psychologist. One 12-year-old boy had lost his entire family, while a 16-year-old boy from Afghanistan has lost his sister. "He didn't have the courage to tell his parents," Tunno said. The tragedy has fuelled a debate on migration in Europe and Italy, where the recently elected right-wing government's tough new laws for migrant rescue charities have drawn criticism from the United Nations and others. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said in an interview on Monday that she had written to European Union institutions calling for immediate action by the bloc to stop migrant boat trips so as to prevent more deaths. "The more people depart, the more risk dying," she told RAI public television. "The only way to tackle this issue seriously, with humanity, is to stop the departures."