

## **ELECTIONS LIKELY AFTER EID-UL-FITR** SC: President to give date for Punjab polls

In a three-two split decision the bench gave relief to the petitioners in the case, while two of the bench members objected to the admissibility of the pleas. Justice Mandokhail and Justice Shah have dissented from the majority verdict

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court, in a split verdict, ruled on Wednesday that elections for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab assemblies should be held within 90 days.

The direction was given by the apex court in the suomotu notice verdict which was announced by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial. A five-member bench headed by CJP Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Jamal Mandokhail reserved the verdict after conducting hearings for two consecutive days - Monday till Tuesday.

The elections on both the provincial assemblies are likely to be helo after Eid ul Fitr, which will be in April. In a three-two split decision the

bench gave relief to the petitioners in the case, while two of the bench members objected to the admissibility of the pleas. Justice Mandokhail

## SC rejected pleas with 4-3 majority: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Law minister Azam-NazirTarar has said " I am saying as a lawyer this petition has been dismissed with 4-3 ratio. He said this while reacting to Supreme Court (SC) decision in polls date case here the second period is prescribed Wednesday. He held " SC decision with reference to polls has not been received so far. It has reached me through TV. I can not comment on it being a law minister till written peratives that command complete order is read by me and decision discussed in cabinet meeting. He the dissolution of two Provincial Asunderlined being a lawyer I will say this petition has been dismissed terms and therefore to the holding with 4-3 ratio. Earlier Justice Yahya of general elections in relation to and Justice Athar Minallah had dif- each within 90 days," said the verfered fromsuomotu notice. In the dict. The Supreme Court said that decision two justices have further the Article 222 says that the elecsaid this case is not maintainable.

**Continued on Page 06** 

PTI hails verdict as

constitution's victory

The five-member bench of apex court, in a

split verdict, also ordered the governor KP

the apex court noted that there are "different aspects and requirements" for holding polls but ruled that one thing that was "absolutely crucial is the timeframe" for the polls.

"The Constitution envisages two such periods, being of sixty and ninety days respectively. In relation to a Provincial Assembly, the first period applies when the Assembly dissolves on the expiration of its term under Article 107 and when it is sooner dissolved under Article 112. The time periods so set down in Article 224(1) and (2)respectively are constitutional imfidelity. We are here concerned with semblies before the expiry of their tion was a subject for the Centre

**Continued on Page 06** 

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributing certificates of appreciation among members of Pakistan's Search and Rescue teams who rendered services in earthquake affected areas of Turkiye and Syria. - DNA

#### PM vows more relief to Turkiye, Syria

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says despite financial constraints, Pakistan is making all-out efforts to provide relief to earthquake affected people of Turkiye and Syria. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad this evening, he said Pakistan has already

sent assistance of tons of goods for the quake-affected people of the two brotherly countries and addition-) 000 tents will soon be

## TTP wants to push govt out of KP to establish 'Sharia'

US report on terrorism notes that Pakistan "experienced significant terrorist activity"

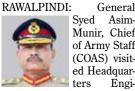
WASHINGTON: The blacklisted Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) aims to push the government of Pakistan out of Khyber Pakh¬tunkhwa and establish Sharia by waging a terrorist campaign against the military and state, a US State Department report warns. According to the 2021 Country Reports on Terrorism, the TTP uses the tribal belt along the Afghan-istan-Pakistan bor-

The report on terrorism notes that Pakistan "experienced significant terrorist activity" during the year in review, i.e. 2021. Underlining the link between terrorism and lack of economic activities, the report points out that "the United States provides assistance to support trade and economic growth" in Pakistan. The US assistance to Pakistan includes partnering with US

and Justice Shah have dissented from the majority verdict. In the verdict

### Briefs **Army Chief** lauds rescue teams' role

#### DNA



of Army Staff (COAS) visit ed Headquar-Ēngiters neers Division, Rawalpindi, COAS was briefed in detail regarding efforts carried out

General

Asim-

by Pak Army Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&RT) during Türkiye and Syria Earthquake. COAS met and interacted with the rescue team members and appreciated their professionalism and commendable work done during rescue efforts in the earthquake.COAS highlighted the importance of our enduring strategic relations with Türkiye and Syria and need to assist, particularly in times of crises.

# to announce a date for election in province

#### Shujaat Hamza

mous verdict in fact as Justice Mansoor Ali tions in the provinces within 90 days.

**Continued on Page 06** 

Imran Khan suspends 'Jail Bharo Tehreek'

#### DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court (SC) verdict in the election suomotu notice and ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced the suspension of the "Jail has welcomed the Supreme Court verdict in BharoTehreek", saying the party will which it has directed to hold elections with- move forward with election campaigns in 90 days asking the president to consult in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punwith the Election Commission of Pakistan jab. "We welcome the SC judgement. It (ECP) and fix a date for elections in Punjab. was the responsibility of SC to uphold The five-member bench of the apex court, the Constitution and they have valiantin a split verdict, also ordered the governor ly done that through their judgement Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to announce a date for today," the former prime minister said the election in the province. "It's a unani- after the top court's ruling to hold elec-

**Continued on Page 06** 

dispatched to Turkiye. The Prime Minister lauded the rescue teams of Pakistan for carrying out successful search and rescue operations in earthquake hit areas in both countries. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General InamHaider Malik said the Pakistani teams saved precious human lives during their search and rescue operations.

Maryam summoned for insulting 'state institutions'

#### DNA SUKKUR: An additional sessions court in Sukkur Wednesday sent a notice to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz, summoning her on March 10 over allegations of insulting "state institutions". The notice was sent via fifth Additional Sessions Judge MumtazSolan-

**Continued on Page 06** 

Tehreek-e-Insaf's

gi in Sukkur after Pakistan

(PTI)

der to train and deploy its operatives. TTP draws ideological guidance from Al Qaeda, while elements of AQ rely in part on TTP for safe haven in the Pashtun areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

"This arrangement has given TTP access to both AQ's global terrorist network and its members' operational expertise."

The report also names major terrorist groups that focused on conducting attacks in Pakistan, including TTP, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and the militant Islamic State-Khorasan group (IS-K).

businesses, civil society, and the regions bordering Afghanistan. "This assistance is intended to improve the lives of the Pakistani people and support US objectives,' the report explains. "The United States continues to support people-to-people exch-anges to alleviate misunderstandings and complications in the bilateral relationship." In 2021, separatist militant groups conducted terrorist attacks against varied targets in Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

**Continued on Page 06** 

## Inflation spikes to nearly 50-year high

ISLAMABAD: In an alarming development, Pakistan's inflation - measured by the consumer price index (CPI) - broke all previous records and skyrocketed to 31.5% in February due to a steep rise in prices of food, housing, and transportation groups. The fresh inflation reading issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Wednesday has also augmented the prospects of a further rise in interest rates in the upcoming monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting - which the central bank has preponed for March 2.

The inflation rate rushed to 31.5% in February over the year - the highest since the available data i.e. July 1965. Last time, in April 1975, the inflation had been recorded at slightly over 29%. The pace of increase in the prices beats the expectations of the finance ministry that had just a day ago given a 28% to 30% inflation range.

The monthly inflation rate jumped 4.3% in February over January - which according to Sana Tawfiq - an economist at the Arif Habib Limited – surged due to an increase in the average prices of food items such as poultry, fruits, pulses, oil, vegetables, ghee, LPG, gas charges, and domestic petroleum products. The inflation reading suggests that the government will have to review its strategy to unlock the critical \$1.1 loan tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The government has not been able to regain any lost ground from the IMF and is giving one after another shock to the people. The core inflation, calculated after excluding the volatile energy and food prices, also spiralled to 17.1% last month in urban areas and 21.5% in rural areas, signalling price growth is gathering pace across most categories of goods and services. - DNA

The apex court verdict and emerging political scenario

#### Marriyum says PTI to face the music

#### KHAYAM ABBASI



Wednesday that the "Jail Bharo Movement" has failed and the real deal will start soon as now PTI would have to face the music. While bashing the PTI Chief Imran Khan over the cancellation of the "Jail Bharo Movement" the information minister said, "Which Jail Bharo Drive were you talking about? You should be held accountable for the chaos you created by starting the movement." Furthermore, Ms Aurangzeb said that keeping the constitution safe was Imran Khan's duty yet he decided to violate the constitution.



**ANALYSIS** 

within 90 days. The apex court directed all government machinery to extend all required support to the ECP in order to make sure that the constitutional requirement is fulfilled in the stipulated time frame. The court also directed the respective caretaker governments to do the needful in this regard.

Two, out of five judges however gave their dissenting note. Justice Jamal Mandokhel and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah were of the view that the pleas were not maintainable. When it comes to holding of elections within 90 days after dissolution of the assemblies, these two judges maintained similar views during their observations that elections cannot be delayed beyond 90 days. The court verdict seeks to put an end

to various legal controversies that had gripped the country ever since the dissolution of both the provincial assemblies. The court has determined once and for all that even if the governors do not sign the dissolution summaries, the election will have to be held within 90 days. In that case the President of Pakistan shall announce the date. Though doubts continue to rule supreme at least within those circles that still do not want elections to take place on time for a variety of reasons, yet, majority of the legal as well constitutional experts earnestly believe that after the verdict there is no escape from elections now.

In my piece on this subject titled 'General elections or a technocratic setup' published in this newspaper on February 20, 2023 I had opined,

'These are the legal glitches that are likely to land in courts and it is presumed the apex court of Pakistan may ultimately make any decision about this. As regards the role of the President, even if it is not written in the Constitution, being the head of the state the President may intervene and he should intervene if he is convinced that the constitutional order is at stake. It is a point of concern that the constitutional bodies are reluctant to

fulfill their constitutional role with regard to holding of two provincial elections within 90 days. Everybody is unanimous on this point that there is no such provision that allows elections to be delayed beyond 90 days.

Now in its verdict the apex court has clearly mentioned that the Election Commission would consult the President before announcing the date for the elections. The good news is that the Election Commission has already started the process.

Interestingly, the government legal team came up with a rather strange justification. The Attorney General and the Law Minister while talking to media observed that since two judges ( Justice Athar Minallha and Justice YahyaAfridi) had already given their opinion against the maintainability of the applications and two judges ( Justice Mansoor Shah and Justice Mandokhel) who were part of the five-member bench have given a dissenting note therefore according to the government view this verdict is not 3-2 as announced by the chief justice of Pakistan but 3-4 (four judges dissenting). This plea on the part of the government seems quite immature and irrational because the legal fraternity is unanimous that the final judgment is the one which

is announced by the Chief Justice of Pakistan which declared holding of the elections in 90 days by majority of 3-2. Even in the coming days the government may come up with similar interpretations with a view to creating confusion nevertheless no gimmick is going to work as the Supreme Court verdict is candid clear and it cannot be defied or shelved, at least, through democratic means.

The government circles believe some ways can still be found to get the elections delayed. It shall however be a futile exercise. The court verdict ostensibly should not augur well for the PDM parties as none of them is ready to go for elections. These parties were quite sure they would be able to get the elections delayed as according to their assessment the powers-that-be were on their side. As per the PDM plan, after seeking a delay in the provincial elections, their next target was to get the national elections delayed. There is a provision in the Constitution that in case of any emergency situation the national elections may be delayed for one year. The existing economic condition of the country would have provided the PDM with an ample excuse of achieving this end. But to their disappointment, the Supreme Court verdict appears to have

dashed all their hopes to the ground. In the given circumstances the government is left with the only option to file a review against this verdict. There are nevertheless divergent views on this within the government ranks. The majority is of the view that even in case of a review the verdict is not going to change as the same five-member bench shall hear the review petition. The review petitions normally have a very limited scope and any chances of success therefore the exercise if undertaken would only add to the woes of the government. Summing up, the PDM government, even after the court verdict, is not obliged to call the national elections. It may continue till its tenure comes to end somewhere in August this year. There is hardly any doubt that the PTI shall sweep provincial elections if held in a free and fair manner. If so happens then the party shall be in a better position to perform well even in the national elections. Choices for the PDM parties are not too many. The incumbency factor would take a heavy toll on them. It would be much better for them to announce national elections allowing the provincial and the national electoral drill to take place more or less at the same time.

## NATIONAL

## **Mazari** for **boosting** Pak-Kazakhstan ties

#### STAFF REPORT

02

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari believes Pakistan and Kazakhstan should work together to promote people-to-people contacts while also enhancing trade and investment between both countries. The Kazakhstan Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, called on the Minister here at the Ministry on Wednesday. Federal Secretary Ahmed Hanif Orakzai was also present on the occasion, said a press release.

The Minister welcomed the Ambassador and appreciated efforts of the Government of Kazakhstan in strengthening bilateral relations between both countries. The two dignitaries discussed matters of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan focusing on sports, tourism, flight connectivity, ease in visa regime, and facilitation of business community from both sides. In the meeting, the Minister also stressed the need for further

enhancing cooperation in the field of sports, tourism, flight connectivity, and facilitation of business community. He said both countries should work together to promote people-to-people contacts and enhance trade and investment between the two countries. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Minister for his warm hospitality and expressed his commitment

to further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. He also highlighted the importance of the flight connectivity between the two countries and told that a direct flight from Lahore to Almaty was likely to be started in April this year followed by the one from Karachi to Almaty in May, 2023. "This will be a huge step towards achieving other bilateral goals of cooperation." The ambassador also expressed his commitment to work in liaison with both sides for strong and durable connectivity at all level especially in trade and tourism for both the countries have breathtaking sights.

He said for the business community a significant stride had been taken in terms of ease in visa regime which would be processed within no more than three days. "A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between BoK Pakistan and Bank of Kazakhstan to establish correspondent accounts for business people.

Yerzhan said Kazakhstan was working on prospective MOU on tourism, which would likely to be signed between the two countries in coming months covering various aspects of tourism cooperation by bringing it to a revolutionary level. The Minister appreciated the efforts and assured that a lot was yet to be explored in sports especially Taekwondo and Judo between both countries. "We are hoping to start a massive exchange program of coaches and players for mutual benefit in various sports." The two dignitaries agreed to work together to promote people-to-people contacts, enhance trade and investment, and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. They also agreed to explore ways to facilitate the business at all possible level.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime minister on Kashmir affairs and GB Qamar Zaman Kaira in the meeting with Chief minister GB Mohammad Khalid Khurshid Khan in Federal Capital . - APP

## 817 teams delayed for census in dist Attock

#### QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza on Wednesday while inaugurating the digital population census campaign in Attock has said that 817 teams were deployed to conduct the census process within the territorial jurisdiction of inter provincial bordering district Attock amid a tight security in line with the other parts of the country. This he said during his briefing to the media persons. The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Mr. Waqar Akbar Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Attock Ms. ShaguftaJabeen, census officer Rao Tasleem, CO Municipal Committee Attock Sardar Aftab Khan, Deputy Director Public Relations Mr. Shahzad Niaz and all other stake holders, as well. The Deputy Commissioner Attock also directed the district police to accelerate the crackdown launched

against the illegal kite manufacturers strictly in compliance with the ban imposed by the Punjab Government at all costs. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also took a surprise round of Government Post Graduate College Attock and directed the Principal Prof. Majid Waheed Bhatti to make all the laboratories including computer labs functional with the necessary equipment besides ensuring hygienic and conducive working environment in the college. The Deputy Commissioner Attock also visited the school of special students at Peoples Colony and expressed his satisfaction over the instructional techniques with the assurance to get the vacant positions filled in through the provincial authorities.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza while talking to the media persons has reiterated that the land grabbers of illegal housing societies are being proceeded against strictly in accordance with the law be-

sides retrieving the savings of the affected people from their clutchesand removing the mushrooming growth of encroachments on private and state lands dealing with iron hands.. Replying different questions of the media Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that in order to beautification and change of environment more 1.3 million plants will be planted through launching tree plantation move within the territorial jurisdictions of the inter provincial bordering district. He said that 26 price control magistrates were deployed to reduce the alarming inflation in the all markets of the district who also imposed fine of Rs.1.6 million and 198 profiteers were arrested during the end of February, 2023. The Deputy Commissioner Attock further said that 2866 vacant positions out of 11403 teaching faculty will be filled in after the conduct of elections process. The Secretary Local Govern-

get the vacant post of Chief Officer Hazro filled in at the earliest. He said that traffic problems are also being solved for the smooth flow of the vehicular rush on the inter city and inter provincial routes linked with the district Attock. He said the first state of the art mother and child hospital with a total cost of Rs.5.00 billion was to be completed within the period of target date. In addition, all necessary health care medical facilities were also made available in Asfandyar Bokhari District Headquarter Hospital Attock, THQs and rural health centres of the district besides handing over the donation of Cheque of Rs.10 lacs to the patients welfare society Attock. He also directed the relevant officers of the revenue department to expedite the courts cases and resolve the public hardships at their revenue centres on top priority as the district of Attock stood first in revenue collection throughout the province.

Islamabad **POST** 

Thursday, March 02 , 2023

KP Police will provide all possible security

Pakistan must cultivate business ties with Vietnam Imran's popularity an alarm for govt

ment was also requested to

#### to Chinese: IGF

PESHAWAR: IG Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan has said that Pakistan-China relations are higher than mountains, deeper than the ocean and sweeter than honey and both countries have supported each other in every difficult time, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police will provide all possible security to the Chinese throughout the province. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar. The IG Police was briefed about the security of China Window. He visited various galleries related to Chinese culture and expressed deep interest in them.

Talking to the media, Akhtar Hayat Khan said that the CPEC is a project for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, while in the ongoing projects in KP will provide employment to the local people and the economy will also be strengthen. IG said in this regard, he especially visited Rashkai Special Economic Zone, while the relevant regional police officers across the

province have reviewed the issues related to the security of the Chinese working in the various projects and all possible measures are being taken in this regard. Akhtar Hayat Khan said that in view of the popularity of digital media and importance of Chinese language the youth should be encouraged to take advantage of this most important medium and should learn Chinese language, it is commendable that the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training NAVTTC and UN-HCR, training was organized in the China Window,

which will yield very important results in the future. The IG Police described the establishment of the Chinese Cultural and Information Center in Peshawar with the support of the Chinese Embassy as a center of excellence. He said that it is commendable that a large number of people have visited this state-of-the-art center to learn about the culture of their brotherly neighboring country, China. – DNA

FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to M.A RASHID Pakistan, Mr. Nguyen Tien Pong, has said that there are vast opportunities to increase bilateral trade between the two countries, which need immediate steps to take advantage of accelerating businesses. He was talking during a meeting with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq. He said that there is a need for direct contacts between businessmen of Pakistan and Vietnam. He asked the president of the Faisalabad Chamber to provide him with a list of businessmen who want to do business with Vietnam so that he can get in touch with the businessmen in Vietnam. Mentioning the trade opportunities between the two countries. He further said that Vietnam can export cotton to Pakistan while Pakistan can meet Vietnam's yarn and fabric needs. He elaborated condusivly that cooperation be-

tween the two countries can also be done in the areas of value addition for which coordinated efforts will be made. He also emphasized on creating facilities at the government level to increase mutual relations between the two countries and said that he will provide all possible cooperation in the exchange of delegations. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq told them about the economic strength of Faisalabad and said that Faisalabad Chamber is always ready to increase bilateral trade with Vietnam. He also invited the Ambassador of Vietnam to visit the Faisalabad Chamber so that he can arrange a delegation of Vietnamese businessmen after assessing the potential of Faisalabad for himself. He also assured the Vietnamese ambassador of al Amjad Shoaib has been providing the list of leading trade organizations of Faisalabad. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Vice President Dr. Sajiad Arshad was also present on this occasion



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Nusrat Khan has said that those who make Imran Khan irrelevant in politics will become irrelevant themselves In a statement, Nusrat Khan said that the growing popularity of Imran Khan from Khyber to Karachi is an alarm bell for the government coalition. The PTI leader said that it is a pity that retired Generarrested simply because



of right and truth.Nusrat Khan said that the matter of concern is that the PDM alliance is now trying to make the courts controversial just because they are deciding on the basis of truth and justice. The leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said that the government coalition should understand that as soon as they keep the matter of general elections pending, the popularity of Imran Khan will increase further.-DNA

he raised his voice in favor of Imran Khan on the basis

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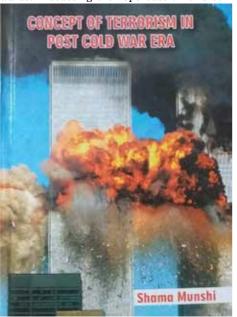
# "Concept of terrorism in Post Cold War Era"

#### DR YOUSAF ALAMGIRIAN

Mass communication is a widespread term these days, however, one of its major sources i.e. books is usually ignored. Books play a major role in stating and clarifying narratives that any other source of the communication might miscarry. Events from history have proven the importance of books that had been published as a response to the ongoing misleading events and their repercussion. Resultantly, the importance of books will remain intact, no matter how advanced technology gets. Reading books as a hobby as well as for a source of information is and will continue to be a part of common practices until the man yearns for knowledge and his soul yearns for a delightful feast in the form of a good read.

Recently, I came across a non-fiction book named "Concept of terrorism in post-cold war era" by Ms ShamaMunshi who is a renowned analyst, social worker as well as a media person. Being a bilingual writer, she has been an active contributor to various national and international forums. In her book, she has thrown light on terrorism and narrated how it had been shaped and propagated during the post-cold war era. The postmodern idea of terrorism has been the centre of discus-

which had a totally different connotation prior to the twin attack of 9/11 was reshaped afterwards. Discussing the repercussion this con-



textualization of terrorism with Islam had, she brought to light some major cases through the examples of Iraq and Libya.

The things discussed earlier might seem already known to many of the readers but the writer has built the context of the whole discussion in a decent academic way. From the initial romanticism of Islamic countries with the West during the cold war against the Soviet Union, to the war on terror in Afghanistan leading to a massive wave of Islamophobia, the writer has discussed the complete topsy-turvy voyage with required references. Focusing on the linguistic terminologies, that have evolved or been given a negative connotation over time such as fundamentalism, and Jihad have also been discussed in the book. The writer has emphasized and condemned the association of terrorism with Islam, as it is the vested interests of superpowers cloaked in the guise of Islamophobia. In short, this book is a source of awareness, and a response to the ongoing Islamophobia in the world, as well as a portrayal of the true image of Islam. Islam, the religion of peace, preaches humanity, pluralism and harmony and it has no place for hate at all. Hence, the author Ms ShamaMunshi must be applauded for the publication of such a book which advocates the true face of Islam as a religion. The book is published by Loheadab Publication Karachi.

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

03

#### 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. Patricks 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 .....0334-5421812 Monal.



#### Airlines Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### Emergency

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

## **PM orders new passport** counters to be set up

**Islamabad POST** 

**INTROLINE** 

Thursday, March 02, 2023

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain, Chairman NADRA, the Director General Immigration and Passports and senior officials attented the meeting

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed to set up counters of passport issuing officers at the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) centres to facilitate the applicants. The prime minister in this regard asked NADRA and the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to share their resources to materialize the collaboration. Chairing a meeting on hassle-free access to passports and computerized national identity cards (CNICs), he said the step would not only facilitate the general



public but also reduce the burden on national exchequer. Shehbaz Sharif directed that all the previously approved new passport offices would be set up as counters at the NADRA centres. He also instructed to increase the number of mobile vans of NADRA to provide doorstep service to CNIC applicants. For the renewal of CNICs, the meeting was informed that NADRA was set to launch a new mobile phone application for consumers. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain, Chairman NADRA, the Director General Immigration and Passports and senior officials attented the meeting.

## NHMP showcase exceptional performance to clinch first place in tournament

ISLAMABAD: The Nationshowcased their skills and al Highways and Motortalent in the competition, way Police (NHMP) has defeating their opponents emerged victorious in the to claim the first position. All Pakistan Punjab Police The tournament, which Table Tennis Tournament. was held in Punjab Con-According to a statement stabulary Headquarters Farooqabad, witnessed issued here on Wednes-

tween various police departments from across However, the Punjab. NHMP team managed to outshine others with their exceptional performance on the table.

Following the remarkable victory, Inspector Gen-

eral (IG) NHMP Khalid Mahmood appreciated the officials who participated in the tournament. He congratulated the team on their achievement and said that their hard work and dedication had paid



## Education campaign of ITP in full swing

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Traffic Police to educate road users and ensure the implementation of traffic laws is in full swing.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure the safety of people while road users are being educated about traffic rules. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Chief Traffic Officer Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer has constituted special teams to educate road users, control violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. During this campaign, action is being ensured against underage bikers, rash drivers and those violating traffic rules. Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, zonal DSPs are ensuring strict action against those violating traffic rules. Pamphlets and leaflets are being distributed to create awareness among citizens while various police are educating people about road safety rules. Parents are also requested to fulfill their responsibility, while also abiding by the law and forbidding the minor children to drive a car or motorbike. He added that the purpose of such a campaign was aimed to protect the precious lives of citizens. Chief Traffic Officer has appealed to the parents

#### Terrorism case registered against Murad Saeed. others

ISLAMABAD: Terrorism case has been registered against PTI leaders for riots, vandalism in Islamabad High Court.

The case has been registered on the report of government under terrorism and other clauses.

The case has been registered against 20 nominated persons and 150 unknown workers. Murad Saeed, Ali Nawaz Awan, Khurram Nawaz and Farrukh Habib have been included in the case. It has been said in the text of case that the accused hurled life threats on the officers and subordinate staff by waving the arms.-Online

#### Pakistan Higher Education Expo held in Colombo

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan High Commission in Colombo held a three-day Higher Education Expo at Exhibition and Convention Centre (SLECC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Thirteen Pakistani public sector universities took part in the Expo and outreached students from Sri Lankan colleges and universities as well as parents.

HEC officials, led by Project Director HEC Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, arranged two exclusive seminars to create awareness about higher education opportunities for Sri Lankan students in Pakistan, especially the Allama Iabal Scholarships for Sri Lankan Students under the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme. Students and faculty raised different queries about the scholarship program, the educational system of Pakistan, and the facilities available for ternational students. High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Major General (R) Umar Farooq Burki graced the event with his presence and appreciated the arrangements made by HEC at the Expo venue. – APP



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#### Hospitals

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



#### Departments

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CDA9221334-43	l
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Met Office9250360-6	l
RDA5555864	l
TMA5770886	l
Cantonment Board 9270151-3	



#### Islamabad Metropolitan

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



ISLAMABAD: Participants of the cooking classes posing for a picture with the Executive Chef Pathma Bala of Islamabad Serena Hotel. The Executive Chef Bala also distributed certificates among the participants. - DNA

## ANF recovers 239 kg drugs in six operations; arrests five

**RAWALPINDI:** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 239 kg narcotics in six operations and arrested five accused allegedly involved in drug smuggling, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He said ANF conducted a raid near Khuzdar Highway Karachi Road and recovered 170.4 kg charras besides netting two accused. In another raid conducted near the

Chaman check post, 3.8 kg morphine and over two kg Ice drug was recovered. He informed that in the third operation at Islamabad International Airport, 38 grams of charras was recovered from the possession of a Manchester-bound passenger resident of Gujrat. In an

operation at Multan International Airport, 144 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of two Bahrain-bound passengers, residents of Haripur and Attock, going on flight no GF-789. He informed separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.\_APP

to demonstrate responsibility by not allowing their young children to ride bikes or cars to avoid accidents. He said that the purpose of the operation was aimed to protect precious lives.-APP

## Construction of fish processing factory begins

ISLAMABAD: As various projects gain traction in Gwadar, a Chinese company, Haixintian Pelagic Fishery Overseas Base Company, begins full-scale construction of its fish processing factory in Gwadar Free Zone South (phase 1).

Last month, Haixintian Pelagic Fishery Overseas Base Company commenced the importation of its industrial units from China, and construction is now underway for the cold storage and other facilities necessary for the fish industry. To facilitate this, the company has secured a warehouse spanning 5,911 square meters in the Gwadar Free Zone (Phase 1).

The warehouse comprises 2,000 square meters of standard workshop space, which will be constructed according to the design of the sublessor. It will be the Gwadar Free Zone's first fishing and fishing-related factory. All legal and documentation procedures for operating in Pakistan have already been completed by the company.

Because the industry is linked to the expertise of the local workforce, it has the potential to benefit the community in terms of both job and business opportunities.

Pak young scientists develop local techs with Sino experience

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: A team of young Pakistani agricultural scientists at the National Research Center of Intercropping (NRCI), the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) are researching on strip intercropping technologies with the hope to help their country shrink the import bill of food commodities especially soybean, which already is a huge burden on Pakistan's economy.

It's remarkable that the ongoing work there originated from their collaboration with China, but has been optimized specially for Pakistan based on the country's realities, which has been a shining model of Sino-Pak cooperation in both scientific research and educational exchange.

According to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, since 2018, Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza, a post-doc who is graduated



from Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China, has started to promote China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan with his professor Yang Wenyu's support and guidance, which has received good response particularly from local industrialists and progressive farmers in the recent years. After years of hard work, he has become a productive

agronomist and expert in intercropping research in Pakistan. Under the vision of the IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. Athar Mahboob, the National Research Center of Intercropping was inaugurated on August 11, 2021 to introduce strip intercropping technologies in Pakistan's agriculture to improve crop yields and soil productivity. Now, Dr.

Muhammad Ali Raza acts as the Director of the center, leading intercropping technology's popularization in Pakistan. To date, the center has already developed and optimized the Chinese maize-soybean strip intercropping technology according to local conditions, and conducted trials on the wheat-soybean strip intercropping.

#### Sanjrani stresses coordination to speed up projects

ISLAMABAD: Senate Muhammad Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Wednesday emphasised the need for greater coordination among stakeholders to speed up the development process of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Talking to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, he said the role of the Senate was to promote national cohesion and harmony. Senate provides equal representation to all the provinces. Senate was striving hard to bring less developed areas at par with the developed areas.

Both the dignitaries discussed public welfare measures and other issues.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani informed the Governor about the upcoming golden jubilee celebrations of the Senate and said that considering the economic situation of the country, it has been decided that the celebrations would remain simple. The Chairman said that the Golden Jubilee of the Senate was a historic occasion and it would help us to highlight the importance of promoting national unity.-APP

#### LOST AND FOUND

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Mr. Atta Muhammad s/o Noor Ilahi CNIC 371016840161-5, Post Office Kamra Tehsil & Distt Attock

### First ever Pakistani Pavilion inaugurated at Eurasia Summit

vate Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP), during Eurasian Higher Education Summit (EURI) in Istanbul, first ever Pakistani Pavilion was inaugurated. During this 3-day event, 34 members Pakistani delegation from 20 Pakistani universities would brief about the various academic programs and explore opportunities of collaboration, student & faculty exchange and joint academic programs. Haldun Goktas, Deputy President Higher Education Council, Prof Dr Mustafa Aydin President Euras, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary Coordinator General COMSTECH, Chairman APSUP Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman, Nauman Aslam Consul General Pakistan Istanbul along with Pakistani delegation inaugurated Pakistani Pavilion. Speaking on the occasion, they lauded efforts of APSUP for undertaking practical steps to promote positive image of Pakistan at this important international forum. Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman extended thanks to all the 34 members of Pakistani delegation for their cooperation and participation. University of Lahore, Superior University, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, University of Management and Technology and Institute of Business Management have set up booths at Pakistani Pavilion. EURI is an annual largest international higher education event in Eurasia, provides a great networking and academic partnership opportunities for higher education institutions and other stakeholders in the international higher education sector coming from all around the world. This year it has provided opportunity to the more than 2000 delegates from 2000 universities to

learn from one another's best practices and experiences.

## DNA ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Association of Pri-

## 04

## **TWIN CITIES**

### Islamabad **POST** Thursday, March 02 , 2023

### **Briefs**

## Pak earns US \$255m from travel services

ISLAMABAD: The country has earned US \$255.170 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first half of the current fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows negative growth of 9.52 percent as compared to the US \$282.101 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the period under review, personal travel services decreased by 9.85 percent, from US \$280.920 million last year to US \$253.260 million during Julv-December 2022.

Among the personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure dipped by 50.62 percent while the education-related expenditure also dropped by 17.78 percent.

In addition, other personal services witnessed a decrease of 9.42 percent.

Meanwhile, the exports of business services grew by 75.23 percent, from US\$ 1.090 million to US\$ 1.910 million, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services from the country, witnessed an increase of 2.77 percent during the first six months of the current financial year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, it added.

The exports of services during July-December (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 3526.97 million against the exports of US\$ 3431.77 million in July-December (2021-22), showing a growth of 2.77 percent. The imports of the country witnessed a decline of 30.28 percent, falling from US\$ 5571.35 million last year to US\$ 3884.43 million during the period under re-

#### Ministry renovates 2,093 houses

view.-APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Ms Fauzia Viqar as the Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

## Pak needs good governance for cyber security solutions

## Market strategies had to revise salaries and create an enabling environment to control brain drain

#### DNA

that Pakistan suffers from a lack ISLAMABAD: A roundtable disof political will, a lack of a governcussion on "The challenges of ance framework, a divide between implementing Cyber Security the public and private sectors, solutions in Pakistan" was held at and a rising reliance on ICTs, the Institute of Regional Studies which has introduced new and (IRS) Islamabad. The keynote adcomplicated challenges, notably dress was delivered by Mr. Mahir in the sphere of cyber security. Mohsin Sheikh (CEO, Trillium In-Pakistan was also grappling with formation Security Systems), Mr. budget restrictions and difficul-Ammar Jaffri (Former Assistant ties in implementing cyber secu-DG. FIA and currently Founder rity policies. of Digital Pakistan and the SDGs Mr. Mahir Mohsin Sheikh high-Academy), and Ms. Hira Farooq lighted the partnership gap be-(Business Development Manager, tween the public and private impediments to implementing cyber security solutions were a lack of resources, such as advanced technology, and a limited budget. A better governance model was required. Moreover, a skilled workforce is needed for the effective implementation of cyber security solutions.

Mr. Ammar Jaffri mentioned that Pakistan lacked the necessary national Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT) to ensure the implementation of cyber security solutions. Our limitations included a lack of collaboration between departments and a lack

issue, cyberethics should be included in school, college, and university curricula.

Ms. Hira Farooq talked about the significance of incorporating business development models into private forums to implement cyber security solutions. According to her, there were three kinds of cyber security attacks: personal, organizational, and national. She was more focused on data breaches. According to an IBM report, 100,000 cyberattacks are reported each year, resulting in losses of approximately \$2 billion. To se-

cluded the session on the note to invest in the cybersecurity sector, prevent data breaches through blockchain, and develop public-private partnerships and investment in the R&D sector. Policies were documented, but the implementation of these was the major problem. He said that the ultimate aim was to secure the domain in which we live. To increase cyber security awareness, education reform was required. He stated that traditional diplomacy has given way to digital diplomacy, so we needed a resolution mech-

#### **President** administers oath to Fauzia Vigar

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday administered oath of office to Fauzia Vigar as Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment at Workplace. The oath-taking ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr was attended by senior government officials. The president on Tuesday made the new appointment after the completion of the tenure of former Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment at Workplace Kashmala Tariq. The appointment has been made in accordance with Sections 3 and 21 of the Federal Ombudsman Institutional Reforms of 2013.-APP

#### 7th Census begins in capital

ISLAMABAD: The 7th population and housing census has started in Islamabad Capital Territory for which 873 enumerators have been tasked to carry out the important survey in 1,783 blocks.

Talking to APP, the spokesperson of Islamabad Capital Administration, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon held a meeting for the census in various union councils of Islamabad and reviewed the arrangements.

He said that the census was a continuous activity which is "significant in policy-making and resource allocation". "It is a fundamental tool for measuring population which is expected to provide important data for planning and development in the capital city," he added. Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner has urged the citizens to provide accurate information to the census workers for ensuring the success of the census survey.-APP

#### Hostels of QAU evacuated

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) has got

thanked Minister of Interi-

or Rana Sanaullah Khan and

the Islamabad Capital Po-

lice for their timely action.

Minister for Interior said

that politics will not be al-

lowed in educational institu-

tions and any kind of disrup-

tion in educational matters

He said the atmosphere

of educational institutions

will be made conducive to

research as well as creative

matters and violent inci-

A case has also been reg-

istered against the miscre-

ants at the request of the

university administration.

Islamabad Capital Police's

counter-extremism unit is

also in contact with other

educational institutions and

A special police force will

be deployed in educational

institutions so that safe ed-

ucational activities can be

AIOU

ensured there.-APP

visiting there.

dents will be discouraged.

will not be tolerated.

ISLAMABAD. Pakistan Works Department (PWD), Ministry of Housing and Works has upgraded and renovated as many as 2,093 houses and flats in various sectors of Islamabad, during the last five years.

"The PWD has carried out EM works of as many as 1,114 flats and houses, while civil work is executed on around 979 of different categories, an official in the ministry told APP.

The official said the ministry owned as many as 5,253 houses and flats of categories-I to categories-V located in various sectors in the federal capital.

To a question, he said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was responsible for the maintenance and renovation of Pak Secretariat, Islamabad, therefore, no fund had been spent on ministry's renovation.

He said the Finance Division had already slashed the budget while making allocations. Hence, no funds had been surrendered to Finance Division, and all the funds allocated during 2021-22 in relevant heads were utilized by the general section, he added. – APP

#### Railways asks provincial govts to hand over its land

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Railways has asked the provincial governments to hand over its commercial. residential, and agricultural land to help to boost revenue of the department.

"In this regard, the Ministry of Railways had already written a letter to provincial governments urging them to give possession of the land as it was the property of the Railways," an official in the Ministry told APP. Pakistan Railways' major portion of around 9,986 acres of land worth billion of rupees were found under illegal occupation of private, individual and different government depart ments across the country, he added. The official said that as many as 3,287 acres land were occupied in Punjab, 832 acres under encroachment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land were occupied in Balochistan. -APP

Genesis Lab Ltd). Members of the think tanks, ambassadors from foreign offices, research scholars, and corporate representatives

overcome the challenges of implementing cyber security solutions in Pakistan. The most significant

were among those present.

The speakers were of the view

sectors that was required to

of awareness of AI use cases. We should develop our own security solutions for our digital assets. To address the cyber-awareness

cure or store personal data, the use of artificial intelligence and block chain technology was critical. Ambassador Nadeem con-

anism. Market strategies had vacated the hostels of the to revise salaries and create an institution with the help of enabling environment to conthe police. The university trol brain drain. administration and parents

## CPEC plays pivotal role in promoting green development

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has been playing a pivotal role in promoting green development in Pakistan, highlighting

China's commitment to the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature. experts said. Convener of National Par-

liamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals, Romina Khurshid Alam said in an interview that the cooperation between Pakistan and China under the CPEC in the fields of energy, transport, agriculture and industrial production has helped Pakistan boost green, low-carbon sustainable development, CEN reported.

Besides assisting Pakistan biodiversity management in overcoming the energy plan was developed for the crisis and infrastructure upconstruction and operation

stages of the project to prograding through the CPEC, Chinese companies in Patect the environment and kistan have been strictly wildlife around the project following international and site. Pakistan and China local standards on safety have further stepped up and environmental protheir cooperation in green tection. Alam said. In imenergy for the benefit of plementing infrastructure the region under the CPEC, projects, ecological factors helping Pakistan mitigate the have been fully considered adverse impacts of climate and a number of green change, said Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the and clean energy projects including solar, wind and China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy hydropower have been completed across the Asian Institute, an Islamabad-based country over the past sevthink tank. eral years, reducing carbon "Pakistan is one of the most emissions and contributing vulnerable countries to clito economic development,

mate change, with the country protection facing the worst climate-inand improvement of living duced catastrophic floods standards of the locals, recently. As the CPEC is maksaid the official. Citing the ing progress, it can help the example of recently comcountry to tackle the climate change issue by increasing pleted 720-megawatt Karot hydropower project, Alam investment in renewable ensaid that a comprehensive ergy, green building construction, decreasing energy loss, and innovative practices such as green finance and other

measures," Butt told Xinhua. Calling the CPEC a game changer and a green corridor, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive officer of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said that the flagship project of the BRI is people-centric, environmentally friendly, inclusive and green and sustainable initiative. China has been utilizing new technologies and making investments in BRI partner countries to support green development. Pakistan can learn from the Chinese experience and technology to moting a carbon-free global

economy is commendable,"

he said.-APP

over 15 mobile applications. An official of IT said that under the paperless track program, NITB ensured the implementation of e-office in 40 ministries and over 100 departments. He said Ignite's eight incubation centers have created an entrepreneurial vibe in the country

which is helping in establishing new startups in almost

every sector. He said start-ups of the National Incubation Centers established in the country, received an invest-

ment of \$20 million from various sources last year. Under the National Freelance Training Program initiated and funded by the Ministry of IT, as many as 20 training centres were established across the country. As many 8,647 graduates, he said, were trained through international standard IT courses, and these students contributed to the country's economy by earning \$23 million through freelancing after training. During the vear 2022, around 1,638 new IT companies got registered with Pakistan Software Export Board, while 761 call centres and 1463 freelancers were also registered with the PSEB. He said that about 33 million people registered themselves for freelancing courses under the DG Skills Programs of Ignite, which is 75% 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 reserve.-APP

Over 31 portals, 15

mobile applications

developed by NITB

ISLAMABAD: The National Information Technology

Board (NITB) is playing an active role in implementing

e-governance programs and during the last 4 years, the

NITB developed and launched more than 31 portals and

commences

#### final exams of Int'l students from March 10

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations of Matric, Intermediate and I.Com programs for international students offered in the semester autumn 2022 from March 10. These exams will be held online, and the university has done all the arrangements for these online exams. Students' accounts have been created on agahi LMS portal while date sheet and instructions have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou. edu.pk). Moreover, admissions in the second phase of semester spring 2023 are open for national and international students. The programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in arts (BA), Associate degree in commerce (B.Com), BBA, 2.5 and 4 year BS programs, 1.5, 2.5 and 4 year B.Ed and postgraduate diplomas. These programs are being offered through an online management system and all the academic activities of these programs will be held online.-APP

### SC bars PM from making appointment of judges in GB

environment

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) has barred Prime Minister (PM) from making appointment of judges in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).. A two members bench of SC comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard the case against appointment of judges in Gilgit-Baltistan. The Chief Minister (CM) Gilgit-Baltistan had resorted to SC against the appointment of judges. During the hearing of the case on Wednesday the federal government sought more time to give reply. The Attorney General (AG) said one week time be given more to give reply. Makhdoom Ali Khan counsel for CM Gilgit-Baltistan opposing it said the case is pending hearing since one year. The case is in court and even then appointments are being made. Justice Mazahar inquired is chief minister advice in the appointment of judtes is necessary. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked nothing will happen if the appointments are not made in a week or two weeks. Judges have taken over charge. We will settle the legal status of issuing notice to them on next hearing. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan inquired who appoints judges in Gilgit-Baltistan. Attorney General told the court PM Pakistan appoints judges therein. The court stopped PM Pakistan from making appointment of judges in Gilgit-Baltistan and issued stay orders against appointments till the decision of this case. The SC while issuing notice to judges appointed in Gilgit-Baltistan Supreme Appellate court through registrar adjourned the hearing of the case till March 15.-Online

## Steering committee to reinforce Balochistan RoLR

ISLAMABAD: The Steering Committee on the Rule of Law Roadmap (RoLR) Balochistan convened its 6th session to celebrate the successful completion of the first five-year phase of reforms and launch a new chapter for the RoL Roadmap developed for 2023-26. The key stakeholders renewed their commitment to advance evidence-based reforms in the rule of law sector with the aim of furthering public trust and confidence in law enforcement institutions in Balochistan, said a UNODC press release issued here.

Additional Chief Secretary Home & Tribal Affairs, Government of Balochistan Zahid Saleem praised all institutions and departments for their dedication in implementing key reforms under the roadmap. He highlighted

the importance of the new five-year chapter, which will build on the achievements of the previous phase to continue to strengthen rule of law. effective administration of justice and best practices for the benefit of all citizens, especially the most marginalized ones. He thanked the European Union for its financial support, as well as United Nations Office Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for their technical support. The RoL Roadmap has adopted a results-based methodology to inform institutional decisions and improve system-wide performance. The meeting provided a convergence platform to Rule of Law institutions and development partners to deliberate on the progress of the roadmap. Overall, the results of the first phase report an increase in the conviction rate from 20%

in 2019 to 40% in 2023 for serious and violent crimes whilst the number of Under-Trial Prisoners (UTPs) reduced to 11.2% from 1122 in 2019 to 900 in 2023. For the first time, the representatives of the Balochistan Police, Prosecution, Prisons, Levies, and Reclamation and Probation Departments presented their institutional progress against RoL provincial set targets. Challenges and successes of criminal justice institutions to address fundamental issues through sector coordination were shared. A way forward was also discussed for the implementation of RoLR against PKR 50 million allocated by the Government of Balochistan. The 6th Steering Committee also highlighted other key successes, including 1) a 13.5% increase in forensic case submissions

#### realize its vision of high-quality green and sustainable development, Ramay said. "The CPEC has changed the landscape of Pakistan and has accelerated growth while bringing about socio-economic benefits for the people of Pakistan ... China's commitment to pro-

and a 1.11% increase in the number of female police officers in Balochistan; 2) a 5% increase in persons bailed by the Balochistan Levies Force and training of 135 Levies Investigation Officers including 7 women; 3) Prisons Management Information System (PMIS) installed and functioning in 11 prisons; 4) training of 153 prosecutors comprising of 88% men and 11.1% women participants; 5) MoU signed on September 5, 2022 between Police and Prosecution Departments to improve coordination and cooperation before, during, and after the investigations; 6) review of the Reclamation and Probation Act; and 7) a training on Legislative Drafting. Sven Ruesch. Team Leader Governance and Educa-

tion, EU Delegation in Pa-

kistan recalled that good

governance.-APP

### Mob violence in the West Bank: a new low

here could hardly be a grimmer demonstration of the challenge facing those who still hope to curb growing violence in the occupied West Bank. This weekend's talks between Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs in Jordan were undermined within hours. These were the first such high-level negotiations in years, reflecting belated US re-engagement, in the unpromising context of a far-right Israeli government, a moribund Palestinian Authority and surging violence. Within hours of the summit's communique, hundreds of settlers were rampaging through the Palestinian town of Huwara with rocks and iron bars, shooting dead one man, leaving hundreds injured and torching cars and properties - retaliation for the murder of two Israeli settlers by a Palestinian gunman earlier that day. Settler violence is not new. Nor is the army's failure to stem it. Increasingly, it appears not only widespread, but systemic. It was worsening even before this extremist government took power. But the scale and intensity of this attack - heavily telegraphed in advance - and the fact that coalition members egged it on, make it unprecedented.

"A closed, burnt Huwara – that's what I want to see. That's the only way to achieve deterrence," said the chairman of the Knesset's national security committee. Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister, who also has sweeping powers over civilian issues in the West Bank, liked a tweet saying that "the village of Hawara [sic] should be wiped out today". (He later deleted it and echoed President Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that people should not "take the law into their own hands" - hardly a full-throated condemnation.) Last year was the deadliest in Israel and the West Bank since the second intifada, or Palestinian uprising, ended in 2005. Israeli forces killed 146 Palestinians in 2022, while settlers killed another four. Attacks by Palestinians killed 29 Israelis. The violence continues. The US reportedly brokered a deal to reduce IDF raids, with the Palestinian Authority - already regarded by many as little more than a security contractor for the occupation – stepping in. Yet last week saw the single most lethal IDF raid for years, as troops hunting three militants in the occupied city of Nablus killed 11 Palestinians. As hope vanishes, younger Palestinians are turning to groups beyond the control of established factions. Access to guns is growing. The weekend's talks were spurred partly by concerns that Ramadan, which this year overlaps with Passover, has seen escalating violence in the past. The US and others have seen poor return for the limited efforts they have invested. But Huwara is frightening proof, if any were needed, that this government cannot be left to wreak more damage.

## slamahad POS

#### Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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#### Thursday, March 02, 2023

### **Concerns about Biden** administration's intentions

oreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning was forced to give a his-tory lesson in Tuesday's regular media briefing, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's remarks on Taiwan the day before continued the US administration's deliberate twisting of historical facts on the Chinese island

Pointing out that the one-China principle is a universally recognized norm in international relations and the important political prerequisite and foundation for China's diplomatic relations with other countries, she reminded the Joe Biden administration that the US stated in the Shang-hai Communique that it "acknowledged that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China", and that the US government "does not challenge that position". And that in 1978, the US stated in the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China that: "The United States of America recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China." And that the US stated in the August 17 Communique of 1982 that "it has no intention of infringing on Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, or interfering in China's internal affairs, or pursuing a policy of 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan'". Those are irrefutable facts and pledges written down in black and white. The Biden administration, however, is reneging on those commitments by significantly relaxing its restraint on official interactions, reinforcing military contacts with Taiwan, and touting "Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow" in a bid to portray the island as "a sovereign state" so that it can hype up Taiwan as a potential "flash point" in the "Indo-Pacif-ic". In his latest remarks, Blinken again sought to parallel the Ukraine crisis with the Taiwan question saying the whole world is "concerned about a crisis across the Taiwan Strait". But the whole world, including the US, as it clearly acknowledges in the three communiques, knows that the Taiwan question is China's internal affair. What the rest of the world is actually concerned about is the warlust of Washington and its gang of lickspittle allies, as revealed once again in the reported remark of US President Joe Biden that the US has a plan for "the destruction of Taiwan". It is not a crisis as a result of the Chinese mainland's "aggression" that is the cause of concern, as Blinken alleged, but rather Washington's eagerness to armchair-general yet another conflict that is causing alarm. The US' allies should stop enabling it and get Washington to face up to the fact that it has an addiction that requires cold turkey. Like that of any addict trying to satisfy its craving, Washington's behavior is harmful to all around it. Those closest to it, should get it to stand on the right side of history, as set out in the three communiques, and honor the pledges it has made on the Taiwan question.

### A US trump card in Gulf geopolitics: capacity-enhancing security cooperation

#### James M. Dorsey

Moreover, according to the former official, the Saudi defense ministry has "little ability to effectively identify, train, deploy and retain a technically capable force. Human resource management policies, functions, and strategies that allow for the recruitment, training, promotion, assignment, and retirement of military personnel are seldom applied... Military academies neither educate nor produce capable Saudi leaders..." Mr. Saab said, "this means that they (the Saudis) don't properly prioritise either missions or capabilities and don't know to properly identify their military requirements." Mr. Saab suggested that Saudi Arabia will be in a position to jointly with the United States develop unified defense plans and joint concepts of warfare

f played well, security is the United States trump card in stabilizing relations with its Gulf partners and competing with China for regional influence

In a just-released report, Middle East scholar and former Pentagon official Bilal Y. Saab argued that security entails far more than arms sales and defining the parameters of US security guarantees. Perhaps, first and foremost, at this stage of the game, it involves reform of the Saudi military and assisting the kingdom in developing the structures and management needed, in Mr. Saab's words, "to manage, employ, and sustain" sophisticated weaponry and associated strategies and doctrines. Mr. Saab's proposition strokes with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to transform the kingdom's military. Mr. Saab asserted four years into Mr. Bin Salman's military reforms that "Saudi Arabia still struggles with providing sound strategic, operational, and tactical guidance for its armed forces" and has "difficulty engaging in systematic defence analysis and strategic planning.

Moreover, according to the former official, the Saudi defense ministry has "little ability to effectively identify, train, deploy and retain a technically capable force. Human resource management policies, functions, and strategies that allow for the recruitment, training, promotion, assignment, and retirement of military personnel are seldom applied... Military academies neither educate nor produce capable Saudi leaders..." Mr. Saab said, "this means that they (the Saudis) don't properly prioritise either missions or capabilities and don't know to properly identify their military requirements." Mr. Saab suggested that Saudi Arabia will be in a position to jointly with the United States develop unified defense plans and joint concepts of warfare once it overcomes these hurdles, whether or not with US assistance. Indications are it will be with US assistance. The US military is working with Saudi Arabia to develop its first-ever long-term national security vision that would codify "the kingdom's strategic vision for national security and regional security," according to Gen. Michael 'Erik' Kurilla, the top commander of US forces in the Middle East. "Our strategic planners travel to the kingdom regularly to work with Saudi military leaders to build up their ideas for a long-term strategic vision," Mr. Kurilla said. Ideally, recognising that it has no real alternatives. Saudi Arabia would want a security relationship with the United States that is enshrined in a treaty. Without a treaty, Mr. Saab's advocacy of assisting the kingdom in implementing proper integrated Saudi defense management may be the next best thing. It would be a win-win for both the kingdom and the United States. While long overdue, reforming the Saudi military opens the door to a paradigm shift that the United States needs as it turns its focus from the Gulf to the Indo-Pacific. To effectively make the shift, the United States needs Gulf partners capable of defending themselves rather than militarily and psychologically dependent on US intervention at every game stage. Saudi Arabia's eight-year-long campaign in Yemen that sought to dislodge Iranian-backed Houthi rebels displayed the kingdom's military deficiencies. Those deficiencies take on added significance with Israel stepping up attacks on Iran in the Islamic republic and Syria against the backdrop of fading hopes for a revival of the 2015 international agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear program and Iran enriching uranium for the first time

to 84 per cent purity. Moreover, helping the kingdom improve its defense management strokes with four of the five guiding principles of US national security strategy - partnerships, deterrence, diplomacy, and integration. The fifth principle, US values, has fallen by the wayside in the case of Saudi Arabia. In a race against time, columnist Walter Russell Mead sees enhancing Saudi military capabilities as a way to avoid another Middle East war. "The best way to avoid war and to minimise direct American engagement should war break out, is to ensure that our Middle East allies have the power to defend themselves," Mr. Mead said. Mr. Mead cautions a potential war could erupt if Israel strikes preemptively to prevent Russian arms supplies to Iran from limiting the Jewish state's ability to target the Islamic republic's nuclear facilities. The Biden administration charged in December that Russia was moving to provide advanced military assistance to Iran, including air defense systems, helicopters and Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets. Gulf states risk becoming targets in the Israeli Iranian titfor-tat. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the aerospace commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), recently said Iran had in the past earmarked targets in Jordan, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates for retaliatory missile strikes. Furthermore, enhancing Saudi defence management capabilities involving institutional change creates a military umbilical cord that potentially binds the kingdom to the United States even tighter in an environment in which no other power can or will replace the US as its foremost security partner. "We need to help them get to a point where they actually have functioning bodies, functioning ministries of national security that would allow them to generate enough combat power with that massive budget that they have devoted to defence," Mr. Bilal said in a webinar convened to present and discuss his report. The logic of Mr. Saab's proposition is compelling. The politics less so. The United States is divided on whether and on what conditions strained relations should be reset with the kingdom. The two countries spar over Saudi oil policy, human rights, and the kingdom's ties with China and Russia. The domestic US and US-Saudi differences, as well as instances in which the United States failed to live up to Saudi defence expectations, like the 2019 Iranian-backed attacks on Saudi oil facilities that shut down more than five per cent of global oil supply, have entrenched Saudi and Gulf doubts about US reliability as a security partner. Even so, the Gulf's geopolitical significance may be rising in US perceptions as it seeks to reconfigure the structure of its engagement. For one, American strategic thinkers realise that there is no effective Indo-Pacific strategy that does not involve the Arabian Sea. In addition, the fallout of the Ukraine war demonstrated that the Gulf's waterways are key to any regional and global security architecture. Analyst Hussein Ibish noted that President Joe Biden has replaced the 1980 doctrine enunciated by former President Jimmy Carter that committed the United States to prevent any outside force from gaining control of the Gulf with a pledge that the US will "make sure those countries can defend themselves against foreign threats." Mr, Ibish echoed Mr. Saab's assertion that "the very concept that governs the US-Saudi security relationship is flawed. It still centers on US guardianship. It fails to embrace, leverage, and operationalise the element of security partnership with Saudi Arabia."

Taking his argument further, Mr. Ibish suggested that Mr. Biden's approach gives Gulf states greater autonomy in maneuvering big power competition. It allows them to "develop much greater ties with China without threatening the overarching strategic relationship with the US, as long as those measures don't provide Beijing with an undue strategic foothold in the region," Mr. Ibish said. Nevertheless, it takes two to tango for Mr. Biden's strategic vision and Mr. Saab's proposition for implementing it to work. Responding to Mr. Bilal's presentation in the webinar, former US diplomat and prominent analyst Martin Indyk argued that for the former Pentagon official's proposition to work, "the Saudis...need to show that they are a responsible partner. We need to show that we are reliable; they need to show that they are responsible." US doubts about Saudi Arabia were fueled by Mr. Bin Salman's brutal crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression; his conduct of the war in Yemen; and, at times, disruptive foreign policy moves, including the 3.5-year long Saudi-led economic and diplomatic boycott of Qatar. "None of these things represent a responsible partner for the United States. That's what we need to have assurance of. ... The United States cannot play the role alone of policeman in the Gulf in the way it has in the past because we have other priorities that are forcing us to shift resources to other parts of the world... "That means that the United States has to find a way to do more with less in the Middle East. And if we are to do that, then we need our partners in the Middle East to step up and fill in for what we are no longer able to do... For that, we need a more responsible leadership in Saudi Arabia, and we need a more capable Saudi defence capability," Mr. Indyk said. The former diplomat went on to suggest that the degree to which the United States remains committed to the kingdom's security was a function of the nature of the relationship. Mr. Indyk argued that "there is tension" between the kingdom's effort to hedge its bets by enhancing relations with Russia and China "and its desire, as manifested by the request of MbS (Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman), for a treaty commitment by the United States to Saudi Arabia.<sup>3</sup> The kingdom "cannot have it both ways," Mr. Indyk asserted. "If it wants that kind of commitment from the United States, it has to line up with the United States... We're not demanding complete fealty... If our security relationship with Saudi Arabia is to be deepened because the Saudis want it, then there are certain obligations that come with that... If they expect us to be there when the balloon goes up, then they're going to have to be committed to working with us and not playing off both sides against us," Mr. Indyk said. In the latest attempt to straddle both sides of the fence, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan made a surprise trip to Kyiv, the highest-ranking Saudi visit to Ukraine in 30 years, to negotiate how US\$410 million in humanitarian aid the Saudi government authorized last Octoher would be spent. The visit, the first by a senior Arab official since Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago, was likely designed to counter American criticism of perceived Saudi support for Moscow. Last week, Saudi Arabia joined 140 other countries in voting in favor of a non-binding United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine.

## US presidential campaigns begin, but it is still very early

#### **Kerry Boyd Anderson**

Before Americans vote for president, the Republican and Democratic parties must choose their nominees through a series of state-level primaries and caucuses. Typically, a party with an incumbent completing his first term as president nominates him to run again. However, the current Democratic nomination process faces some challenges. Biden is 80 years old – the oldest president to ever serve in Washington

S President Joe Biden has only been in the White House for slightly more than two years, but the next presidential campaign is already getting started. For anyone who loves political horse race coverage, there will be months of predictions to enjoy before the November 2024 election. For anyone who wants to follow US politics without engaging in a nearly constant stream of election news, it is time to start paying some attention - but not too much.

Before Americans vote for president, the Republican and Democratic parties must choose their nominees through a series of state-level primaries and caucuses. Typically, a party with an incumbent completing his first term as president nominates him to run again. However, the current Democratic nomination process faces some challenges. Biden is 80 years old - the oldest president to ever serve in Washington. His approval ratings are relatively low, around 42 percent, though approval ratings may be less useful than in the past. Additionally, the Democrats are changing the order of state caucuses and primaries for the first time in decades, which introduces new uncertainties.

Nonetheless, Biden appears likely to run for reelection. Many Democrats saw his recent State of the Union speech as a resounding success and he has a long history of winning elections. While many Democrats would prefer a younger candidate, it is not clear who could step in. The most obvious choice is Vice President Kamala Harris, but her term so far has been challenging and she has low approval ratings. As long as he remains healthy, Biden is the most likely Democratic nominee.

The Republican race is likely to be far more contested. So far, two serious candidates have announced campaigns: Former President Donald Trump and former South Carolina governor and ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley. More candidates are likely to join the race. So far, polls show two front-runners: Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Other potential candidates are far behind. A recent Reuters/ Ipsos poll of Republican voters found that 42.8 percent expressed support for Trump as the nominee, compared to 30.6 percent for DeSantis, 7.5 percent for former Vice President Mike Pence and 3.9 percent for Haley, with all others trailing behind.

In many ways, Trump is well positioned to gain the Republican Party's nomination. He has huge name recognition and extensive support among Republicans. A recent Morning Consult poll found that 74 percent of Republican primary voters have a favorable view of Trump. He has already raised impressive sums of money to fund his campaign.

Yet, Trump faces challenges. While many Republicans approved of his presidency, many of them are ready for someone new. Republican critics of Trump form a small minority; his bigger problem is that more Republicans see him as carrying a lot of baggage that might hurt his chances of winning the general election. One of his major advantages when he campaigned the first time was that he appeared new and like an outsider; many voters liked the idea of a "businessman" in charge of government. Today, Trump has a record as a divisive politician. Also, he has won one of two elections – not a great record for a presidential candidate

Haley has leaned heavily into the idea that the Republicans need a changing of the guard. In her Feb. 14 campaign announcement, she said that Americans are "more than ready for a new generation" of leaders, adding that "America is not past our prime. It's just that our politicians are past theirs." Haley directly criticized Biden, but her jabs at aged politicians also apply to Trump.

Many pundits expect DeSantis to run, though he has not announced a decision yet. He has leveraged his position as governor to make very public statements against liberal values and immigration. DeSantis has cultivated an

image of himself as a warrior against "woke ideology." As he said in a recent speech: "We will never surrender to the woke mob." Many Republicans see DeSantis as someone who has Trump's combative spirit without Trump's baggage. Some political experts have suggested that DeSantis might announce his candidacy this summer. Trump has expressed annoyance that DeSantis might challenge him, calling him "disloyal.

Other Republicans have started making the usual moves in advance of a potential campaign, such as visiting Iowa (the first Republican caucus state) and reaching out to potential staffers and donors. Pence, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and several other senators and governors are potential candidates. It is still early in the race. Both parties' primaries and caucuses to choose a nominee will likely begin in February 2024, so we still have a year of speculation and campaigning before any type of voting begins. A lot can change in that time and no one should assume that they know who will be inaugurated as president in January 2025. Nonetheless, current events offer important clues about how the contests will shape both political parties. Haley's candidacy will tell us a lot about the future of women in the Republican Party. We will learn more about Trump's long-term influence on the party. A likely Biden reelection campaign will reveal more about the influence of progressives versus moderates in the Democratic Party. Candidates' platforms, speeches and debates will shape which issues will dominate the election; among Republicans, opposition to "wokeism" and addressing border security are clearly going to be big topics.

To understand the future of US politics, start paying attention to these early races, but remember that much will change before Americans head to the polls again.

## WORLD / SPORTS

## Briefs

06

### China to work with Belarus **SC: President** to promote bilateral relations to give date for Punjab...

#### FROM PAGE 01

The court further stated that the Election Act 2017 gives the governor and the president the power to announce a date for the polls. "If the governor has dissolved the assembly, then he would announce the date," CJP Bandialsaid.The court stated that in case the governor does not dissolve the assembly, the president then has the power to dissolve the assembly under Section 57 and announce the date of election. However, the court stressed that the governor had the constitutional responsibility

of announcing the date.The court directed President ArifAlvi to announce the date of the Punjab election after consulting with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and directed the KP governor to announce the date for polls in his province. "The elections in all the provinces should be held within the constitutional period," the court stated, directing all the federal and provincial bodies to assist the electoral body with the election process.

Moreover, the SC directed the federal government to provide all facilities to the ECP for conducting the elections. The apex court also declared the pleas related to the provincial elections admissible and disposed them of.

The Supreme Court had taken suomotu notice on the issue over the election date as to who - the president, governors, or the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) - is responsible for fixing the date in case the provincial assemblies are dissolved.

After two-day long hearings, the court reserved its verdict at around 6:30pm Tuesday as the parties involved in the case wrapped up their arguments.

The top court had also asked the political parties - the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the ruling alliance - to agree upon a mutual date for the elections, but the counsel for Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) told the court that



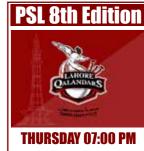
ing was concluded between the program on scientific and techni-Belarusian Ministry of Foreign cal cooperation for 2023-2024. An Affairs and the China Internaagreement and a memorandum on tional Development Cooperation cooperation in tourism and sports Agency to strengthen cooperation were signed between the relevant for development and promote the agencies of Belarus and China. implementation of the Global De-The State Control Committee of velopment Initiative. A plan for Belarus and the National Audit the Year of Regions of Belarus Office of the People's Republic and China for 2023 was approved. of China signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation. Belarus and China also signed a

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Belarusian Construction and Architecture Ministry and the Ministry of Housing, Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China. Agreements on cooperation were signed between the Belarusian and Chinese news agencies BelTA and Xinhua, and also between the National State

TV and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus and the China Media Group. A memorandum of understanding on the implementation of cooperation projects using preferential loans from the Chinese government was signed at the presence of the heads of state. Another memorandum of understanding records the substantial completion of negotia-

tions on the draft agreement on trade in services and investment. The Economy Ministry of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of China concluded an agreement to deepen trade and economic cooperation between the regions of the two countries. An intergovernmental agreement was signed in the form of an exchange of letters to approve a project to supply two sets of screening equipment for National Airport Minsk. A comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development was approved for the implementation by the Belarusian Industry Ministry and the China Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. The two countries also signed a protocol on sanitary and phy-

tosanitary requirements for supplies of products from Belarus to China. A memorandum of understanding was signed on cooperation in agriculture. The countries also signed a plan for the development of cooperation in healthcare for 2023-2025. A large number of documents signed as part of Aleksandr Lukashenko's state visit to China concern interregional cooperation, finance, banking, trade information support, and the Red Cross activities.



Islamabad **POST** 

Thursday, March 02, 2023

MARCH 02, 2023 Gaddafi Stadium. Lahore. Pakistan



#### **SC rejected** pleas with...

FROM PAGE 01 I am saying this as lawyer and not in the capacity of minister that this petition has been dismissed with 4-3 ratio. This petition should be decided in Lahore High Court and Peshawar High Court where the petitions have been filed in this regard.

#### TTP wants to push govt out of KP...

#### FROM PAGE 01

Terrorists used a range of tactics to attack varied targets, including Improvised Explosive Devices, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices, suicide bombings, and targeted assassinations. The report acknowledges that Pakistan took steps in 2021 to counter terror financing and to restrain some India-focused militant groups. Pakistan reviewed and revised its 2015 National Action Plan (NAP) to counter terrorism, reducing the NAP from a 20-point plan to 14 key points.

But the report complains that Pakistan made meagre progress on the most difficult aspects – specifically its pledge to dismantle all terrorist organisations without delay or discrimination. The report identifies IS-K as another group which poses a significant threat to Pakistan and is composed primarily of former TTP members, the Afghan Taliban, and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

## Australia in control after India all out for 109

#### WEB DESK

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Following the talks in

Beijing Belarusian President Al-

eksandr Lukashenko and Chinese

President Xi Jinping adopted a

joint statement on the main prin-

ciples of developing exemplary

relations of all-weather and com-

prehensive strategic partnership

between Belarus and China in a

new epoch, BelTA has learned.

The leaders of the two countries

met both one-one-one and with

the participation of their dele-

gations and talked much longer

than planned, clearly demon-

strating a mutual interest in the

issues on the agenda and a focus

on results. A big package of docu-

ments on cooperation in various

areas was signed as part of the

A memorandum of understand-

two heads of state's meeting.

NEW DELHI: The hosts lost nine wickets to spin and were bowled out for 109 in 33.2 overs, with Matthew Kuhnemann claiming his first five-wicket Test haul. In reply Australia reached 156-4 - a lead of 47 with opener Usman Khawaja making 60 before becoming one of spinner Ravindra Jadeja's four wickets. India lead the four-Test series 2-0 after big wins in Delhi and Nagpur.

They know a 3-1 series win or better will secure their place in June's World Test Championship final at The Oval, while Australia need to at least draw one of the games to seal their place. India's total was their fourth-lowest at home in the past 15 years and contained four

single-digit scores. Nathan Lyon took three wickets for Australia, and Todd Murphy the other, before Mohammed Siraj was run out to

end the innings just after lunch. Australia lost Travis Head early, who was promoted to open after David Warner was ruled out of the match with concussion and a fractured elbow. Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne (31) put on 96 for the second wicket, before Jadeja removed both and Steve Smith, who is captaining the side with Pat Cummins in Australia with his ill mother, in the final session. "I tried to score when I saw a scoring opportunity and respected the good ball when it came," Khawaja told BT Sport.

"It was nice to build a partnership with Marnus, the start was the toughest time to bat against the

new ball because it was inconsistent. The partnership blunted them a bit, but it's not an easy wicket. "It felt pretty tough the whole time I was out there and I don't expect it to get any better." Meanwhile, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has overtaken England seamer James Anderson to become the number-one ranked bowler in the world. Anderson, 40, ended Cummins' four-year reign last week but drops to second despite taking three wickets in England's one-run defeat by New Zealand in Wellington on Tuesday. Ashwin, who first topped the rankings in 2015, took six wickets in India's six-wicket win in the second Test, including the key wickets of Smith and Labuschagne in the same over in the first innings.

### Nadal out of Indian Wells and Miami

LOS ANGELES: Rafael Nadal will miss the ATP 1000 events at Indian Wells and Miami, the 22-time Grand Slam champion confirmed on social media on Tuesday. "I am sad that I won't be able to compete at Indian Wells nor Miami," Nadal said in a tweet which came after Indian Wells officials announced he had withdrawn from the tournament in the California desert that starts next week. "Very sad not to be there. I'll miss all my US fans but I hope to see them later this year during the summer swing." The news comes after the Spaniard said in late January he expected to miss six to eight weeks with the hip flexor injury he sustained at the Australian Open. "We wish Rafa continued healing, and hope to see him back at the BNP Paribas Open next year," Indian Wells tournament director Tommy Haas said in a statement. Nadal, who said on January 26 that tests had confirmed a moderate muscle tear in his left hip, posted video on Twitter showing him training in the gym. "Took my time off, started rehab, gym and physiotherapy as instructed by the doctors," he said. "Getting ready to come back the in the best conditions." That likely means for the clay-court season that starts in mid-April and leads into Roland Garros, where he would be chasing a 15th French Open title in May. - APP

it is not the job of political parties to fix election date. However, the Pakistan League-Nawaz's Muslim (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 suomotu notice of an apparent delay in the elections of the two assemblies, on February 23, following President ArifAlvi's announcement of the date of polls, a move that drew strong criticism from the government. As per the CJP, the suomotu 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. It is important to note that four judges had objected to the constitution of the bench and suomotu jurisdiction under Article 184(3) and wrote dissenting notes after the initial hearing on February 23. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice YahyaAfridi and Justice Athar Minallah had requested the chief justice to form a new bench to hear the case. Moreover, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Afridi, Justice SayyedMazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Minallah dissociated themselves from the case.

During the hearing o Tuesday, Justice Mandokhail remarked that Article 48 of the Constitution states that every act and step taken by the president would be on the government's advice. CJP Bandial seconded Justice Mandokhail's remark, saying that the deciding a date for the polls would be based on the advice under Article 48. Moreover, President ArifAlvi's lawyer Salman Akram Raja said that his client has decided to withdraw his advice for the general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the province's governor had dissolved the assembly - unlike Punjab, where the governor did not. "The president has stated that it is the right of the governor to issue the election date," Raja said. Raja conceded that the president went beyond his constitution al powers and that he did not have the right to announce the election date in KP, adding that President Alvi gave the election date according to the constitution and law.

### UN, Syria slam attempts to politicize humanitarian aid

NEW YORK: The United Nations and Syria have condemned attempts by certain parties to politicize the humanitarian response to the massive earthquake that caused tremendous destruction in the northwestern sector of the war-ravaged country. Nations must "depoliticize" the humanitarian response for victims of February 6 earthquake in Syria, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, told the UN Security Council on Tuesday. It is not the time "to play politics with crossings across borders or front lines ... this is not the time for military action or violence," Pedersen said by video link. He made clear that the situation was "unsustainable" and the status quo "totally unacceptable." Syria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Bassam al-Sabbagh, also stressed that the Damascus government strongly opposes the efforts to politicize humanitarian aid response to quake victims. "International efforts to address repercussions of the earthquake must now focus on reconstruction of the essential infrastructure and repair of the damage that utilities have suffered," Sabbagh noted. He added that Damascus spares no effort to provide relief aid to people in quake-hit areas in northwestern Syria. "Syria is determined to deliver humanitarian aid to all affected people," Sabbagh said. The top Syrian diplomat lamented that restrictions imposed on Syrian hospitals, and international pharmaceutical companies' refusal to sell medicines and medical equipment have aggravated the burdens of Syria's health sector. "The illegal US control over oil and gas reserves in the northeastern part of Syria, and constant smuggling of petroleum out of the country have deprived Syrians of the multi-billion-dollar proceeds from their national assets," Sabbagh said. - Agencies

## Pogba returns as Juventus fight back to win derby

#### SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Paul Pogba made his first appearance of the season as Iuventus twice came from behind to win the Turin derby 4-2 on Tuesday. Earlier in the evening, Cremonese, who had not won all season, upset Roma 2-1 as Jose Mourinho received a red card, and the visitors missed a chance to finish the 24th round inside the Serie A top three. Pogba played for the first time since returning to Juventus last summer when he came on as a 68th-minute substitute against Torino. Another Frenchman. Yann Karamoh, gave visiting Torino the lead after a first-minute corner. Juan Cuadrado levelled with the help of a deflection after 16 minutes. Antonio Sanabria restored the Torino lead after 41 minutes when he met a cross with a sharp first-time shot that surprised Wojciech Szczesny at the near post. Danilo levelled in added time, his powerful header from a corner bouncing across the line off the post. Pogba replaced Enzo Barrenechea with 22 minutes left. Three minutes



later, Bremer gave Juventus the lead for the first time with another header from a set piece. French midfielder Adrien Rabiot completed the scoring with 10 minutes left. Pogba's last competitive appearance was for Manchester United in the Premier League in April. He went off injured early in the first half of a 4-0 loss to

Liverpool and did not play again last season. He rejoined Iuventus in the summer but injured his right knee in July. The return of Pogba last summer generated great enthusiasm among Juventus supporters, delighted to see the return of a player whose first spell at the club (2012-2016) was punctuated by four league titles.

It is estimated to have between 3,000 and 5,000 fighters and has claimed responsibility for attacks on civilians and government officials in Pakistan.

#### PTI hails verdict as...

#### FROM PAGE 01

Shah also said that when the Lahore High Court had taken up the matter and ruled that the elections should be held in 90 days so the Supreme Court shouldn't have taken suomotu notice on it," a jubilant FawadChauhdry said after the SC verdict. "So he is also agreeing with our stance. And it's a victory for the Constitution.

Meanwhile, stopping Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid from speaking outside the apex court following the verdict, Fawad said that the president has been asked to announce the election in Punjab while the governor is directed to fix the poll date in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Supreme Court, the PTI leader added, has bound the federation to provide al sorts of support with its security or provision of funds.

### **Bosnia celebrates 31st anniversary of independence** On the occasion of Independence Day of Bosnia & Herzegovina spokesperson's of Pakistan's

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassy felicitate the Government and people of Bosnia

**News Desk** SARAJEVO: Bosnia and Herzegovina Wednesday is celebrating the 31st anniversary of its independence from former Yugoslavia with a referendum held on Feb. 29-March 1, 1992. Alija Izetbegovic, a politician, writer, and lawyer, came to international prominence during the country's bitter 1992-1995 war and led the country to independence from the former Yugoslavia. It was in Izetbegovic's Islamic Declaration, published in 1970, that Bosnian independence, national consciousness, and the expansion of Islamic thought found an audience. His writings landed him in trouble with the Yugoslav authorities. Along with 12 other Bosniak scholars, he was jailed for 14 years after being accused of "separatism and establishing an Islamic state" in 1983, but was released five years lat-

er. He entered politics that same year and founded the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) in 1990 to empower Bosniaks in their land. SDA in Bosnia – one of the six republics of Yugoslavia - won 86 seats in the 240seat parliament in the first multi-party elections of 1990. In February-March 1992, a referendum on independence for Bosnia-Herzegovina was held, with 99.44% of votes in favor of independence and a 64% turnout rate. A month later, the EU and US rec-

the

most

ognized the new state. then-political However, leader of Bosnia's Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, rejected the result and was the political face of an armed campaign that culminated in ethnic cleansing and a return to mass murder in postwar Europe. But neither during the ensuing war nor during the 1995 Srebrenica genocide of thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys did Izetbegovic lose

the spirit of resistance. In November 1995, Bosniaks - amid international pressure - stopped the war and signed the Dayton Agreement, bringing peace to the country. The Dayton Peace Agreement, which ended the 1992-1995 war. brought peace while causing the country to have

1995, ended a brutal civil war in Bosnia that resulted in around 100,000 deaths over three-and-a-half years. However, nearly 3.5 million people today are living in one of the most fragile and multi-ethnic states in the world, facing economic difficulties and political deadlocks due to a complex constitutional

structure. Dayton complex political structure in the world. The deal is viewed as "an built expired peace agree-Bosment" in the country. nia and The accords, initiated Herzegoviat the Wright-Patterson na as a single US Air Force base near state, but con-Dayton, Ohio, on Nov. 21, sisting of two

entities - the Croat-Muslim Federation of Bosnia and Republika Srpska - as well as Brcko, a neutral, self-governing canton. The accords, agreed upon by then Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnia's Izetbegovic, and Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman, also established several mechanisms that institutionalized Bosnian, Serb, and Croat divisions. The tripartite presidency of the country is a clear example of the structural complexity. The country also has eth-

nic quotas in public institutions, and the groups have veto rights on "vital interests" in decision-making. This hybrid political establishment has led to the country being governed by three presidents, 14 prime ministers, and 136 ministers for nearly three decades. So, citizens at local and national levels are apathetic toward influencing political decisions country" on Dec. 15, 2022.

tional shortcomings. The peace agreement and its system have been publicly described as one which "needs an update." Meanwhile, the agreement is also viewed as an obstacle to Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress, as well as its membership in the EU and NATO. Although the "Dayton 2" or "New Dayton" debates are often on the agenda, those who make use of the complex system do not allow such discussions to remain on the agenda for long periods of time or make necessary changes. At the point of Dayton's update, the only major powers and the international community are involved. Like other countries in the Western Balkans, Bos-

due to a range of institu-

nia and Herzegovina's primary goal in foreign policy is to become a member of the EU. The country officially applied for membership to the EU in 2016 and took the first step of a long road by obtaining the status of "candidate

#### Imran Khan suspends...

FROM PAGE 01 In a split verdict, the Supreme Court asked the president to consult with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and fix a date for elections in Punjab while the governor KP was ordered to announce a date for the election in the province. Imran Khan, whose party was one of the petitioners in the election delay case, said it is an assertion of the rule of law in Pakistan.

#### Maryam summoned..

FROM PAGE 01 District President Zaheer Muhammad filed a petition in the court, seeking registration of a case against the PML-N leader under section 22-A 6 and 22-B. Maryam, as per the notice's contents, has been summoned before the court along with the SHO.

## 07

## **BUSINESS / WORLD**

Islamabad **POST** Thursday, March 02 , 2023

### **Briefs**

## Nigeria: Tinubu wins presidential polls

ABUJA: Nigeria's rul ing party candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been declared the winner of the country's presidential elections. Tinubu, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress, garnered 8.7 million votes in the race held from Feb. 25-26, according to Mahmood Yakubu, the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The main opposition Peo-

ple's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Atiku Abubakar received 6.9 mil lion votes while Labor Party (LP) candidate Peter Obi got 6.1 million. In Nigeria, which has a population of around 206 million, 18 candidates vied for the presidency.-Agencies

#### European airlines face recovery risks

BRUSSELS: European airlines face recovery risks due to weaker macroeconomic conditions, Fitch Ratings said in a statement Tuesday. The rating agency said lower disposable income, higher ticket prices, lagging corporate demand and travel restrictions, particularly those related to Russia's war on Ukraine, will be key factors that could affect air travel and air traffic recovery in Europe. "Leisure demand continues to outperform that from the corporate sector. Weaker macroeconomic conditions will affect the pace of recovery in both segments, but corporate travel could be more exposed to such pressures,' it said. Fitch said it expects the pace of air travel recovery to moderate this year, after having a solid recov-ery in 2022 supported by leisure travel demand in the post-coronavirus pandemic period. Global air traffic in 2022 was at 68.5% of its pre-pandemic levels of 2019, the International Air Transport Association

# **Erdogan implies May 14 election after quakes**

#### **News Desk**

ANKARA: The people of Türkiye will do what is necessary on May 14, President Recep Tayyip Erdo an said Wednesday, all but confirming the date for Türkiye's much-anticipated elections in the wake of the devastating earthquakes that claimed over 45,000 lives. Addressing his ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) meeting in Parliament in the capital Ankara, Erdo an hit back at his opposition "for failing to address the needs and pain of the people" and said his administration's priority was on earthquake recovery for now. His remarks followed a slew of accusations from his opposition who claimed Erdo an's government had been "late" in responding to the disaster on Feb. 6, and "ill-prepared" ahead of the tremors. "Our nation will not favor those liars," he said.

"We are removing the rubble, we are healing the wounds. We are winning the covery from the disaster," hearts and will give our peohe stated. The president ple a new future," he said. censured the opposition



Erdo an said he did not respond to the opposition's allegations because the government was occupied with helping people ever since the earthquakes occurred, while the opposition was concerned about its own interests. "Our only agenda now is the earthquake, the suffering it caused and re-

clout" after the catastrophe while the people have been "fighting for their lives." "We leave those who haven't found the time to care for our people's troubles while quarreling over (presidential) candidacy to their shallow world," he said. Erdo an listed the search and rescue operations and recovery efforts that were deployed in the immediate

parties for "chasing political

aftermath of the earthquakes, saying, "The state has been on the ground since the first hour." Following the earthquakes, a debate started on the postponement of elections but the opposition parties have announced that the vote should go ahead as planned on May 14. An official from the AK Party dismissed the idea of postponing the elections in statements

on Monday. A delegation from the Supreme Election Board (YSK) left for earthquake-hit areas on Monday to examine whether a secure election is possible in the region. They will also look into possibly setting up polling stations at "tent and container cities" where earthquake survivors are currently accommodated. The elections are expected to be a tight race according

#### to the opposition alliance while some polls show Erdo an's clear lead against the six-party alliance, commonly dubbed the "table for six." The alliance announced earlier this week they would name their much-anticipated candidate for the upcoming elections on Thursday.

The alliance has been delaying settling on a candidate for the past year since the election atmosphere has gripped Türkiye. They were scheduled to reveal their nominee on Feb. 13. a date announced before the Feb. 6 earthquakes in Türkiye's south. The deadly catastrophe upended the country's agenda and politicians are now focused on mobilization for earthquake victims. The IP trails closely behind the Republican People's Party (CHP) in election polls and the two parties are the strongest in the alliance. IP Chair Meral Aksener and CHP leader Kemal K1 cdaro lu met on Monday ahead of Thursday's meeting for what the media has called "a bargaining for a candidate."

rebel-held northwest **Syria** DAMASCUS: World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus visited rebel-held northwestern Syria on Wednesday, his first trip to areas outside Damascus's control since

a devastating quake last month, an AFP correspondent reported. Tedros was the high-

WHO chief

visits

est-ranking United Nations official to visit the rebel-held zones since the February 6 quake.

He entered from neighbouring Turkey via the Bab al-Hawa crossing and visited several hospitals and a shelter for those displaced. the correspondent said.

The Bab al-Hawa crossing is located in the Idlib region, which UN officials rarely visit and is controlled by the jihadist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. In the aftermath of the quake, activists and emergency teams in the rebel-held northwest decried the UN's slow response, contrasting it with the planeloads of humanitarian aid that have been delivered to government-controlled airports. UN relief chief Martin Griffiths admitted on February 12 that the body had "so far failed the people in northwest Syria". A total of 420 trucks loaded with UN aid have crossed into the rebel-held pocket since the tragedy.

More than four million people live in areas outside government control in Syria's north and northwest, 90 percent of whom depend on aid to survive.

Tedros's trip comes after he met President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on February 12.–APP

#### Türkiye quakes death toll passes 45.000

WASHINGTON: The death toll from the devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye has risen to 45,089, the country's disaster management agency, AFAD, said early Wednesday. On Feb. 6, magnitude 7.7

and 7.6 quakes struck 11 provinces - Adana, Adi-

### Russia accuses Ukraine of preparing 'nuclear provocations'

The statement called on relevant international bodies to pay close attention to the information about possible provocations with nuclear materials and warned Kyiv against "reckless actions, putting in danger lives and health of thousands of civilians"

MOSCOW: Russia on on one of the bulk carriers." Wednesday accused According to the minis-Ukraine of preparing "nutry, radioactive monitorclear provocations," claiming system was disabled at the time of the cargo's ing radioactive material was delivered to the Ukrainian handling. "As a result of a ports of Odesa and Chorjournalistic investigation, nomorsk. "On Feb.16, conit was established that the supplier of this radioactive tainers with radioactive substances and English-lansubstance is the American guage labeling were delivcompany Frontier Technolered from the territory of ogy Corp., engaged in the one of the European states production of containers to the port of Chornomorsk for radioactive isotopes, especially neutron radia-(Odesa region), bypassing customs inspection," the tion sources," it said. The Foreign Ministry said in a ministry quoted Ukrainian statement on its website. bloggers as voicing concern citing Ukrainian media. over a possibility of deliv-"On Feb.19, similar containery of components for amers containing the radioacmunition modification and "even manufacturing a dirty tive substance 'Californium-252' ... actively used in bomb." The diplomatic serchecking the integrity of vice recalled the Russian nuclear reactors of nuclear Defense Ministry's earlier power plants, were delivwarnings that Ukraine was ered to the port of Odesa preparing nuclear provo-

Serbian leader defiant

after Kosovo talks

end in Brussels

BELGRADE: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic vowed to nev-

er recognise Kosovo after refusing to sign an EU-backed deal

aimed at normalising ties between the rivals, following failed talks

Brussels hosted the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia on Monday,

as the European Union ramped up pressure on the long-time

bitter foes to iron out a pathway for an agreement that would

lead to "de-facto" normalisation of ties. But despite vows that an

agreement was close at hand, the talks ended in a stalemate with

both sides blaming the other and insisting many issues remained

unresolved that would prevent an agreement. Vucic took to the

airwaves late Tuesday where the president told viewers he would

never recognise Kosovo and had no plans to help clear their

way to United Nations membershi . "As long as I am presi-

dent, I will not sign or accept either formal or informal recog-

nition of Kosovo or Kosovo joining the United Nations," Vucic

said during a televised interview. Serbia refuses to recognise

the unilateral declaration of independence Kosovo made in

2008, and bouts of unrest erupt between local authorities and

the Serb minority in the former breakaway province.-APP

this week that aimed to deliver a breakthrough.

cations aimed at accusing Moscow of strikes at radiation-hazardous objects that may lead to the leak of radioactive substances and contamination of the area. The ministry said the information about possible nuclear provocations resonated among Ukrainians and residents of neighboring countries of Eastern Europe. "It cannot but cause concern that such events are taking place in the immediate vicinity of Transnistria, around which the Kyiv regime is deliberately escalating tensions. "We should also not forget that the mentioned ports of Ukraine are involved in the 'grain deal'. The question involuntarily arises, are these harbors and the humanitarian corridor in general being used for some other pur-

poses?" the ministry ques-

tioned. The ministry noted that the Ukrainian authorities do not comment on the information, alleging that this may mean that Kyiv "is ready to use any excuse to escalate the conflict in order to receive military and financial assistance from the West." "He (Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy) does not care that such adventures can lead to catastrophic consequences and mass death of people," it stressed. The statement called on relevant international bodies to pay close attention to the information about possible provocations with nuclear materials and warned Kyiv against "reckless actions, putting in danger lives and health of thousands of civilians."-Agencies

#### Pak, Germany launch project to strengthen climate resilience

ISLAMABAD: In an effort towards enhancing the country's ability to cope with the impact of climate change, particularly in vulnerable communities and sectors such as health, agriculture, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the German Cooperation, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), have launched the Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience Project in Pakistan The Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience (SAR) Project in Pakistan prioritises gender-inclusive and socially inclusive approaches to ensure that the project's benefits are equitably distributed among different communities, including women, youth, and other marginalized groups .The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. During the launch. Mr. Sved Mujtaba Hussain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), appreciated the support of the German government and highlighted that the SAR project will play an important rôle in bringing together all stakeholders from the federal and provincinal level. He urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure the project's success and underlined the importance of sustainable development for Paki stan's future. He added that the SAR project will support us in identifying Pakistan's climate change vulnerability and enable us to address the impacts of climate change. SAR will also support us to take on board the insurance industry through the Global Risk Modelling Alliance (GRMA). Dr. Sebastian Paust, Head of Development Cooperation, German Embassy, Pakistan said "Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions outline a number of priority areas, such as strengthening early warning systems for extreme weather events, developing climate-resilient infrastructure, and improving water management and irrigation practices.-DNA

(IATA) announced on Feb 6. International air traffic last year jumped 152.7% compared to the previous year, according to IATA.

#### Kosovo upholds Serb ex-minister's conviction

The Court of Appeals in Pristina announced on Tues day that it has upheld the conviction of Ivan Todosije vic, a Serb former minister in the Kosovo government, for inciting ethnic, racial or religious intolerance with his comments about the January 1999 massacre of Kosovo Albanians in the village of Racak/Recak, which he claimed was staged.

The court found that Todosijevic's claims "fully reflect intent" to express hatred. It added that claiming that the Racak/Recak was a fabrication "is an insulting and contemptuous expression towards a community, but towards the victims who suffered in that incident".

The court specifically con demned Todosijevic's use of the phrase "Albanian terrorists". In his comments three years ago, Todosijevic claimed that "the Albanian terrorists are the ones who made this [Racak/Recak massacre] all up and committed the biggest crimes in Kosovo". He made the statement at a ceremony in 2019 marking the 20th anniversary of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, which was launched to stop Slobodan Milosevic's military campaign against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The Racak/Recak massacre, in which 45 Kosovo Albanians were murdered, was one of the incidents that sparked NATO's intervention in the country. As a result of his statement, Todosijevic was fired from his position as minister for administration and local government in the Kosovo government. Todosijevic previously told Pristina Basic Court that his statement was not anti-Albanian. "I did not intend in any way to offend anyone, especially the [Kosovo] Albanian community," he said. Commenting on the Todosijevic verdict during an interview with Serbian public broadcaster RTS on Tuesday evening, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucio said it showed .- APP

yaman, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaras, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Sanliurfa.

More than 13 million people in Türkiye have been affected by the quakes as well as many in northwestern Syria. On Tuesday, Türkiye's president pledged to reconstruct the country's southern region in the wake of the powerful earthquakes.

'With the completion of debris removal activities. we are starting the reconstruction and revival of our region," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a press briefing in Elbistan district of Kahramanmaras province, where the quakes had their epicenter. "In a few months, we are starting the construction of 309,000 houses, including village houses, throughout the earthquake zone," he added. AFAD said more than 11,000 aftershocks occurred following the earthquakes.-DNA

#### US 'committed' to Brazil's Amazon Fund

BUENOS AIRES: US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry said Tuesday that Washington is "committed" to working with Brazil's Amazon Fund, an initiative to support sustainable development in the rainforest, but did not give a precise figure for how much they would contribute.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Brazil's Environmental Minister Marina Silva, Kerry acknowledged that any funding would need to be approved by the US Congress as he touched on two bill proposals. "We have a piece of legislation in the Senate that has \$4.5 billion as its target. We have one in the House that has \$9 billion as its target" he said. "It's bipartisan in both places, but we know we will have a fight to get things through," he added. Silva thanked Kerry for his commitment, acknowledging that there are other ways to collaborate such as carbon credits whereby developing nations receive financial compensation from developed nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.-Agencies

#### ISLAMABAD: UN Women delegation led by Country Representative Sharmeela Rassool in a group photo with Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf and others at Parliament House.-DNA

## President Mirziyoyev, Blinken discuss bilateral ties

#### DNA

Uzbekistan. TASHKENT: The President of the Republic of Uzbek-

istan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the United States of America headed by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. A wide range of topical issues on the agenda of bilateral relations in the political, trade, economic, investment, educational, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as key aspects of regional cooperation were considered. At the beginning of the conversation, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken conveyed greetings and best wishes of the President of the United States Joe Biden to the Head of Uzbekistan. The resolute commitment of the United States to support the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Uzbekistan was once again emphasized. The high assessment was given and full support was expressed for the irreversible democratic transfor-

mations and socio- economic field of ensuring human reforms being carried out in rights and gender equality, combating forced labor, The great progress in the reforms in the field of freedom of speech and media support, the development of civil society institutions and many other areas was

particularly noted.During the meeting, the high level of Uzbek-American multifaceted relations was noted with

great satisfaction. The importance of further development of full-scale cooperation was confirmed, including in the framework of promoting an effective Dialogue of strategic partnership and continuing productive exchanges at different levels. Particular at-











### Briefs **7th Census** begins in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 7th population and housing census

has started in Islamabad Capital Territory for which 873 enumerators have

been tasked to carry out the important survey in

1,783 blocks. Talking to a

state run news agency, the

spokesperson of Islamabad

Capital Administration, Dr

Abdullah Tabassum said

that Deputy Commission-

er Islamabad Irfan Nawaz

Memon held a meeting for

the census in various union

councils of Islamabad and

reviewed the arrangements.

He said that the census was

a continuous activity which

is "significant in policy-mak-

ing and resource allocation".

"It is a fundamental tool for

measuring population which

is expected to provide im-

portant data for planning

and development in the cap-

ital city," he added. Mean-

while, the deputy commis-

sioner has urged the citizens

to provide accurate informa-

tion to the census workers

for ensuring the success of

Special

envoy for

Afghanistan

resigns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior dip-

lomat Mohammad Sadiq

Pakistan's special envoy

to Afghanistan resigned

on Wednesday, thanking

colleagues for helping him

the census survey.

## CARs Ambassadors eye huge trade potential with Pakistan

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan are estimated to be over 90-billion-dollar market with huge potential for business and investment, however, Pakistan's trade with these countries is not up to mark

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) opened CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk to help its members in promoting trade and exports with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan. The Desk was inaugurated by H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan, H.E. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan and H.E. Ulanbek Totuiave Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan during their visit to ICCI.

Speaking on the occasion H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan congratulated ICCI for opening a Facilitation Desk for CARs and Azerbaijan as it would boost Pakistan's trade ties with these countries. He said that ICCI should set up a web portal on its websites for CARs to help private sectors of Pakistan and CARs to share business proposals with each other. H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that the geographical location of Pakistan is special for CARs and Azerbaijan as these landlocked countries can access many markets through Pakistani ports. He said Azerbaijan would launch more direct flights with Pakistan to promote people to people and B2B ties.

H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that the ICCI Facilitation Desk would be a great milestone to promote trade ties. In April the direct flights between Almaty and Lahore and in May between Almaty and Karachi will start. H.E. Ulanbek Totuiave Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said that his country is keen to promote strong economic ties with Pakistan and said that this Facilitation Desk would help in achieving this goal. He said that his country will organize the Investment and Business Forum and invited the ICCI delegation to participate in it. H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan termed the Facilitation Desk a very good initiative to promote Pakistan's business relations with CARs and Azerbaijan. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

serve in the crucial position. Mohammad Sadiq said in a series of Tweets on Wednesday that after serving nearly three years as Pakistan's special envoy to Afghanistan, the time had come for him to move on and focus on personal stuff - family, books and



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and Heads of Economic Sections of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkiye and others cutting the ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of "CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk" at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. - DNA

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Central Asian Republics from various sources, and Pakistan can become

a major exporter of these high value products to them. Similarly, Pakistan can import energy and other products from these countries.

He said that Pakistan also provides shortest routes through its ports to the landlocked CARs for international trade. He hoped that the CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk at ICCI would help business community in identifying new areas of promoting trade and investment with these countries. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan is a gateway for CARs. He said that Pakistan can import energy from CARs and export many products to them that they

need. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI stressed that the work on CASA 1000 and TAPI projects should be expedited for their completion that would bring many benefits to Pakistan's economy. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI also spoke on the occasion and highlighted many areas that offer good potential for business collaboration between Pakistan and CARs & Azerbaijan. He stressed the need of regional cooperation and development as the bilateral relations are important, but real economic development is only possible by the regional cooperation among Pakistan, CARs & Azerbaijan.

Pakistan grieved over loss of lives in Greece Covid-19 likely originated from China lab: FBI chief train accident

(CARs) and Azerbaijan are estimated to be over 90-billion-dollar market with huge potential for business and investment, however, Pakistan's trade with these countries is not up to the mark. He said that Pakistan can export many products to these countries including textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, electrical appliances, communications, machinery & equipment and various services. He said that these countries import a large variety of machinery and equipment

agriculture, and more. The prominent diplomat wholeheartedly thanked the prime minister and all his colleagues for supporting him during his mission as their special representative for Afghanistan. Mr. Sadiq's resignation was accepted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who appreciated his efforts in the capacity of Pakistan's envov to make Pakistan-Afghanistan relation work.

#### US dollar delivers another heavy blow to rupee

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar delivered another hard punch to the Pakistani rupee in the interbank trading on Wednesday, going up by a healthy margin of Rs1.25.

According to the information received from the forex dealers, the Pakistani rupee was under pressure and cleared the way for the greenback to flex its muscles by gaining Rs1.25 and was currently being traded at Rs252.75. - DNA

#### WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: FBI Director Christopher Wray has said that the bureau believes Covid-19 most likely originated in a Chinese government-controlled lab. "The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident," he told Fox News. It is the first public confirmation of the FBI's classified judgement of how the pandemic virus emerged. Many scientists point out there is no evidence that it leaked from a lab. And other US government agencies have drawn differing conclusions to the FBI's. Some of them have said - but with a low level of certainty - that the virus did not start in a lab but instead jumped from animals to humans.

The White House has said there is no consensus across the US government on the origins. A joint China-World Health Organization (WHO) investigation in 2021 called the lab leak theory "extremely unlikely". However, the WHO investigation was deeply criticised and its director-general has since called for a new inquiry, saying: "All hypotheses re-

#### Saudi Arabia to train Hajj pilgrim leaders The training program includes

a detailed explanation of the pilgrims' trip and covers all aspects of performing Hajj and crowd management skills

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has launched a program to train the leaders of foreign Hajj pilgrim groups before their arrival in the Kingdom. The first session was held in Tabung Haji, in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, and was attended by



main open and require further study." Mr Wray's comments come a day after the US ambassador to China called for the country to "be more honest" about Covid's origins. In his interview on Tuesday, Mr Wray said China "has been doing its best to try to thwart and obfuscate" efforts to identify the source of the global pandemic. He said details of the agency's investigation were classified but the FBI had a team of experts focusing on the dangers of biological threats.

more than 30 group leaders. The aim of the program is to improve the quality of service for pilgrims, facilitate their trip and enrich their religious and cultural experience, in line with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. The event, which came under the directives of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was sponsored and attended by Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, Arab news reported . Further sessions will be organized in other countries before the start of this year's Hajj season.

The training program includes a detailed explanation of the pilgrims' trip and covers all aspects of performing Hajj and crowd management skills. The training center aims to work with all agencies involved with Hajj and Umrah both within the Kingdom and overseas. It contributes to raising the quality of administrative and field services provided to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and offers the best programs to teach and prepare trainees. - APP

### **Russia closes in on Bakhmut** as Ukrainian resistance persists NEAR CHASIV YAR: Russian forc- Ukrainian armoured vehicles roared

es carried out relentless attacks on Bakhmut on Wednesday, trying to encircle the small eastern Ukrainian city and claim their first major prize for more than half a year after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused Moscow of throwing waves of men into battle in Bakhmut with no regard for their lives. The leader of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said the Ukrainians were putting up "furious resistance" trying to hold the city at all costs. Russia also said it had repelled a massive drone attack on Crimea, the peninsula its forces seized and claimed to annex in 2014. That came a day after Moscow accused Kyiv of launching a series of drone strikes on targets in Russia itself. Reuters was able to reach Bakhmut from the west on Monday, proof that the city was not vet surrounded despite Russian forces pressing from north and south to close the last routes in. Flames and smoke rose into the sky from blazing buildings. Constant gunfire and explosions rang out into the sky.

through the streets, while stray dogs wandered amid the mud and debris. Thousands of residents remain inside the ruined city from a pre-war population of around 70,000.

"It is frightening indeed," said a middle-aged man bundled in a coat and woolly hat on the steps of his apartment block. "I can hardly move my legs - they barely move - from the stress of the situation," he said. "As long as my home is intact and I am not hurt, I will stay here." In the town of Chasiv Yar to the west, a grocery shop was ablaze. "We won't give up Bakhmut. We will hold on to it until the very last," a 25-yearold army medic headed towards the front told Reuters. "Glory to Ukraine, death to the enemies." The area around Bakhmut has been the one part of the front where Moscow has made substantial gains during a winter offensive that has seen what both sides describe as the bloodiest fighting of the war. "Russia in general takes no account of people and sends them in constant waves against our positions, the intensity of the fighting is only increasing," Zelenskiy said in an overnight address, describing the fighting in Bakhmut as "most difficult" but its defence as essential.

In an audio message on social media, Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose Wagner private army has led Russia's offensive there, said the Ukrainian military was throwing extra reserves into the battle, "trying to hold the town with all their strength". "Tens of thousands of Ukrainian army fighters are putting up furious resistance. The bloodiness of the battles is growing by the day," he said. After losing extensive territory in the second half of 2022, Russian forces have been replenished by hundreds of thousands of reservists. Kyiv, for its part, has stuck mainly to defence over the past three months, hoping Russia's assault will exhaust Moscow's forces before Ukraine launches a counter-attack with new weapons promised by the West. Fighting near Bakhmut has been

led by Wagner, which has recruited tens of thousands of convicts from prisons. Its boss Prigozhin has accused the regular Russian army brass of treason for inadequately supplying his men. Wagner received an apparent show of Kremlin support on Wednesday when Russia's rubber-stamp lower house of parliament, the State Duma, discussed extending censorship laws to include a 15-year jail sentence for those who discredit "volunteer formations". "This initiative will protect everyone who today is risking their lives to ensure the security of the country and our citizens," Duma chairman Vyacheslav Volodin wrote on social media. "The punishment for violators will be severe." Ukrainians and Russians traditionally view March 1 as the start of spring. Already, frozen ground has melted at the front, bringing the season of sucking black mud -"bezdorizhzhia" in Ukrainian, "rasputitsa" in Russian - notorious in military history for destroying attacking armies in the region. - Agencies

ATHENS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Greece has expressed condolences on the news of the tragic train accident.

In a Twitter message the Embassy said, we convey our heartfelt condolences on the news of the tragic train accident in central Greece and extend deepest sympathies to the grieved families who lost their loved ones. We pray for the quick recovery of those who were injured in the accident'. It may be mentioned here that two trains collided head-on in Greece killing at least 32 people and injuring 85 late on Tuesday night, the fire brigade said, but the cause of the deadliest rail crash in Greece in decades remained unclear.

### All problems of GB to be addressed on priority: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, and the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid discussed the constitutional issues of Gilgit-Baltistan and the plan of mutual consultation regarding the determination and supply of wheat price. According to a statement issued on Wednesday, a detailed exchange was held during the meeting about the security situation in Gilgit-Baltistan, development projects, budget issues, and wheat supply. Qamar Zaman Kaira said he had met the Prime Minister regarding salaries, development projects, and wheat supply in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said he will continue to solve the problems of Gilgit-Baltistan regardless of any political affiliation. He said the whole country was facing problems due to the prevailing economic crisis, however, relevant forums would

approached be economic prob-Gilgit-Baltistan. Kaira added, the of all the provinccut, but the annu-Gilgit-Baltiof maintained. In the wheat supply and also discussed in dealso agreed upon to set action regarding wheat determination and supply with mutual consultation of all polit-

ical

- APP

parties.

An intercity passenger train travelling from Athens to the northern city of Thessaloniki collided at high speed with a cargo train outside the city of Larissa in central Greece, said the governor of the Thessaly region. Thessaly regional governor Konstantinos Agorastos told that the first four carriages of the passenger train were derailed in the crash, while the first two carriages, which caught fire, were "almost completely destroved". He said the two trains hurtled towards each other on the same track." They were travelling at great speed and one (driver) didn't know the other was coming," governor said. - DNA

**Rain-wind** thunderstorm likely

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind/ thunderstorm with snow over hills is likely in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Gilgit-Baltistan. Kashmir, Islamabad, upper/ central Punjab and Potohar region during the next 24 hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

Hailstorm is also expected at a few places during the forecast period. Few heavy falls are also likely to occur in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Kashmir and north Balochistan. Cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the country. In Islamabad, cloudy weather with rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, cloudy weather is expected in most districts of the province. However, rain-wind/ thunderstorm snow over hills is expected in Chitral, Kurram, Waziristan, Dir, Swat, Balakot, Kohistan, Kohat, Peshawar, Mardan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. Few heavy falls are also expected in upper areas during the period. - APP

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