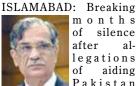
A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** Soon From LAHORE & KARACHI www.islamabadpost.com.pk **ISLAMABAD EDITION** Tuesday, March 07, 2023 Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper Price Rs. 25 **Poisoning of students Greek PM asks** Verstappen wins unforgiveable crime, season-opening court to expedite Bahrain GP says Khamenei rail crash cases **Detailed News On Page-0 Detailed News On Page-07 Detailed News On Page-06 Briefs**

Fmr CJP Saqib Nisar breaks silence

DNA



of aiding 💹 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan, former chief justice Saqib Nisar Monday said that in his erstwhile court verdict, he did not "completedeclare ex-premier Sadiq and Amin (truthful and honest).

Detailed News on Page 03

"Imran Khan was declared Sadiq and Amin on three points. Akram Sheikh had only asked for a verdict on the points he gave against Khan.

Saqib Nisar still playing facilitator

DNA ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Mon day that the

PTI chief to be arrested upon court appearance

Marriyum says Khan hiding behind women and children to avoid arrest SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has lashed out at PTI Chairman Imran Khan who dodged police on Sunday to avoid his arrest, claiming that the day, he will appear before the court, he will be arrested. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that 'a ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leader foreign-funded agent, a Toshakhana gifts thief' and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif was acting like a jackal and hiding behind has said that it would be better to let women and children to avoid arrest for his PTI chief Imran Khan flee than to arcrimes. Addressing the media persons here, rest him. Talking to the media men in she said when the police contingent left, the Islamabad on Monday, Khawaja Asif cowardly Imran Khan came out and started

bragging and abusing the institutions. son had held the law and constitution of Paki-

Continued on Page 06

Kh Asif opposes Imran arrest

STAFF REPORT

said "The whole nation witnessed the other day what a coward Imran Castigating, Imran Khan, she said this per- Khan is. He was hiding like a mouse.' "Look at their double standards, stan as a hostage. The minister observed that ShibliFaraz said Imran Khan was despite all his actions, he was being treated not at his Zaman Park in Lahore but by the justice system leniently. She said it after some time he made an address was clear to everyone that the louder, he from the same place," the minister would scream, the sooner he would get relief. recalled. Asif said the government Marriyum Aurangzeb said Imran was aware would benefit from Imran Khan's that if he would attack, bully and threaten the cowardice. Responding to a question, Judiciary, he would get bail. Criticizing Imran the PML-N leader said minor differfor his constant refusal to appear in courts, ence of opinion in a coalition government is a routing. "The PPP has always sided with the allies," he added.

SHAMIM SHAHID PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Monday summoned officials from the Election Commission of

with her German counterpart Dr Tobias Lindner here on Monday. - DNA security men martyred in 9 Bolan blast

Interior Minister vows to bring culprits to justice

STAFF REPORT QUETTA: In yet another terror incident, at least nine personnel of the Balochistan Con-

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar holds a meeting

President, PM vow to eradicate

former chief justice Saqib Nisar was still playing a facilitating role for the former premier Imran Khan. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Attaullah Tarar said the former CJ was calling the judges for the facilitation of Imran Khan while suggesting he should not get himself involved in the politics. He said that false cases were registered against the government of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz in past.

TV actor Qavi passes away at 80

DNA



80 years old. A recipient of the Pride of Performance award, the senior actor was staying with his children in Canada these days owing to his illness. He was said to be suffering from cancer, and was being treated in Canada. Qavi Khan was one of the first actors of Pakistan Television Corporation when it was launched in 1964 with its drama Nazrana.

Public rally in Lahore on Wednesday Banning live telecast a clear fascism: PTI Imran Khan moves LHC against Pemra's ban on broadcast of his speeches

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership came down hard on the fascist government for imposing ban on airing speeches of PTI Chairman and registering another two FIRs against him and vowed that these brutal tactics would not work because he was the leader of the 220 million ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions people who loved him immensely.

PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi, PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry and PTI Central Secretary Information Far- sion of the non-bailable arrest warrant rukh Habib on Monday declared that the ca- issued for him in the Toshakhana case. bal of crooks could not achieve their nefari- Additional Session judge Zafar Iqbal ous designs through such fascist tactics, as announced the verdict he had reserved the PTI and Imran Khan's popularity were earlier in the day after a brief hearing increasing with each passing day.

They said that the imported government was looking to escape the elections because Imam and Gohar Ali Khan appeared bethe gang of thieves were cognizant of the fore the court. Bukhari contended that fact that they would face a humiliating drub- his client has always followed court orbing at the hands of PTI since the real elec- ders. While Imam argued that if Imran toral contest would be between PTI and in- Khan is willing to appear then the podependent candidates who could not secure lice cannot arrest him. At this, the judge PTI's tickets in the forthcoming elections. In his strong reaction, Qureshi said that approached the Islamabad High Court the fascist group occupying Islamabad for the suspension of the warrant. Howonce again resorted to silence the voice ever, Imam told the judge that they want of Chairman Imran Khan through PEMRA.

Continued on Page 06

Court dismisses Khan's appeal

DNA

court of Islamabad on Monday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's plea seeking the suspenof the case. During today's hearing, Khan's lawyers Ali Bukhari, Qaiser remarked that the PTI chief could have the sessions court to suspend warrant. While Bukhari added that PTI chief was

at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore.

Pakistan (ECP) to initiate "active and meaningan consultative process" ful regarding the date for the elections in the province following Supreme Court's verdict on polls. The governor, in a letter written to the ECP, has summoned the officials on March 6 or March 7. The letter has been written in response to a letter sent by the commission for the announcement of the election date. Continued on Page 06

ECP officials

summoned

for KP

election date

The apex court

had ruled for

elections in KP

and Punjab

Joe Biden reelection bid faces resistance

News Desk

LACONIA Steve Shurtleff was Joe Biden's side in 2019 when he filed papers in the New Hampshire State House to run for president. He repeatedly trekked across the state with Biden to court primary voters. And when Biden ultimately won the presidency, it was Shurtleff, then the Democratic state House speaker,

Continued on Page 06

stabulary were martyred while nine others sustained injuries in a bomb attack in Bolan, SSP Kachhi Mahmood Notezai told media on Monday. According to the police, the blast occurred near the Kambri bridge area of Bolan and the injured are being shifted to Divisional Headquarters Hospital.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kachhi, Mehmood Notezai, said that the preliminary evidence suggests it was a suicide attack, however, the exact nature of the blast could be ascertained after the investigations. He said that a bomb disposal team reached the site of the incident and the area is being searched after the explosion. The police said that three of the injured are in critical condition and are being shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Sibi.

Continued on Page 06

terrorism

Khayam Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed their resolve to free the country from the menace of terrorism. In their separate statements, both strongly condemned the suicide attack on the personnel of the Balochistan Constabulary in Sibbi that led to their martyrdom. President Alvi said terrorists would not be successful in carrying out their nefarious agenda. PM Sharif said terrorism in Balochistan was part of the nefarious designs to create instability in the country. The president and the prime minister paid tribute to the valour of martyred troops.

Staff-level deal with IMF likely next week

'Positive signs from the IMF have minimized the risk of Pakistan's default'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to sign a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) next week, as the fund is satisfied with Islamabad's efforts to meet the commitments for the revival of the stalled loan programme, media reported, citing sources. The sources privy to the development have declared the development as a positive sign for the revival of the stalled loan programme after the 9th review as the IMF has appreciated Islamabad's efforts. Furthermore, the IMF is seen

as confident with the commitments of the State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed. The international lender has given the signal for the staff-level agreement with Pakistan, which is likely to be signed next week. It may be noted that the IMF was assured of the targets set in MEFP four times and the last condition of betterment in the foreign reserves was met with the rollover of Chinese loan, the sources said. The sources further added that the positive signs from the IMF have minimized the risk of Pakistan's default. Prior to the development, the agreement was expected to be signed on February 9 and later the finance minister Ishaq Dar claimed the signing of the agreement on February 14. - DNA

Inside.

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unlikely to be affected – Page 06 US supports

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Kyiv: Forces holding on in 'hellish' Bakhmut battle - Page 08

Pakistan committed to Doha Plan of Action Shehbaz says partnerships of LDCS with developed nations crucial for global prosperity

News Desk

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said Pakistan was committed to implementing Doha Programme of Action considering it as an opportunity to accelerate sustainable prosperity in the least developed countries. Addressing the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Qatar's capital Doha, the prime minister said partnerships of LDCS with developed nations, as well as the private sector and civil society, was

significant for global prosperity. PM Sharif emphasized exploring the opportunity to ensure sustainable development in the places where international assistance was needed the most.

He called upon the international community to join hands in tapping the full potential of the LDCs helping them make progress on the road to prosperity. He said the LDCs needed major investments in health, education and social protection systems, adding that vast



resources were required to fully implement Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The prime minister highlighted that many of the LDCs were already in or at risk of debt distress. Left unchecked, he said, economic distress and vaccine inequity would make recoveries longer and more painful than necessary. He said

Pakistan was committed to safe and effective vaccines and allocation of resources for LDCs. He pointed out that it was a matter of great concern that six LDCs had been classified as under extreme burden and added that the needy nations

Continued on Page 06

required a system of social protection.

Rabbani says no difference between PTI, Shehbaz govt

'The PPP is seemingly at crossheads with the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government over governance and economic issues'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani Monday likened the incumbent government to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime, which the sitting rulers had vehemently opposed. According to an official statement, the former Senate chairman - whose party is in the ruling alliance – said: "It seems be it the PTI or present governments want azadi [freedom] from Parliament and the Constitution, 1973." The PPP is seemingly



crossheads with the Pakistan Democrat-Movement ic (PDM)-led government over governance and economic issues as the country historic sees

inflation and reels from the damage caused by cataclysmic floods. In light of ongoing issues, Rabbani has sought clarifications from

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, March 07, 2023

Belarus to hold national exposition in Karachi on 10th This B2B event will provide an opportunity to conduct direct negotiations between Belarusian and Pakistani businessmen

DNA

02

ISLAMABAD: Belarus is national exposition on the International trade & industry Fair from March 10 to 12 to be held in Expo Center Karachi. Belarus will be represented by two national booths under a single brand 'Made in Belarus'. Belarusian delegation will include companies of steel&iron industry ('Byelorussian Steel Works' and 'Beltsvetmet) heavy vehicles industry (BelAZ), chemical and petrochemical industries ('Polotsk-Steklovolokno', 'Belshina', 'Naftan', 'Mineral Wax Plant, Grodno Azot' and its Branch 'Plant Khimvolokno'), representatives of the National academy of sciences of Belarus and State committee on Science and Technology (Scientific-Practical Materials Research Center, Experimental Plant for Mechanization of Agriculture, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Physical-Technical Institute, Institute for Meat and Dairy Industry, Belarusian Institute for System Analysis), as well as representative of universities (Belarusian State University, Belarusian National technical University, Belarusian State Technological University). The aforementioned Belarusian companies are manufacturers of mining

and dump trucks, experimental agricultural machinery, tinplate and steel billets, tires, glass fiber productions, lubricants and petrochemicals, fertilizers, yarn&cord fabrics, acrylic fiber, polyethylene products, as well as providers of scientific and technical services (detailed information is attached). With a view of promoting trade and economic cooperation the Belarus-Pakistani business forum will be held on March 11, 2023 at 14.00 in Expo Center Karachi. This B2B event will provide an opportunity to conduct direct negotiations between Belarusian and Pakistani businessmen.

The Belarusian delegates are planning to meet potential Pakistani partners from FPCCI and other regional chambers of commerce and industry, as well as representatives of the Pakistan Business Council, the Council on Scientific and Industrial Research, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, associations of chemicals and carpets manufacturers, iron&steel, yarn and tires merchants.

The Belarus embassy has invited Pakistani business circles to visit the National stand of Belarus on March 10-12 in Expo Center Karachi as well as the Business Forum on March 11 and use this opportunity for strengthening cooperation ties and signing new trade contracts. The embassy also extended sincere appreciation to the administration of the Economic Gateway of Pakistan and the National Center for Marketing of Belarus for assistance in organising these events.

Hindu community celebrates holi festival

SUKKUR, The Hindu community of Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Jaccababad, Kashmore-Kandhkot, Shikarpur and other districts of northern Sindh are celebrating the annual religious festival of Holi here on Monday.

Community members are spraying red, yellow and silver powder on each other, as the Holi is regarded as the beginning of the spring season. Colorful events were held in different localities of the Sukkur region and temples of the Hindu community, where children and women also participated with warmth and religious devotion in the day-long proceedings.

Special ceremonies are being held at Sadhu Bela Temple, situated on the Indus River, Liaquat Chowk Temple, Sukkur and Balmiki Sabha Temple of Saddar Mohallah Shikarpur, Station Road, Khairpur, Pakistan Chowk Kashmore- Kandhkot, Mirpur Mathelo and other areas. Holi festival proceedings in Shikarpur were led by veteran Hindu astrologist Mangay Ram and other local social activists. Holi festival also celebrates with devotion and colorfully by the Bagri community, a scheduled caste of the Hindu community, in Kandhkot and Noshehroferoze.-APP

Next mayor of Karachi will belong to PPP as single largest party Ghani, who is also PPP Karachi Division President, said that PPP had secured 84 seats in the city while Jamaat-e-Islami had clinched 82 UCs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said that an attempt is being made under a conspiracy to make the recent local government elections in Karachi controversial. Talking to media persons here outside the Election Commission of Pakistan head office on Monday, Ghani said that the Pakistan People's Party had emerged as the single largest party in Karachi in the latest local government polls as the next mayor of the city would belong to the PPP. He said the ECP the previous day had issued the notification of the winning candidates of the local government polls in the city. The ECP had withheld the results of the polls in 20 union committees in Karachi, he said. Ghani, who is also PPP Karachi Division President, said that PPP had secured 84 seats in the city while Jamaat-e-Islami had clinched 82 UCs. He told media persons that PPP's victory on two more seats in Karachi had been confirmed after the recounting of votes. He said the ECP had unduly withheld results of polls on six seats in Karachi at the behest of Jamaat-e-Islami as such a decision shouldn't have been taken in the presence of election tribunals. He

said the ECP had decided to itself conduct the hearing of the cases of these six UCs. Ghani informed media persons that local government elections in Karachi held on January 15 were the most transparent and fair polls in the history of the city. He said that not a single bullet was fired anywhere whereas no death was reported due to any violent incident during the polling in Karachi. Ghani said that thousands of presiding officers and returning officers had performed their election duties in Karachi but none of them had been contacted by him either before the polls

or after it to pressurize them. He informed the journalists that the PPP would have won at least 125 seats in local government election to form the next city government without the support of any other party had there been any plan by it to rig the polls. He said the people of Karachi had completely rejected the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf in the latest polls as the PTI was also involved in the attempts to make the polls controversial. He told media persons that PPP had emerged victorious in such areas of Karachi where in the past it had traditionally won the previous elections. He said the PPP had recognized the mandate of the Jamaat-e-Islami in Karachi as the latter should do the same to acknowledge the People's Party's victory in the city.



ISLAMABAD: Maj. Gen.(Retd) Nadir Khan, Amb-designate to Ukraine called on Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar.-DNA

Murree hotel owners asked to get registration within 15 days

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Tourism Department on Monday asked the hotel owners of district Murree to obtain registration with the department within 15 days.

During a meeting with the Murree Expressway and Patratia area hotel owners, Assistant Director of Operations Punjab Tourism Syed Khurram Hasan and field supervisor Zahid Iqbal told the owners of hotels and restaurants that registration and licensing were necessary with the Department of Tourist Services. They gave a detailed briefing about the procedure of the hotel's registration and license fee to the owners and gave them 15 days in this regard. "To promote tourism, all

hotels and motels would be registered with the tourism department phasewise", they added.-APP

Mid-career foreign diplomats visit SCCI SIALKOT: The Mid-Career Foreign Diplomats from nine countries on Monday extended their full support and cooperation to Sialkot exporters for promotion of their bilateral trade and ensuring the direct easy access of Sialkot-made products to these countries. They visited the several leading industrial units in Sialkot, amid tight security here on Monday. While addressing an important meeting held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), the diplomats assured to make all out sincere efforts to ensure smooth access of Sialkot made export products to their countries, besides, promising to promote positive and soft business image of Sialkot-Pakistan globally. They also showed keen in-terest in SCCI's documentary "Sialkot...a city of the progress people".

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik gave a detailed briefing to the diplomats about the socio-economic and human development of Sialkot as well as achievements, targets, future goals. President SCCI hoped that these foreign diplomats would help Sialkot exporters in expansion of trade between the countries. He added, undoubtedly, the promotion of country-to-country linkages depends on better coordination, interaction and understanding among business communication, for which the diplomatic channels could play an important role through mutual cooperation. . President SCCI said that inheritance of skilled craftsmanship in manufacturing surgical instruments from a history spanning over a century enabled us to manufacture premium quality surgical instruments which were exported to over 140 countries around the world. "I am pleased to share the guests that in addition to achieving business excellence, we have also done exceptional work in Social Sector Development and the welfare of the people through projects including Sialkot International Airport, Sialkot Dry port Trust, Sialkot City Development Program, Sialkot Export Processing Zone, Sialkot Business and Commerce Center, Sialkot Tannery Zone, and AirSial, he added.

Malik said that the project of Sialkot Medical City to provide quality health services was under the planning stage for implementation. Earlier, Mid-Career Foreign Diplomats from nine friendly countries, Mr. Ivan Kotov (Bulgaria), Dr. Calleb Ongoma (Kenya), Ms. Christine Nzumbu (Kenya), Ms. Aminath Raziyya (Maldives), Mr, Jama Hasan Salad (Somalia), Mr. Mashudbele Charies Mamabolo (South Africa), Mr. Ihab Abdulrazig Abdallah Mohamed (Sudan), Mr. Mirzoaliev Norinch (Tajikistan), Mr. Mereturdy Abdullayev (Turkmenistan). Mr. Azizbek Mizamov (Uzbekistan) and Mr. Oybek Abdulkhakov (Uzbekistan),witnessed the internationals standard craftsmanship of Sialkot based artisans. - DNA

Chief Collector Customs honors



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki meets Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani.-DNA

Petition seeking non fixation of case before justice Nagvi filed

The petitioner has requested that reference filed against Justice Naqvi be fixed for hearing early and no case be fixed for hearing before Justice Naqvi till the decision of this reference. Justice Naqvi be not included in any bench till the decision of the reference

ISLAMABAD: A new petition has been filed by advocate Mian Dawood in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) praying that reference filed by him against Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi be heard early besides separating justice Naqvi from court matters.

The petitioner has already filed reference against Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi. The petitioner has taken plea in his two pages new petition that reference is

already pending hearing in SJC against Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi.

cause list issued for the current week that Justice Naqvi is still hearing the cases. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) has included in the bench with him. CJP has made Justice Mazahir Nagyi head of a separate bench too. Voices are being raised all over the country for accountability of Justice Naqvi. Including Justice

We came to know from the the CJP message was given to the people that Justice Naqvi is being backed. Fixing cases for hearing before Justice Naqvi runs contrary to the principles of justice. He said that such steps from CJP will raise question on the credibility of the decisions of cases pending hearing with Justice Naqvi. The decisions of the bench

Naqvi by CJP in the benchcious of which Justice Naqvi es is violation of norms of will be a member. The presjustice. Due to this step by tige of the judiciary was further hurt in the eyes of people due to this decision of CJP. The petitioner has requested that reference filed against Justice Naqvi be fixed for hearing early and no case be fixed for hearing before Justice Naqvi till the decision of this reference. Justice Nagyi be not included in any bench till the decision of the referwill be considered suspience.-Online

Director PAJCCI with award

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Saleem has honored Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PA-JCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi with award for effective projection of problems faced by business community of the province. The award was conferred

two-day

annual

conference

Medical Association (PMA)

has arranged its two-day an-

nual conference which was

attended by medical prac-

titioners from across the

Addressing the event,

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

said that the sacrifices

rendered by healthcare

professionals, especially

during COVID-19 are un-

He paid tribute to the doc-

tor community for their

commitment and dedica-

tion to providing a health

care system to the com-

ical Association to sup-

port health professionals. While talking about the

restoration of PMDC, he

said that the objective

behind the restoration of

PMDC was to support the

doctors' community and to

acknowledge their pivotal

role in providing health

"Our doctor community

is our pride because of

their professionalism and

commitment." The speak-

er said that wherever and

whenever he visited any

foreign land he always

gets compliments about

the Pakistani doctors.

Parliamentary Secretary

for Climate Change Naz

Baloch said that PMA's

role is important in raising

the issues of the doctors'

community and for making

improvements in policies

to strengthen patient care

services across the coun-

try. –APP

care to common people.

mon people in Pakistan. He also applauded the role of the Pakistani Med-

ISLAMABAD:

country.

matchable.

pecially those associated with Pak-Afghan trade. The business commu-PMA holds

Pakistan

PUBLIC NOTICE of for issuance Administration ssion Certificate by Mr Ahmed with regards to ble & immoveable assets passed Ms. Rukhsar Bib number 6110117460724 en number 611011746072/ been received. Following declared as legal heirs, ia Bibi (Daughter)2.Hirr yaz (Daughter)3.Iram Bib yghter)4.Rashita Bib ughter)5.Arfaq Ahmed (Son Ah

Monday.

ned (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are nvited. Any aggreved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission o objection (if any) within fourteer (14) days after publication of this votice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

for issuance Administration plication tter of accession Certificate by ahammad Ashraf with regar moveable & immoveat sets of deceased Mr. Rosh Certificate by M Din citizen 6110142862525 has eceived. Following as legal heirs. I.Asma Nisar 2.Muhammad A

s legal heirs. Asma Nisar (Daughte Muhammad Ashraf (Sor Muhammad Aslam (Sor Mohammad Akram (Sor (Sor (Sor (Sor On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggreved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission o objection (if any) within fourteer (14) days after publication of this notice.

CHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

for issuance Administration plication tter of Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mr Khadim Hussain with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Rubina Rooh citizen number 6110112466494 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Rowhee Bhutta (Daughter 2.Khadim Hussain (Spouse) 3.Siawal Bhutta (Son) Sjawal Bhutta (Son) 3.5 Janual bottom (500) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved persor may approach in person the undersigned for submission o objection (if any) within fourteer objection (if any) within fo (14) days after publication

CHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU PUBLIC NOTICE of

to Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi dur- nity of KP and officials ing a meeting with chief of relevant government Collector Customs at departments have great his office, says a press regard for services renrelease issued here on dered by Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi for promotion of Before offering award, trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Muham-Chief Collector Customs highly appreciated sermad Saleem remarked. vices of Zia-ul-Haq Sar-It merits a mention here hadi for highlighting the that Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has also received awards problems being faced by business community esfrom Commerce and Trade and Federal Ombudsman departments

over his services for the

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Aslam Akram

cause of promotion of commercial activities in the region.

He plays an effective role in highlighting of different problems through contacting high ups of different departments besides issuing press statements in this regard. His services for establishment of Azakhel Dry Port and for making it promotional are acknowledged and appreciated by office bearers of different trade bodies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

for issuance Administration tter of Succession Certificate by Mr Syed Fahad Ali with regards to moveable & immoveable assets moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Syved lqtidar Ali citizen number 3740209606949 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Syved Fahad Ali (Son)2.Syved Usama Ali (Son)3.Syved Saad Ali (Son) Son)

(Son) On the above application th objections of public at large ar wited. Any aggrieved person ay approach in person th signed for submission of bjection (if any) within fourt (14) days after publication of th

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PUBLIC NOTICE



National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

MARCH

March 01 / Bosnia National Day

March 03 / Bulgaria National Day

March 06 / Ghana **Independence** Day

March 12 / Mauritius **National Day**

March 17 / Ireland St. 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 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

PIEDMC to assist ICCI in establishing industrial estate

Umar Saeed, General Manager (Coord), PIEDMC assured that they would provide all possible assistance and support to ICCI for the establishment of industrial estate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Under the instructions of the Punjab Government, a delegation of Punjab Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) led by Umar Saeed, General Manager (Coordination) visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) to discuss and assist ICCI in the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region. Ali Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Saleem and Tajdar Javed were in the delegation.

Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the delegation about the importance of a new industrial estate in the region and gave them



an overview of ICCI efforts achieve national in this regard. He said that ICCI has been making efforts of a new industrial estate since 2008 to boost industrialization and promote investment, as there is no further space in the region to set up new industries while Pakistan cannot

growth without industrial growth. He said that ICCI has already held meetings with the Ministry of Planning, CDA, RDA, and Puniab Government for this project and land was also identified at Hakla Interchange on Rawalpindi Ring Road, but

due to the re-alignment of ies RRR, no further progress could be made. He said that ICCI needs at least 5000-6000 acre of land for industrial estate to meet future needs of industrialization and stressed that PIEDMC should help in identifying suitable land near twin cit-

Zikria A. Zia, President, Islamabad Industrial Association, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Khalid Javed, Nasir Qureshi, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Mian Shaukat Masud, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Shaban Khalid gave comprehensive presentation on

Saudi Embassy announces video competition

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al Malki says Pak-Saudi relations have always been a fascinating topic.

In a tweet, he said the Saudi embassy in Islamabad is looking forward to the creativity of Pakistani youth, as it has announced a short video competition on 'Pak-Saudi Relations' to hunt the talent.

According to the Saudi embassy's official Twitter hanvide all possible assistance dle account, it is organizing and support to ICCI for the this healthy competition to mark the 70th anniversaestablishment of industrial ry of the visit of the "first MC has good experience of Governor General Ghulam developing industrial estates Muhammad to Saudi Arabia in March 1953 and his meeting with King Abdu-laziz.-Online sites for ICCI that should

ANF participates in Sibi Mela-2023

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has participated in annual Sibi Mela-2023 to create anti-drug mass awareness. According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, the participation of Regional Directorate, ANF Balochistan in annual Sibi mela-2023 was for creating anti-drug mass awareness. He informed that three-day annual historical and cultural Sibi Mela concluded on Feb 5, was celebrated with zeal and zest. RD ANF Balochistan also participated in the event where people from different segments of society were present, he added. An anti-drug Awareness stall was organised and banners were displayed for creating general awareness and projection of message of drug free Pakistan.

He informed that RD Comd Balochistan also attended the event. Anti-drug brochures were also distributed especially among the youth, he said.-APP

1000 teachers trained under HEC-BC project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with the British Council has successfully completed a one year long Research Capacity Building Programme to train the full spectrum of research professionals. An 'Outcome Dissemina-

tion Ceremony' of this series of training programs was held at HEC's Secretariat in Islamabad to mark its successful completion. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed training in 23 workshops and distinguished guests, including Head of Education, British Council Pakistan, Ms. Sarah Pervez, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research of Coventry University UK, Prof. Richard Dashwood, Prof. Elena HEC Advisor, Gaura.

vision, Mr. Awais Ahmad kistan". He said that for the last 20 years, HEC has and Director General R & ID Mr. Hazrat Bilal Undone lot of work in the reder this programme, more search arena despite many than 1000 faculty memfinancial challenges. HEC bers have been trained with the help of governon research skills like ment of Pakistan is com-Research proposal develmitted to give exposure to opment, project managethe researchers and makment, research support ing sure that continued investment ensured for highmechanism, embedding impact pathways into reer education sector. The search and application of progress evident from international best pracmany indicators besides research publication show tices in peer review process. Across the research continuous improvement. streams, some 71 ORIC More than thirty thousand professionals, 391 Republications are published searchers, 330 Principal every year by Pakistani Investigators and 237 reresearchers. He urged the viewers have received this programme trainees to become master trainers for

focus on addressing today's dominant social, economic, and agricultural problems in Pakistan. He concluded that this is high time to pay back to the society through innovation and impactful research.

Mr. Awais Ahmad, in his welcoming remarks said, "this is the first of its kind holistic intervention by the HEC under the umbrella of PAK-UK Education Gateway. It is encouraging to note that under this project, in the short time span of one year (starting from Feb 2022) more than 1000 principal investigators, research & Commercialization support service providers at ORICs and our grant reviewers have been trained. The ceremony also included presentations from Prof. Dr. Elena Gaura to give insights to the audience. She shared that co-creation has been heart and soul of this programme.

My Whatsapp hacked: Ex CJP

the project to the delega-

tion and identified various

sites near the twin cities

including Fateh Jhang area

for industrial estate. They

hoped that PIEDMC would

help ICCI in early materiali-

Umar Saeed, General Man-

assured that they would pro-

estate. He said that PIED-

and would identify various

have easy access to the twin

cities. He said that ICCI

should nominate a focal per-

son to work with PIEDMC

for this project. Both sides

discussed close coordination

to turn the dream of industri-

al estate into a reality.

(Coord), PIEDMC

zation of this project.

ager

ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar has said his whats app has been hacked and he fears it can be used for some specific purpose. " I had not declared Imran Khan fully Sadiq and Ameen. It was given political color. A book will be published after my death containing all facts, he said this while talking to a private TV channel here Monday. He held " my whatsapp has been hacked since two days and it has not been recovered so far. It is apprehended that my mobile data can be used for some specific purpose. Those who have hacked my mobile will face humiliation. He went on to say that earlier one audio was made by combining my different videos. Interfering in some one private life falls in the domain of theft. He underlined those who don't know the alphabet of law is talking about the decisions at present. Who is attacking the courts at present has remained favorite of the courts some time. He has received relief always from the courts except one case. He observed "when I had not become chief justice Nawaz Sharif had started saying in different circles I am his own chief justice. I had recused my self from the bench in Panama case. I had made open notice about the period in disgualification case that whosoever wants to assist the court can assist. The time for disqualification was fixed in the light of law and constitution. The former CJP said he had not declared Sadiq and



Enquiry

EdhiAmbulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

CDA	9221334-43
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Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	
Cantonment Board 9270151-3	



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 Rawal Town......5773343



held across Pakistan. Chairman HEC. Mukhtar Ahmed, said, the 'Outcome Dissemination Ceremony' is a testament to the success of the program and the commitment of the HEC and its partners to promoting Global Engagement Diresearch excellence in Pa-

cy and sustainability" at COMSTECH auditorium on Monday.

sustainability and preservation of

South that also includes the 57

Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

which are still in need of

face the consequent neg-

economic growth on the

He said that this challenge

balance between promoting

servation. He discussed the

ious stakeholders on the basis

other researchers so that Dr. they progress to excellent professional researchers and conduct solution oriented and impactful research. He also enlightened that HEC would announce rapid research programmes to address social problems, this call will

biodiversity and the earth's resources

sential part of the museum

display to guide the visitors

regarding exhibits or diora-

mas but with time, the inte-

become essential to offer

deliver knowledge effi-

PMNH has decided to uti-

meaning.-APP

Sherry demands courts to take notice of Imran lies



ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator, Sherry Rehman on Monday demanded that the Court should take strict notice against Imran Khan for obstructing judicial and police proceedings and telling lies. In a series of tweets, the federal minister said PTI Chairman Imran Khan, who spoke about the rule of law, lied to avoid arrest. Senator Rehman said, "This

is the same person who sent all political opponents to jail for revenge in the past. Asif Ali Zardari and all other politicians rendered their arrest in fabricated cases with courage."

She added that Imran Khan hid behind his party workers every time to stop legal and judicial proceedings. Imran Khan was so afraid of arrest that he did not personally receive court notices from the police, she said.

gration of technology has The Minister said Khan had hidden in the Zamanat Park seamless experiences and (dubbing Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence as bail ciently so keeping in mind park) to avoid arrest, and the police were shown an empty lize the technology of QR room. Sherry Rehman fur-Code. The visitors can use ther mentioned that but after their Smartphone camera the police left, Imran came to scan the code which out and lectured his party will be available with each workers on rule of law and exhibit that links to the inmorality. "He demands sepformation about it, like auarate law and justice for the dio transcripts explaining entire nation and a different its history and scientific one for himself," she concluded.-APP

Amin fully to Imran Khan. It was given political color. I had declared Imran Khan Sadiq and Amin in 3 points. I gave three points in writing that decision should be given on these three points. Imran Khan proved Sadiq and Amin in these points. My judgment on three points against Imran Khan is still there. He underlined that head of PKLI was appointed at the behest of a peer. The key to problems facing the country lies in democracy, he added. Hindrances were created on the way to polls in 2018 which were thwarted. Babar Yaqoob is witness to it. -Online

USAID assists KP PPRA to create e-procurement system

ISLAMABAD: The United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), assisted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KP PPRA) to create an e-procurement system. This customized software will standardize and automate the KP government's procurement functions to increase efficiency, transparency, and security.

U.S. Consul General Peshawar Panfilo Marquez and US-AID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman joined Chief Secretary KP Imdad Ullah Bosal and Managing Director KP PPRA Mian Adil Iqbal to commemorate the successful design and launch of the new software, said a press release issued here on Monday.

"The government's responsibility to wisely spend taxpayers' money and have a transparent record of those expenditures is crucial in earning the people's trust in their government," said Consul General Marquez. "I commend the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority for recognizing the significance of accountability and making efforts to strengthen the procurement process." "USAID is proud of our decades-long partnership with the KP government," said Mission Director Aeschliman. "Together, we have improved the lives and livelihoods of the Pakistani people through activities and programs related to economic growth, education, healthcare, and of particular importance at this time - relief and recovery from last year's catastrophic floods." Since 2010, USAID has provided more than \$2 billion in development assistance to support the people of KP, it added. $-\hat{A}PP$

CDA vacates 25 kanals land from encroachers

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has vacated around 25 kanals of government land from the encroachers during an anti-encroachment operation on the premises of the Quaid-e-



Azam University. "The anti-encroachment operation was launched by the CDA at the request of Quaid-e-Azam University administration, said a press release. The authority has demolished as many as 83 shops and two newly constructed houses during the operation.

The CDA has also demolished two boundary walls built on government land during the operation."All encroachments established outside the Quaide-Azam University have been removed," it said.

The operation was conducted by CDA with the participation of the Islamabad Administration and Islamabad Police.-APP

Popular comedian Amanullah remembered on his death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Popular comedian Amanullah was remembered on his third death anniversary here on Monday. Born in Gujranwala in 1950, he shifted to Lahore at an early age where he used to sell toffees in buses and at Data Darbar to make ends meet.

Fond of singing, his earliest performances were at the Data Darbar. His first stage performance was "One Man Comedy Show" at a local theater in Lahore in which he performed mimicry of famous celebrities. His first television play "Sixer" with producer Iqbal Effendi was a huge hit. Some of his famous stage plays include "Basheera in Trouble" and "Landa Bazaar".

Amanullah performed over 2000 stage plays in a career spanning some 40 years and worked with all the big producers of the time. A renowned name in the entertainment industry, Amanullah worked tirelessly for decades to bring his personal brand of wholesome comedy to television.

He was a part of a number of successful shows, both on television and on stage. including the wildly popular shows Mazaaq Raat and Khabarnaak. Some of his most popular stage performances include Begum Dish Antenna, Disco Deewane and Shartiya Mithe. His contributions to the industry were rewarded with a Pride of Performance Award by the Government of Pakistan.

Amanullah was reportedly suffering from a number of illnesses, including kidney and liver failure which has been reported as the major cause of death. He had also suffered a cardiac arrest and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) owing to severe pneumonia.-APP

"QR Code

Project" ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Museum for Natural History

(PMNH) has planned to execute a novel initiative the "QR Code Project" to enable visitors to get educational insight into the natural history specimen collec-

science diplomacy. He pointed out that COMSTECH is leading the OIC effort to mobilize the resources of the 15 leading OIC member states (OIC-15 Dialog Platform) to cooperate on major science and technology initiatives for economic development. He welcomed the diplomats representing a large number of OIC and non-OIC countries.-DNA **PMNH** to execute

in the face of climate change is more challenging in the Global countries of the Organization of He said that these countries rapid economic development, ative impacts of expanded environment and biodiversity. requires a careful scientific development and enabling conpossible course of action of varof science diplomacy. Prof. Zakri stressed the need for enhanced role of science in multilateral negotiations to overcome the problems of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Role of science

diplomacy stressed

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized a one-day introductory course on "science diploma-

The course was addressed by the Chairman ATRI Advisory, Malaysia and the former Sci-

ence Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid, and Additional

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kamran Akhtar. The welcome address was delivered by the Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and

the Adviser COMSTECH, Dr. S. Khurshid Hasanain, delivered the introductory remarks.

Dr. Zakri delivered two lectures, and explained in both lectures, that the drive towards

Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Additional Secretary (ACDIS) from the Policy Planning and

Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke about the essentials

of science diplomacy in different areas of international negotiations emphasising its role

as a soft power to advance diplomatic objectives and creating goodwill. He further de-

scribed Pakistan's contribution to multinational scientific initiatives such as the CERN

LHC collaboration in physics. With regards to the control on greenhouse gas emissions

he emphasized that while it is a common problem of all nations, there has to be a graded

responsibility for reduction in emissions based on the contributions of various nations

towards the current state of the environment. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, the Coordina-

tor General of COMSTECH speaking on the occasion explained the role of COMSTECH

in the domain of science diplomacy. He mentioned its ongoing initiatives on health and

medicine in sub-saharan Africa, its cooperation on food security with concerned organi-

zations and its award of research grants to scientists in member states as examples of

tion through digital means.

The visitors of the museum

will be able to scan a QR

code through their smart-

phone or tablet to get in-

formation about any of the

Education and awareness of

the masses about the vari-

ous environmental issues

and natural resources of

this country is an important

For this purpose, a modest

Display Centre has been de-

veloped which is visited by

a large number of students

and other members of the

The Teacher Guide is an es-

public on a routine basis.

exhibited specimens.

function of PMNH.

04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, March 07, 2023

Briefs

Railways earns Rs28 bln in six months despite flood devastation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has earned significant revenue of Rs 28.263 billion during the last six months from July to December 2022 from its regular operations despite closures of train operations during flood devastation.

"The expenditure in the same period was Rs. 52.990 billion, out of the total expenditure, whereas 35 percent of it was related to pensions and 33 percent to salaries of the department," said an official document available with APP.

In the same period, July-December, 2022, Pakistan Railways received a subsidy of Rs. 21.750 billion as a grant in aid from the federal government. However, the net deficit for the period July-December was Rs. 2.977 billion, it said.

Pakistan Railways is trying its level best to transform it self into a profitable organization despite financial constraints. The department in this regard has developed a two-pronged action plan that included concentration on core activities and emphasis on revenue generation through non-core activities. Pakistan Railways has been serving the nation since independence There have been decades of neglect when it comes to investment in railway infrastructure and rolling stock. This neglect has adversely impacted the financial need of the department.-APP

CTP providing 24/7 licensing services

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) on the directives of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Traffic were utilizing all available resources to provide 24/7 licensing services to citizens. City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Tamoor Khan during a surprise visit to the Driving License Branch of CTP Headquarters here on Monday informed that CTP had introduced a 24hour driving license service to facilitate the citizens. Special arrangements were made at CTP headquarters to provide round the clock driving license facilities to the public. He said that CTP were also making efforts for the provision of other related services and facilities to the public.-APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of tree which cause allergy, the pollen count in the capital has increased manifold which causes problems for the people sensitive to pollen, in Federal Capital. Online

Govt expenditures stand at Rs 203.11 bn under PSDP

The government also authorized the utilization of Rs 3.3 billion for the Climate Change Division out of which only Rs 854 million have been spent during the period under review

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has spent Rs 203.11 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2022-23 in the first seven months of the current fiscal year. The government, however, has

authorized the utilisation of development funds amounting to Rs 371.88 billion out of a total allocation of Rs 727 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and division in the first seven months (July-January) of the fiscal year 2022-23 under

Programme (PSDP). According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year. The government also authorized/disbursed Rs225 million for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) out of which Rs 207 million have been spent so far,

according to the latest data re-

its Public Sector Development leased by the Ministry of Plan- Rs 87 billion out of a total alning, Development, and Reform. The detail shows that Rs 95.1 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 160.2 billion have been disbursed to corporations while Rs 276.6 billion have been disbursed to the federal ministries out of a total allocation of Rs 563.3 billion.

For National Highway Authority (NHA), the government has disbursed Rs 46.5 billion out of a total allocation of Rs 117.2 billion, whereas for NTDC/PEPCO, the government has disbursed Rs 48.6 billion. The federal government has also disbursed/authorized

location of Rs 87.01 billion for various development projects of the cabinet division, however, only Rs 30.7 billion have been spent on the development projects of the cabinet division so far. Similarly, the data shows that Rs 2.47 billion have been disbursed to Aviation Division, and Rs 282 million have been disbursed to the Board of Investment.

The government also authorized the utilization of Rs 3.3 billion for the Climate Change Division out of which only Rs 854 million have been spent during the period under re-

For Higher Education Commission (HEC), the government has authorized the release of Rs 18.4 billion, and Rs 41.8 billion for provinces and special areas, Rs 550.6 million for the Commerce Division, Rs 63 million for the Communication Division (other than NHA), and Rs 1.35 billion for Defense Division. Likewise, the government also disbursed Rs 511 million to Finance Division, Rs 710 million to Establishment Division, Rs 2.4 billion to Federal Education and Professional Training Division, and Rs 14.2 billion to Hous-

ing and Works Division.

IRSA releases 96,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 96,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 56,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1447.13 feet and was 49.13 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 21,400 cusecs while outflow as 55,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1105.60 feet, which was 55.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 18,900 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 62,000, 39,800, 34,100 and 10,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.-APP

Half of world on track to be overweight by 2035

ISLAMABAD: More than half the world's population will be classed as obese or overweight by 2035 if action is not taken, the World Obesity Federation warns. More than four billion people will be affected, with rates rising fastest among children, its report says.

Low or middle-income countries in Africa and Asia are expected to see the greatest rises.

The report predicts the cost of obesity will amount to more than \$4tn (£3.3tn) annually by 2035.

The president of the federation. Prof Louise Baur. described the report's findings as a clear warning to countries to act now or risk repercussions in the future. The report in particular highlights the rising rates of obesity among children and teenagers, with rates expected to double from

2020 levels among both

Prof Baur said the trend

ing", adding that "govern-

ments and policymakers

around the world need to do

all they can to avoid passing

health, social, and econom-

ic costs on to the younger

generation" by assessing

'the systems and root fac-

tors" that contribute to obe-

sity. The effects of obesity's

prevalence on lower-income

countries is also highlight-

ed in the report. Nine of the

10 countries with the great-

est expected increases in

obesity globally are low or

lower-middle income states

Reasons include trends in

dietary preferences towards

more highly processed

foods, greater levels of sed-

entary behaviour, weaker

in Africa and Asia.

"particularly worry-

boys and girls.

was

PTDC to showcase Pakistan's tourism potential

ISLAMABAD, Mar 6 (AP-P):Pakistan is all set to showcase its rich tourism potential in the three-day mega tourism event titled "ITB Berlin 2023", to be held from March 07-09 at Berlin Expo Center City, Germany.

Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) along with other provincial and regional partners will showcase Pakistan's rich tourism potential in the event. According to the PTDC official, ITB (Internationale Tourismus-Börse) Berlin is the world's largest tourism trade fair held every year in Berlin which is expected to be attended by over 10,000 exhibitors and 160,000 visitors. The tourism boards, tourism departments tour operators, travel agents, hotels, system suppliers, airlines and car rentals agencies from more than 180 countries are among the companies that will be present at the event as exhibitors.

Participation of Pakistan in this International Tourism Exhibition can help create a soft image of the country internationally and enhance the Business to Business (B2B) and Government to Government (G2G) linkages in the tourism and hospitality sector of Pakistan and Germany. "The event will provide an opportunity to showcase the great potential of Pakistan's tourism industry and create linkages with the leading international players of the tourism industry which will greatly help attract more tourists" the official added.–APP

Over 332 fatalities in road accidents

ISLAMABAD: The most he added populous province of the country, Punjab witnessed a staggering number of accidents in February, resulting in 332 fatalities and over 7,000 serious injuries. Talking to APP here on Monday an official of Rescue 1122 said that rescue services provided aid in 31,487,001 accidents across Puniab last month. "Among the reported accidents, 7,016 individuals suffered severe injuries, and 3,590 accidents. 332 people lost their lives"

He said that the highest number of accidents occurred in Lahore, with a total of 7,193 incidents, followed by Faisalabad with 2.439 and Multan with 2,098 incidents. He said that of the 33,590 injured individuals, 27,278 were men, and 6,312 were women. He highlighted that motorcycles were involved in 27,261 accidents, rickshaws in 2,294, and cars in

In Lahore alone, he said

that rescue services provided aid in 7,193 accidents, and 1.276 individuals suffered serious injuries, with 23 fatalities.

He said that emergency rescue services were provided to 6,112 men and 1,245 women involved in accidents in the provincial capital. He suggested that capping the speed limit of bikes at 60 kilometers per hour could potentially reduce road traffic crashes in Punjab. The official emphasized the need to promote

electric bikes, which are not only environmentally friendly but also have lower speed limits.

The official stated that limiting the speed of bikes could help prevent accidents and save countless lives. He also called on citizens to take precautions while driving and consider the importance of following traffic laws, wearing seat belts, and using helmets while riding motorcycles.-APP

legendary actor Qavi Khan's demise

Sanjrani mourns

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the loss of renowned film, TV and radio actor legendry Qavi Khan, who left us for his heavenly abode last day.

In his condolence message, Chairman paid glowing tribute to Qavi Khan's contributions to the world of entertainment. "The vacuum created by Qavi Khan's death will not fill till last," he said, adding that his outstanding services in the showbiz industry will always be remembered. In this hour of sorrow, Sanjrani said, the bereaved family is being granted prayers and strength to bear this shock with courage and patience. May Allah forgive and elevate the deceased, and grant him a place in Jannah. Senate Deputy Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar, and Leader of the Opposition Senator Dr Shahzad Wasim also expressed their condolences and sorrow over Qavi Khan's passing.

Three-day Islamabad Taste festival concludes

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Taste, the capital's signature food festival with its Spring edition, concluded here late Sunday at F-9 park after attracting crowds of families and visitors. To support the culinary and music industry, the festival was presented by the Imarat Group of Companies. The event featured over 80 eateries, a music arena, various artist performances and amusement activities, with the aim to give people a break from their usual daily routine and spend time in quality recreational activities.

According to the organisers, the signature food festival, been held since 2019 nationwide, was supporting the culinary and music industry of Pakistan. Islamabad Taste Fest was back with Spring Edition on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March featuring eateries, music madness and a festive celebration of hospitality and the culinary industry.

During the festival, musical performances, live performances/concerts of trending and popular musicians/singers, including Young Stunners, Farhan Saeed, Rdb Mani. Nehal Naseem, Raamis, Shamon Ismail, Waqar Ehsin, Falak Shabbir mesmerised the attendees from the twin cities. "Such events are an opportunity to introduce new tastes and enjoy the authentic traditional tastes in a cultural and festive environment as we get crowds of food lovers during this festival while musical performances add more colour to the festivities of live food," said a stall holder in the festival.- APP

policies to control food supply and marketing, and less well-resourced healthcare services to assist in weight management and health education. Lower-income countries are "often the least able to respond to obesity and its consequences". The findings estimate that rises in obesity rates around the world will have a significant impact on the global economy, equating to 3% of global Gross Domestic Product. The report emphasises that its acknowledgement of the economic impact of obesity "is in no way a reflection of blame on people living with obesity". The data published in the report will be presented to

the UN on Monday. Obese is a medical term used to describe a person with a high excess of body fat. The report uses body mass index (BMI) to make its assessments. BMI is calculated by dividing an adult's weight by the square of their height.–**Online**

Pak-China coop to PNCA to highlight women issues upgrade Pakistan's through art tomorrow ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Na-

tional Council of the Arts (PNCA) is all set to unveil a fantastic new solo exhibition "Art from the Heart", by Naela Chohan who uses the medium of visual arts to counter narratives against Islam, Pakistan and women in general by Muslim women in particular here on March 7. Ms. Chohan is one the Pakistani women artist who has dedicated themselves to gender inequality issues. The artist is deeply inspired by Mrs. Samina Alvi, First lady of Pakistan 's commitment to creating awareness about Breast cancer which is a serious global issue, therefore Ms. Chohan intends to have one of her painting on the particular issue auctioned with all the proceedings from the auction going towards

charity. mining reserves of about The show will be open for general public from 7th Highlighting that the steel March and will continue till industry is the backbone 9th March, at National Art of Pakistan's development Gallery of PNCA. PNCA is and contributes 5% to the dedicated to promote Pakistani Art on local and inter-Bukhari, Secretary General national scale. Our elevate of Pakistan Association of and unique programs that Large Steel Producers (PALpresent the traditional and SP) told Gwadar Pro that contemporary art practices we reflect upon the exceltrial units were struggling lence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as support professional development of the artist, said the organizers.-APP

Women entrepreneurship show concludes preneurs from Northern Ar-

eas, Azad Jammu and Kash-

mir, Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral,

Swat, and Rawalpindi Is-

lamabad exhibited a range

Besides handicraft prod-

ucts representing Pakistan,

sideline activities of the

event included live cultural

performances, seminars, a

products.

ISLAMABAD: 'Her Hunar', an exhibition of eye-catching products to celebrate women's entrepreneurship concluded here late Sunday at Pak China Friendship Center of high-quality and unique after attracting a large number of visitors including families. Organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), during the 2-day event, women entrekids arena, and a food court featuring traditional cuisines from Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral, Swat, etc.

According to the organizers, Her Hunar was more than just an exhibition tapping the potential of women entrepreneurs. It offered exciting sideline activities for people of all ages to enjoy and make memories.-

steel industry DNA ISLAMABAD: China can transfer its technology and equipment to Pakistan to promote the upgrading of Pakistan's steel industry," said Li Sheng, General Manager of the Pakistani Branch of China First Met-

of Pakistan's mineral reallurgical Group Co., Ltd. in sources is one of the main an interview with Gwadar reasons for its dependence Pro. Li added, "with Chion steel imports. na's transfer of technology Meanwhile, the mineral reand equipment, Pakistan's steel industry can be more

concentrated and more

environmentally friendly,

because it can make better

use of the existing low-qual-

The output of the steel

industry in Pakistan is

far from enough to meet

the needs of its domestic

market. According to Steel

Statistical Yearbook, 2020

and data from World Steel

Association, Pakistan's do-

mestic demand for steel

and iron averages 7.3 mil-

lion tons per year, while

its annual production is

only 3.8 million tons. To

narrow the demand-sup-

ply gap, Pakistan has been

importing from different

countries, incurring exces-

sive costs. The poor quality

ity mineral resources."

sources are relatively concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the situation is relatively complicated, making it difficult to well exploit the mineral resources.

While on the face of it, Pakistan's steel industry is relatively backward, the overall potential for development is huge. Li Sheng analyzed, "in the upstream, its domestic mineral resources are rich and coal and iron ore reserves are huge; in the downstream, Pakistan's real estate and construction services industry is developing rapidly, and the steel demand is increasing, which is very conducive to the develop-



sources. According to Li's

research, Pakistani iron ore

is stored across the coun-

try, mainly in Punjab and

Balochistan, with proven

national economy, Wajid

over 20 major steel indus-

towards diversification. It is

essential to improve the steel

competitiveness of Pakistan

at the root level.

950 million tons.



Quad setting itself up as core of divisive 'Asian NATO'

he Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi followed hard on the heels of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the same city. Knowing that a small closed-door colloguing would be done after their big party dispersed, the rest of the G20 members should have been aware beforehand that their meeting was only a warm-up for the real guests of New Delhi.

A hanger-on of the United States, a partner with Russia and a neighbor with China, India, after contributing the observation "global governance has failed" in the G20 meeting, is doing a poor job in balancing its relations with the three.

The host did little to prevent the US from downgrading the G20 meeting into a Russia-bashing farce, and the joint statement issued after the Quad gathering was full of veiled attacks on China. Indeed, the Quad meeting shows that a NATO- style gang is being formed in the Asia-Pacific with the four as a geopolitical tool of Washington, a means-to-end for Japan, hedging-its-bets for a speculative India and an OK-I-am-in Australia, which doesn't want to be left out of anything led by the US.

In the joint statement, the bloc went to great lengths to sugarcoat its spearhead targeting China, by highlighting humanitarian aid as a key part of its agenda, as if the endless humanitarian crises the US has brought to the region and beyond after World War II are just tuition fees locals paid for their required lessons in US-style democracy. Not only is the Quad trying to expand its scope from security to almost all areas of an international body - just to gain more handles to drive a wedge between China and regional countries – it is also attempting to be the setter of the laws, rules, orders and values in the region. By saying in a panel discussion that as long as China abides by the rules of international institutions, standards and laws there would be no conflicts between China and the Quad, the only time China was mentioned, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi just showed how fast Tokyo, as a let-me-do-the-dirty-work servant in the gang, has learned the US' tricks. Washington likes to try and claim the moral high ground so it can dangle a plumb bob into the yard of other countries to measure the integrity of their actions. The Japanese foreign minister also stated that the four countries were in tune, comparing them to a classical musical quartet, The Beatles.

He should perhaps be reminded that the four members of that group outgrew each other and they disbanded acrimoniously.

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Tuesday, March 07, 2023

China's 5 percent growth target

hina sets its GDP growth target for 2023 at around 5 percent. We should enhance the intensity and effectiveness of our proactive fiscal policy. We should do more to implement a prudent monetary policy in a targeted way. Social policies should meet basic living needs... In the Government Work Report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang on March 5, a series of key targets and policy directions have provided an important window for observing China's future development. It is worth noting that the international community generally believes that the 5 percent target is "moderate," "gentle," and "cautious." In other words, it is lower than the expected target from the outside world. Previously, international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, and the domestic economic community had expected China's GDP growth rate in 2023 to be around 5 percent or even higher. In fact, 5 percent is not low. China's GDP in 2022 has already reached a high of 121 trillion yuan, and 5 percent is equivalent to 6 trillion yuan, which is an increase exceeding the GDP of most countries in the world. Looking at the international institutions' expectations for global economic growth in 2023, it is approximately between 2.7 percent and 2.9 percent. It can be seen that the overall situation globally is not good. Entering 2023, this great resilience and vitality have been further released. The healthy rebound of the Chinese economy has significantly increased the confidence of the outside world in the Chinese economy, and their expectations for the Chinese economy are also rising. Data released on March 1 showed that China's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) hit an 11-year high in February, and economic activities are rapidly rebounding. For a country as large as China to maintain steady development for so many years, this poses the most critical test to the country's governance ability. The Government Work Report has set other development targets for this year, such as creating around 12 million new urban jobs, keeping the urban surveyed unemployment rate of around 5.5 percent, and targeting increase in consumer price index (CPI) of around 3 percent. Every year has its own set of complex issues, but they cannot create major waves in front of China. Many previous risks and challenges have ultimately been transformed into concrete breakthroughs in China's reform. The evolution of hot topics during the annual two sessions can clearly reflect this. For example, concerns about environmental pollution once caused widespread anxiety about China's past development model, but they have served as greater driving force for the historic reform of transitioning to new growth drivers. Among the major economies in the world, China's certainty is particularly outstanding and becoming a key driving force for global economic recovery. Despite the many difficulties and challenges ahead, the overall mentality of the Chinese society is firm and confident on the path forward. The Communist Party of China has led and united the Chinese people to continuously strive for a better life, which is the deep-seated driving force and source of confidence behind China's stability and progress. This year's two sessions will see a change in the government's leadership. Unlike in Western countries, this will not mean a policy "U-turn." Instead, it will open a new chapter in a great relay race, where the next leg of the journey will continue with unrelenting effort.

Hijab Mean for Iran's Clerical Class

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Khamenei has set the tone for Tehran's response to the anti-hijab campaign, saying the women who organize protests have been "deceived" by foreign governments. Neither Khamenei nor Raisi seem interested in admitting that Iranian society is the driver behind the anti-hijab movement and that it is not, at its core, driven by a foreign conspiracy. In this context, the regime's leadership has pursued a three-pronged strategy to counter the movement's demands

 $\prod_{i=1}^{n}$ n present-day Iran, there are very few clerics that openly reject the hijab. What there are many more of, however, are those who distinguish between it as a tradition to be upheld and something that should be enforced as compulsory. In other words, there are clerics that support the regime but suggest that flexibility in enforcing the hijab is in the interest of the country.For example, a few years ago, Mohsen Gharavian, a fundamentalist cleric, made headlines by suggesting that tourists coming to Iran should not be forced to wear the hijab. This sort of indirect and conditional critique is the furthest that hard-line circles will go. This group of clerics will not openly defy Khamenei on the issue, and his commitment to enforcing mandatory hijab-wearing is, as of today, still firm. Khamenei has set the tone for Tehran's response to the anti-hijab campaign, saying the women who organize protests have been "deceived" by foreign governments. Neither Khamenei nor Raisi seem interested in admitting that Iranian society is the driver behind the anti-hijab movement and that it is not, at its core, driven by a foreign conspiracy. In this context, the regime's leadership has pursued a three-pronged strategy to counter the movement's demands. First, they deny the existence of popular demand in Iranian society, particularly among the younger demographic, to make wearing the hijab an issue of personal preference. Next, they look for ways to deter the public and anti-hijab

activists; and then, they limit the space for debate among the political and clerical class on this issue to maintain policy clarity and uniformity.

Over the course of the Islamic Republic's history, the regime's policies have often pitted its supporters and opponents against one another, but rarely have its actions resulted in actual violence breaking out between these two groups. This is the reality facing Iran today, however, as the country experiences more and more cases of supporters of the regime and the anti-hijab movement engaging in physical altercations in the streets. Notably, this is not a phenomenon limited to Tehran alone but has taken place across the country. The root of the problem goes back to when Khamenei first encouraged his supporters to "fire at will" against anyone who resists the regime and its policies. Put simply, pro-regime citizens can intervene and use violence to confront anything they deem "bad hijab," which is itself an extremely slippery concept. This also illustrates, once again, how Khamenei's political calculations about the best way to control society are eroding the role of the clergy and providing ammunition to the most radical elements in Iran. The danger, of course, is that there will be a violent counter response to the heavy-handed enforcement of the hijab law. The potential for a deeper societal conflict cannot be ignored. According to one independent study from 2020, 72 percent of Iranians are against mandatory hijab-wearing. By contrast, only 15 percent support it. One can imagine the possible tensions and violence that could erupt over this issue on the street level once Khamenei is still alive.

the Raisi government rolls out its campaign to fully enforce the hijab law, as the president has promised to do. Ultimately, Khamenei is fearful that any loosening of Iran's strict social-religious laws will invite demands for more change, which he sees as a Pandora's box. Furthermore, Khamenei is not inclined to give in to pressure-certainly not when it comes from grassroots activists, whom he dismisses as simpletons who have fallen victim to Western propaganda and machinations.

The issue of enforcing the hijab is, above all, about maintaining maximum political control and neutralizing opponents. As the opposition to mandatory hijab-wearing increases and the campaign against it gains momentum, there is a real risk of violence between supporters and opponents. This makes it harder for Khamenei to maintain policy uniformity on this issue which he desires and has so far been able to achieve within the ranks of the regime.In particular, senior clerics will be pressured to take a clearer stance and not obscure their real positions as rooted in their religious interpretations of sharia law. This could become a source of widening divide among the ulema (meaning "religious scholars") in Iran, particularly among clerical supporters and opponents of the regime. Other than Afghanistan under the Taliban, which has even stricter rules on female dress, Iran is today the only country in the world where there is a law on mandatory hijab-wearing. There will be all sorts of pressures on the regime to change course, though that is highly unlikely as long as

Pakistan's energy crisis and delay in TAPI

Gul.i.AyeshaBhatti



It has also been dependent on energy-richgulf states like KSA, Qatar, and Kuwait, for oil, LNG, and other petroleum products. However, it is cost-effective to explore CARs, Russia, and Iran nearby. In this regard, there are already a few projects pending like IP, TAPI, and CASA1000. Among them, TAPI is one of the world's greatest energy collaborations among the states

S ustainable energy sources are crucial in today's world, and having access to them may enrich everyone's pros-pects in life. A vital component of a nation's growth and development is a reliable source of energy. Numerous statistics showed that if cost-effective access to energy is made simple, human progress can reach its pinnacle. . Pakistan is trying to explore regional coordination to overcome its energy efficiency. It has also been dependent on energy-richgulf states like KSA, Qatar, and Kuwait, for oil, LNG, and other petroleum products. However, it is cost-effective to explore CARs, Russia, and Iran nearby. In this regard, there are already a few projects pending like IP, TAPI, and CASA1000. Among them, TAPI is one of the world's greatest energy collab-orations among the states. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline (TAPI) Pipeline project is one that Pakistan is anxious to get started on right now. The fourth-largest gas reserves in the world are found in Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan would be supplied with 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas altogether. The pipeline will travel from Turkmenistan to Chaman and then on to Multan, where it will be integrated into the Sui companies' network in Pakistan.

"We are sincerely going ahead with the TAPI project and it would cost \$34 million," MusadikMasood Malik stated in an interview earlier in December.

The pipeline will carry natural gas from Turkmenistan's Galkynysh Gas Field to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and finally India. In November 2014, Turkmengaz (the biggest shareholder with 85% interest), Afghan Gas Enterprise (5%), Inter State Gas Systems (5%), and GAIL (5%), formed a special-purpose consortium known as the TAPI Pipeline Company (TPCL) to carry out the project. On December 13, 2015, work on the project's construction began in Turkmenistan. The ceremony marking the beginning of the construction of the Afghanistan-Pakistan section of the pipeline was held in February 2018. By providing inexpensive gas to Pakistan, and India, transit fees for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and an energy market to Turkmenistan, TAPI will benefit the economies of all the member states. Consumers will receive more affordable, cleaner energy, which will boost the economy and lower inflation rates. It will provide earnings or revenues that may be applied to improving the social sectors, particularly those related to housing, health, education, and clean water.

By increasing sub-regional economic cooperation and increasing the usage of natural gas resources, it is predicted that the TAPI initiative would alleviate poverty. It will result in the creation of jobs by increasing sub regional economic activity and increasing the usage of natural gas resources, it is predicted that the TAPI project would alleviate poverty. Designed to serve for 30 years, the pipeline was expected to commence operations in 2021, but it was stalled. It is expected to transport 33 billion cubicmeterss of natural gas a year. The project's supporters envision it as a contemporary continuation of the Silk Road. Pakistan has tried to convince other regional actors like Kazakhstan to be part of this project. Similarly, Russian authorities showed a great interest in participating in this project and supplying pipelines to Turkmenistan for the completion of 1st step of this project.

This much-touted and already-delayed gas pipeline project has seen various challenges throughout all this time. In March 2022,

it run into trouble as Asian Development Bank (ADB) halted all processing and due diligence operations until the Taliban regime is recognized and legitimized by the UN and major powers of the world. Later on, the Rise of TTP and the government of Pakistan's growing cold terms with the Taliban while dealing with it, seem like a big hurdle in the successful completion of TAPI in the given time. Therefore, rising uncertainty regarding security conditions in Afghanistan and in the adjusting region of Pakistan is a source of concern for TAPI member states. The dependence on ad hoc solutions to the issue and ongoing reliance on oil and gas imports show that the energy crisis has not yet been handled by the state effectively. Policymakers still need to craft long-term and sustainable policies including investing in the discovery of indigenous reserves, building hydropower projects, and concentrating on alternative and renewable energy sources. Otherwise, Pakistan's independent foreign policy will be impacted by the energy crisis. From a geopolitical standpoint, state sovereignty depends greatly on energy security. Foreign providers' guarantees of consistent energy supply at reasonable prices are always accompanied by a long list of demands that frequently damage a country's reputation. Therefore, as a result of the nation's inability to satisfy even the most basic energy requirements of its citizens, investor trust in the state has been eroding, and visions of industrialization and economic self-reliance are still a long way off from becoming a reality.

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WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs

Imran to be arrested upon court appearance

FROM PAGE 01

she said this person did not appear in courts because he knew that he was a foreign agent and involved in theft of the Toshakhana gifts. She said that Imran Khan was responsible for the swindling of national exchequer and pushed the country towards inflation. The minister said that Imran was fully aware that the day he would appear in court, he would be arrested as he had committed crimes. "When the police comes to arrest him, he starts screaming and takes shelter behind women and children using them as human shield," she added.

She said that it was like an example of a person who confessed to his theft but dared the law to arrest him. She said that the entire system was at his mercy, and no one could arrest him and the courts could not summon him. She said that it was strange that a person used derogatory language against the national institutions but he got relief very quickly.

Marrivum opined that Imran Khan was aware that he would get bail and relief if he would ridicule and abuse the judiciary. The minister challenged him that if he had not committed any crime, he should appear in courts and face the law of the land. Taking a dig at Imran she said "Samjhauta Express" was ready for departure at Zaman Park but no one was ready to board it, rather she said it was not Samjhauta Express but he was begging for NRO which the foreign agent needed to escape account-"The foreign-fundability. ed agent needs an NRO to escape punishment for the crimes he had committed", she maintained. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran should have thought about this before stealing watches and committing robberies at Toshakhana and getting prohibited foreign-funding and involving in money laundering through his employees.

Pakistan committed to Doha...

Afghanistan's status as ICC full member unlikely to be affected

"Afghanistan is a delicate situation," Ross McCollum, an ICC board member (Ireland) and member of the working group, told ESPNcricinfo. "The guys from ACB do want to see things happen with women's cricket. But it's not down to them, it's down to people in charge

AN CRIC

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Despite dim prospects for an Afghanistan women's team being formed so long as the Taliban remain in power, Afghanistan's status as an ICC Full Member is unlikely to be affected.

The matter is set for wider discussion at the next ICC board meetings in Dubai in March, when the ICC's working group on Afghanistan will provide an update on progress in the country. ESPNcricinfo understands that the group, headed by the ICC's deputy chair Imran Khwaja, will push for not penalising Afghanistan's status and shed greater light on the difficulties the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) faces in pushing to develop the women's game.

Khwaja has met with ACB officials and government representatives in Doha twice in recent months, to get a clearer handle on the broader situation for cricket since the Taliban took over, as well as how women can be helped to play cricket. Those meetings are believed to have been "productive", according to one official who attended. At the second meeting, in February, the ACB assured the ICC's working group that the board remains supportive of women's cricket, but the political reality meant that an overt push for it could still prove dangerous for those involved. "Afghanistan is a delicate situation," Ross McCollum, an ICC board member (Ireland) and member of the

working group, told ESPNcricinfo. "The guys from ACB do want to see things happen with women's cricket. But it's not down to them, it's down to the people in charge. "Forcing women to play cricket could lead to serious repercussions. We have to tread carefully, it will be a slow process.

In December the Taliban banned secondary and higher education for females through the country, the latest man-

ifestation of their repressive policies against women. The ICC working group was told, however, that there are differences in opinion within the Taliban about the role of women in society and that there exist exemptions which allow women to work in the medical sectors. That has not vet come through for any sports. Even before the Taliban takeover, little progress had been

made on women's cricket in the country. In October 2020, the ACB had held a national team trial camp and announced their intention to award 25 central contracts for women. Cultural sensitivities, officials pointed out at the time, were such that quicker, deeper progress was proving difficult and Afghanistan had been a Full Member for three years then.

The working group has been told that the Taliban are not interfering otherwise in the running of the ACB. The government has apparently provided some funding to a board that had been hit hard after the Taliban took over, as international sanctions made it difficult to send money into the country. Changes to status for Full Members, in any

case, are rare and none other than Zimbabwe have ever been suspended or had membership

> downgraded. But the fact that Afghanistan continues to be the only Full Member without a women's team, or even a set-up in place otherwise part of the ICC's membership criteria - has been persistently highlighted in recent months. Australia cancelled an ODI series against Afghanistan in

response to the education ban imposed on females • IDI via Getty Images They were the only member to not have a presence at the pathbreaking U19 T20 Women's World Cup in January and then at the T20 Women's World Cup right after. That point was not lost on the ICC CEO, Geoff Allardice, who said ahead of the U19 tournament that it was concerning no progress had been made on the matter.

FICA, the global players' body, has also called the ban on women's sport a "significant blow" and pointed out that Afghanistan is "in breach" of its Full Member requirements. But it did not call for a ban on Afghanistan, instead calling on the ICC to "embed its human rights responsibilities as a business in its governance and regulatory frameworks." A number of Afghan women cricketers have also been very clear in calling for the ICC to play a more proactive role. According to ABC Radio's The Ticket, 22 of the 25 cricketers who were part of that original pool have left the country and resettled in Australia. Speaking on the show in January, several of the players asked why the ICC had not been in touch to offer support since they fled. "If we have the support of the ACB, the

ICC, the people of Afghanistan and other countries that play cricket, then it is possible for us to keep playing," one of the players, Firooza Afghan said on the show. "In Australia we have a lot of support - lots of equipment and facilities. But my question is, women have been playing cricket in Afghanistan since 2010 ... why did the ICC not send anyone to check on us?" The players wrote to the ICC a couple of months ago, asking for ways in which the global body could help the women form a team. The ICC pointed out that constitutionally any such help would have to go through the member - the ACB - but intend to keep the dialogue open with the cricketers.

TUESDAY 07:00 PM MARCH 07, 2023 Pindi Club Ground. Rawalpindi

PSL 8th Edition

Islamabad **POST**

Tuesday, March 07, 2023

Rabbani says no...

FROM PAGE 01

the government as, according to him, the rulers keep avoiding parliament. The senator also said parliament needs to be taken into confidence over the "dragging of the feet by the IMF [International Monetary Fund] on signing the agreement and reluctance of friendly countries, except China, to help sans the IMF". "The people have a right to know if our nuclear assets are under pressure or [if] our strategic relationship with China is under threat or [are] we being called up to play role in the region which will facilitate the military presence of a[n] Imperialist power?" he said. It appears Pakistan is being softened up to play a role which is against its national and strategic interests, the senator went on to say, without elaborating further.

9 security men...

FROM PAGE 01 Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul QuddusBizenjo condemned the incident, saying that the elements involved in terrorism want to achieve nefarious goals through cowardly actions. "A conspiracy is being hatched to keep the province from progressing by creating unrest and instability," he said, assuring that all these conspiracies will be foiled with the support of the people. He offered his condolences to the families of those who were martyred



LONDON: Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah each netted a brace as Liverpool emphat-

that moment on, we were flying, and it was tough to play against us.' Just a second defeat in 23

make me angry. To concede so easily the goals is one." Liverpool is close to within three points of fourth-

unprecedented quadruple of trophies last season. But either side of a 5-2 humiliation on home soil by Real Madrid, they have returned in the race for a place in the Champions League next season thanks to a run of 13 points from a possible 15 in the Premier League. "Everybody has to feel us. Everybody has to know we are still around," added Klopp. "That's what we have to be from now on." Ten Hag told his players to embrace the hostile environment of Anfield where United has not won since 2016. But they crumbled

after Gakpo opened the

Volleyball Talent Hunt Program continues Liverpool rewrite chronicles across country ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) Volleyball Talent Hunt Trials of both men and women are continued across the country with participation of a number of young sports enthusiasts

from different educational institutions. The Volleyball competition is being arranged in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) as a part of PMYP flagship project of "Talent Hunt Youth Sports League". According to an official of PMYP, volleyball trials have already been successfully completed in various parts of the country including federal capital, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Lasbela, Karachi, Lahore, Hazara, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad, which would soon be followed by trials in remaining locations of the country. Volleyball Talent Hunt Trills provides a great opportunity for youth to participate in the trials to showcase their talent in different sports. This will, he continued, help youth to explore their hidden talent and ultimately represent the country on an international level. Talent Hunt Youth Sports League is a flagship project of PMYP aiming at finding talent in 12 different sports including Badminton, Boxing, Cricket, Football, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Squash, Table Tennis, and Volleyball for men and women whereas Weightlifting and Wrestling for men only. The trials are being held in 25 different locations in five different regions including Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. The purpose of the said sports activities is to engage the youth of Pakistan in healthy physical activities through sports according to the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, as it is believed that sports can play a critical role in transforming the youth into a self-confident, organized. and capable workforce that can bring positive social change and economic well-being in the country. - DNA tary aid - an allegation which it denies. China will "stay committed to an independent foreign policy of peace," Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday, making no mention of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Upon returning to Germany, Scholz refused to answer a direct question about whether President Joe Biden showed him any concrete evidence to support claims that China was considering weapons deliveries to Russia. "We all agree that there must be no weapons deliveries, and the Chinese government has stated that it wouldn't deliver any," the chancellor told journalists following a meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday. "That is what we are demanding and we are watching it," Scholz added. Von der Leyen was less evasive and admitted that "we have no evidence for this so far," but warned that the West will remain cautious and "observe" Beijing's compliance. However, she avoided saying whether the EU would sanction China, dismissing it as a "hypothetical question that can only be answered if it were to become reality and fact." China has repeatedly denied the accusations. Last week, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Washington was peddling "false information about weapons" and sanctioning Chinese firms "for no reason," describing this as "hypocritical" and "a blatant act of bullying."

FROM PAGE 01

Sharif called the need for reforming unequal financial architecture to address the special needs of LDCs.

He proposed a system of international technology combined with SDGs to provide an easy access to LDCs to develop and bridge their digital divide in order to help them contribute to knowledge-based economy. The prime minister lauded the Doha Programme of Action 2031 particularly its concrete measures including the online universities, food stock system and investment support centre. He assured that Pakistan would actively support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action within the framework of south centric cooperation. He congratulated the Emir of Qatar for immaculate arrangement for the conference after holding the FIFA event, and added that Qatar had further bolstered its standing in the comity of nation.

Banning live telecast a clear...

FROM PAGE 01 He said that ARY was also being punished for bringing the truth to the people. However, he categorically told these ignorant people that all such tactics would not serve their purpose, as public love for Imran Khan did not need their channels. He went on to say that the imported government's infighting was endless. "Their allies continue to raise very serious questions on the state of Pakistan's economic condition and woeful foreign policy. Yet the government conunabated, tinues bent destroying Paki upon stan," he added.

Fawad Chaudhry said that two new FIRs were registered against Imran Khan on Monday of which one FIR was registered in Quetta while another in Islamabad, taking the number of cases against Imran Khan to 75. "There is no shame or modesty in this government," he added.

ically banished the disappointment of a trying campaign, ruthlessly thrashing Manchester United 7-0 at Anfield on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's men set a new record margin of victory in the clash between English football's two most successful clubs

"It was one of the best performances for a long, long time. Everybody saw what the boys could be," said Klopp. "The second half couldn't start better. From

games in all competitions realistically ends United's hopes of a first league title in a decade as they remain 14 points adrift of leaders Arsenal in third.

Novak Djokovic

withdraws from US

Open amid visa row

BELGRADE: Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic has

formally withdrawn from the upcoming US Open and

Miami Open following disputes over his visa applica-

tion. Djokovic is currently unable to enter the USA

as he's unvaccinated against COVID-19. The tourna-

ment organisers said they were "hopeful" that the

World No 1 would be granted special permission to

enter the country. Current restrictions are due to

end in April and Djokovic wants dispensation to play

in the tournaments. The US Open in Indian Wells

starts next week and is immediately followed by the

Miami Open. Djokovic missed the Australian Open

and US Open last year because of his vaccination sta-

tus. Australia dropped its vaccination requirement

for entering the country, meaning Djokovic returned

to this year's edition of the tournament in Melbourne,

where he beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final for a re-

cord-equalling 22nd Grand Slam title. - Agencies

But there could be even more lasting damage from a record-equaling defeat for the club in a competitive game and the heaviest since 1931. "The result is quite obvious. It is unprofessional," said United manager Erik ten Hag. "There are many things that

score of 9-0 last season, but the tables had seemingly turned this season. A 2-1 win over the Reds in August gave Erik ten Hag his first win as United boss, and his team started the day 10 points clear of Liverpool. Liverpool has

placed lottenham with a floodgates two minutes before half-time. game in hand on Spurs. Andv Robertson sliced open Klopp's side won the two league meetings between the United defense to play the teams by an aggregate in the Dutch international, who cut inside and fired low

into the far corner. Ten Hag's men were blown away in the second period as Liverpool's new-look front three finally clicked. Nunez punished sloppy United defending as the Uruguayan stooped to looked like a shadow of the head in Harvey Elliott's side that came close to an cross. - Agencies

Scholz issues warning to China The German chancellor says Beijing will face "consequences" if it sends arms to Moscow

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said China will face unspecified sanctions if it meddles in the Ukrainian conflict and offers military assistance to Russia, even as European officials admit they have yet to see any evidence that Beijing intends to do so. "I think it would have consequences, but we are now in a stage where we are making clear that this should not happen," Scholz told American media during his brief visit to Washington, when asked if Germany would sanction its biggest trade partner China. Beijing has faced a growing wave of accusations from Western officials and media in recent weeks of potentially being open to supplying Russia with mili-

Medical superintendent of Quetta's Civil Hospital said that emergency had been imposed at the facility and all the staff including consultants, doctors, pharmacists and paramedics had been called for duty. He said that all staff and doctors were present in the general and emergency wards and operation theatres.

ECP officials summoned.

FROM PGAE 01

Last week, the Supreme Court, in a 3-2 verdict, ruled that elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab – both of which have been under caretaker governments since the provincial assemblies were dissolved in January - should be held within 90 days. The assemblies in the two provinces were controlled by disposed prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In January, Khan, in a bid to force early elections, asked the provincial governors to dissolve the two assemblies. On February 21, President ArifAlvi, who is from the PTI, unilaterally announced April 9 as the election date in the two provinces, creating a constitutional crisis, with experts wondering if he had the right to do so.

Joe Biden reelection...

FROM PAGE 01

who proudly sealed the envelope that carried New Hampshire's four electoral votes - including his own name - to the U.S. Senate. But on the eve of a new election season, Shurtleff, like a majority of Democrats across the country, feels that one term is enough. "In my heart of hearts, no," Shurtleff said when asked if he wants Biden to run again. "I think a lot of people just don't want to say t." Democrats across New Hampshire are upset with the Democratic president for trying to end the state's status as home to the firstin-the-nation presidential primary. But their concerns about Biden run much deeper, in line with a majority of Democratic voters nationwide, who question the 80-year-old president's plans to soon launch his reelection campaign.

Verstappen wins season-opening Bahrain GP George Russell took seventh for Mercedes ahead of Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo, Pierre Gasly of Alpine, who had started last, and Alex Albon who claimed a point for Williams finishing 10th

SAKHIR: World champion Max Verstappen claimed his maiden season-opening victory and first at the Sakhir circuit on Sunday when he led Sergio Perez home in a dominant Red Bull one-two at the Bahrain Grand Prix. The defending double world champion led from start to finish, bar the pit stops, to establish himself as a strong favourite for a third consecutive drivers' crown this year. It was his first win in the Gulf state at the 10th attempt. Behind the two Red Bulls, twotime champion Fernando Alonso continued to make light of his 41 years by storming his way to a rousing third place for Aston Martin in his first appearance with the team since succeeding the retired four-time champion Sebastian Vettel.

It was his record-increasing 356th race in Formula One in a career that started 22 years earlier, to the weekend, in Melbourne at the 2001 Australian Grand Prix. Fellow Spaniard Carlos Sainz, who he passed in a late scrap for a podium finish, finished fourth in the second Ferrari ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and Lance Stroll, racing in the second Aston Martin just weeks after cracking both wrists and breaking a toe in

engine failure on his Ferrari on the 41st lap. "Thank you, guys," said 25-year-old Verstappen. "It's exactly the start we needed. I had a good start and first stint and then had a gap and just looked after the tyres." Verstappen made a clean, quick start to pull clear as Leclerc passed Perez for second while, behind Stroll them.

hit his Aston Martin teamvaromate Alonso, under braking at Turn Four. Вo h ash App t Mercedes had good

starts and passed Alonso, Hamilton climbing to fifth ahead of Russell in pursuit of Sainz as Verstappen opened up a commanding lead. By lap five, he was four sec-

onds clear as Leclerc kept Perez at bay. Gasly began the pit stops on lap 10, switching his Alpine from softs to hards. followed quickly by Lando Norris and Yuki Tsunoda with tyre degradation taking early effect. Hamilton pitted from fifth on lap

13, prompting a classic scrap as Alonso battled past Russell o regain his original grid slot and climb to third when both Ferraris pitted. Russell followed.

> Verstappen came in a lap later, switching to more and ofts anding the lead to Perez, while luckless

Australian rookie Oscar Piastri's McLaren debut ended early with electrical problems. The champion re-joined in second place and regained his lead on lap 18 when Perez pitted, elevating Leclerc to second until the Mexican passed him into Turn One on lap 26. Hamilton pitted again on lap 31, for more hards, followed by Sainz and Russell, as the leaders prepared for their final stint while, at the back, a beleaguered Esteban Ocon of Alpine, hit with three time penalties for minor infringements, stopped again.

Perez and Verstappen then completed rari lost power on the straight. He parked it safely, prompting a brief virtual safety one-two, 23 seconds clear of third-placed

What happened, guys? No power."

All this left the two Spaniards scrapping for third, the old master squeezing through on lap 45 after the pair appeared to touch in a frantic and dramatic tussle ahead of the watching fifth man Hamilton.

a pre-season cycling accident. George Russell took seventh for Mercedes ahead of Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo, Pierre Gasly of Alpine, who had started last, and Alex Albon who claimed a point for Williams finishing 10th. Charles Leclerc, who won the race in 2022, failed to finish after

(obil

their second stops, the Dutchman re-joining with a 12-second lead. Leclerc's Fercar intervention, with 15 laps remaining, handing Red Bull the prospect of a cosy Sainz in the second Ferrari.

"No, no, no," wailed Leclerc. "Come on!

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BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Fall of Bakhmut symbolic win for Russia

WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Monday that the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut was of more symbolic than operational importance, and its fall would not necessarily mean that Moscow had regained the initiative in the war.

The battle for Bakhmut has raged for seven months. A Russian victory in the city, which had a pre-war population of about 70,000 but has now been blasted to ruins, would give Moscow the first major prize in a costly winter offensive. "I think it is more of a symbolic value than it is strategic and operational value," Austin told reporters while visiting Jordan. "The fall of Bakhmut won't necessarily mean that the Russians have changed the tide of this fight," he said, adding that he would not predict whether or when Bakhmut might fall. Russian artillery have been pounding the last routes out of the city, aiming to complete its encirclement, but the founder of the Wagner mercenary force leading the assault has said his troops are being deprived of ammunition by Moscow.

Austin said that if Ukrainian forces decided to reposition west of Bakhmut, he would not view that as a strategic setback. Wagner often appears to operate autonomously from the regular army, or even in competition with it - and in a video published over the weekend, Prigozhin complained that the ammunition that Moscow had promised it had not been delivered.-APP

Estonia's **Reform Party** comes first in elections

Estonia's Reform Party, headed by Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, has secured first place in Sunday's parliamentary election, taking approximately 31.4% of the vote. Nine political parties

US supports achievement of peace between Baku, Yerevan

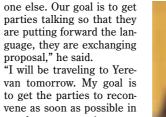
A fresh exchange of fire along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Karabakh region Sunday killed at least five people, according to reports from the two countries

News Desk

BAKU: The US supports the early achievement of peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Louis Bono, US Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations, who is paying a visit to Baku, told reporters, Trend reports.

"The goal of my country is to bring an end to this suffering so that the people of Armenia and the people of Azerbaijan can live together peacefully, they can enjoy mutual peace, but also mutual prosperity. We need to bring it to an end," he said. Bono pointed out that the US not playing a role of a mediator in the peace process.

"It is more about a facilitator. What's most important is any agreement reached, language that's put forward but the parties. Because in order for a peace agreement to be sustainable, to be durable, it needs to come from the parties, not from the US, or any-



one format or another. My objective here is to bring the parties together one way or another. I am here to meet with officials from Azerbaijan. Tomorrow I will be meeting with officials from Yerevan in an said. effort to bring them together as soon as possible," he

said. "I am here to meet with officials from Azerbaijan. Tomorrow I will be meeting with officials from Yerevan in an effort to bring them together as soon as possible. My goal is on the future and to move the parties forward. I left Munich with a feeling of optimism that we have two leaders that are committed to peace. My objective is how do we bring them to this point. This is



about the two states, Azerbaijan and Armenia," he

While a fresh exchange of fire along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Karabakh region Sunday killed at least five people, according to reports from the two countries.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said two servicemen were killed in an exchange of fire after Azerbaijani troops stopped a convoy it suspected of carrying weapons from the region's main town to outlying areas. It said the convoy had used an unauthorized road. Expressing its condolences to the families and relatives of the soldiers, the ministry said that "as a result of the provocation committed by illegal Armenian formations," Alibeyli Shakhriyar Ramiz and Huseynov Eshgin lost their lives. According to the Armenian press, three Armenian

police officers also died in the clash. Toivo Klaar, the European Union's Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia, said on Twitter he had returned to Azerbai-

jan's capital Baku for talks on advancing the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, saying the latest incident underscores the need to make progress. "Look forward to substantive meetings with the Azerbaijani leadership to advance the peace process after meetings in Munich. The deadly incident today underscores the urgency of pushing forward with negotiations to achieve stability

and peace," Klaar said. Earlier, a statement by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said it had received information about the transport of military equipment, ammunition and personnel from Armenia to the Karabakh region through the Khankendi-Khalfali-Turshsu road, where a Russian peacekeeping contingent has been temporarily stationed since the aftermath of the fall 2020 conflict in the region and a January 2021 pact with Baku and Yerevan. "On the morning of March

5, in order to cross-check the information received, units of the Azerbaijan Army made an attempt to stop and search the vehicles carrying illegal military transports.Shots were fired from the other side and there were casualties and injuries on both sides as a result of the skirmish," the statement said.

The statement further added that Baku brought to the attention of the command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent that fulfillment of the clauses of the Tripartite Declaration of November 2020 between Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia must be "unconditionally and fully ensured." Noting that the Lachin corridor is the only route that can connect Armenia to the Karabakh region, the statement said it reminded the command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent that the "use of military means and transportation on other routes is absolutely inadmissible."

Zelensky at odds with top general: Report

Islamabad **POST**

Tuesday, March 07, 2023

KIEV: An internal conflict is underway between Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and General Valery Zaluzhny, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, according to government sources cited by Bild on Monday. Kiev insiders told the German tabloid that the military commander called for a withdrawal from a key Donbass city weeks ago. Zaluzhny advised the president to abandon Artyomovsk, known as Bakhmut in Ukraine, rather than keep defending it as Russian troops threatened to take control of the city, the newspaper reported. However the Ukrainian leader declared the city a fortress, and refused to pull

troops back. Russian forces have made notable advances in the fight for Artyomovsk this year. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the private military company Wagner Group, claimed last Friday that it was "de-facto completely surrounded," with only one road available for possible evacuation. According to US media, Washington has been urging Zelensky to pull out of Artyomovsk and focus on preparing a major counteroffensive for the spring using Western-supplied weapons, but the Ukrainian president fears a morale hit that such a move would cause. The city is part of a 70km Ukrainian defense line created since Kiev initiated the fighting in Donbass in 2014. US officials have assessed that its loss to Russia would not affect the strategic situation.-APP

Protests in Austria. Germany against Ukraine war

BERLIN: Protesters have taken to the streets in Austria and Germany calling for an end to the protracted war in Ukraine that completed one year recently amid a growing anti-war chorus in Europe.

People marched in Vienna to protest the deliver-

China's trade in goods with BRI countries doubled in past ten years \$57.13 billion in overseas signing of free trade agree-

DNA BEIIING: "From 2013 to

2022, the volume of trade in goods between China and BRI countries has doubled from US \$1.04 trillion to US \$2.07 trillion, with an average annual growth rate of 8%", said Mr. Chen Chunjiang, Assistant Minister of Commerce, China said in a press conference held here, according to Gwadar Pro. In the same period, China's

economic and trade coopments with more countries eration zones in BRI counand accelerate the developtries, creating 421,000 jobs. ment of a free trade zone From 2013 to 2022, over network covering the enhalf of China's contracted tire BRI-related region," he projects abroad are in BRI said. Green development, countries, with the total valdigital economy, and blue economy will be put high ue of new contracts signed and the total turnover of on the agenda of China's completed projects in BRI cooperation with BRI councountries exceeding US tries, he shared. China will \$1.2 trillion and US \$800 make cooperation greener in infrastructure, energy, industry, and trade. "Silk Mr. Chen said in the next Road E-commerce" pilot step China will continue

the first nine months of 2022, Pakistan's exports to China were nearly 20% higher than in the entire year of 2018, showcasing the catalyzing effect of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

Meanwhile, China remains Pakistan's largest trading partner during the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal year 2022-23 and the leading investor in Pakistan in the first five months of FY 2022-23, contributing

Afghan universities reopen, but women still barred

KABUL: Male students trickled back to their classes Monday after Afghan universities reopened following a winter break, but women remain barred by Taliban authorities. The university ban is one of several restrictions imposed on women since the Taliban stormed back to power in August 2021, and has sparked global outrage - including across the Muslim world. "It's heartbreaking to see boys going to the university while we have to stay at home, said Rahela, 22, from the central province of Ghor. "This is gender discrimination against girls because Islam allows us to pursue higher education. Nobody should stop us from learning." The Taliban government imposed the ban after accusing women students of ignoring a strict dress code and a requirement to be accompanied by a male relative to and from campus. Most universities had already introduced gender-segregated entrances and classrooms, as well as allowing women to be taught only by female professors or old men. Several Taliban officials say the ban on women's education is temporary, but despite promises, they have failed to reopen secondary schools for girls, which have been shuttered now for over a year. They have wheeled out a litany of excuses for the closure - from a lack of funds to the time needed to remodel the syllabus along Islamic lines. The reality, according to some Taliban officials, is that the ultra-conservative clerics advising the country's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada are deeply sceptical of modern education for women. Since taking power the Taliban authorities have effectively squeezed women out of public life. -Agencies

all fielded candidates for Estonia's 101-seat parliament or Riigikogu. Over 900.000 people were eligible to vote in the general election, and nearly half voted in advance. Preliminary results suggest that six parties passed the 5% threshold required to become a part of parliament including newcomer Eesti 200, a liberal centrist party. Voter turnout was reported ly 63.7%. With 99% of votes counted EKRE has come in second place with 16.1% while the Centre Party, traditionally favoured by Estonia's sizable ethnic-Russian minority has secured 15%.

The initial results mean the Reform Party is in a remarkably strong position to take a leading role in forming Estonia's next government; its support translates into 37 seats in the legislature. But it will need junior partners to form a coalition with a comfortable majority to govern. -Agencies

Greek PM asks court to expedite cases over rail disaster

ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Monday asked the country's Supreme Court to prioritise any criminal cases over last week's deadly train crash and to shed light on what led to the country's worst rail disaster.

"The Greek people want an immediate and thorough clarification of the criminal incidents related to this Mitsotragic accident." takis wrote in a letter to the court prosecutor about last week's collision, which killed at least 57 people and triggered widespread public anger. "I ask you to give priority to these cases and if you deem it appropriate, dedicate an investigation at the highest possible level into what happened" and whether "systemic errors in the rail sector" constituted criminal offences. With the government seeking re-election in April, the move is seen as necessary for Mitsotakis to placate outrage as such probes in Greece can usually take several years.-APP

cumulative bilateral investment in BRI countries exceeded US \$270 billion, he added. He briefed the audience that fruitful results have been achieved since BRI was put forward ten years ago. By the end of 2022, Chinese companies had invested a total of

to deepen and consolidate economic and trade cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. government will "The

billion respectively.

deepen its involvement in international industrial cooperation and optimize twoway investment structures. China aims to promote the

zones will be set up to foster a new mode of business. Data shows that despite the pandemic restrictions. trade volume has been on an upward trajectory in the past 3 years. In 2022, Pakistan's exports of seafood to China increased by 42%, rice by 53%. In

23.83%, or \$102.5 million to its FDI.

It is expected as special economic zones (SEZs) under the umbrella of CPEC are being established, they will attract more FDI for Pakistan in the near future not only from China, but also from other countries.

ies of heavy weaponry to Ukraine by Western countries and to denounce the US-led NATO military alliance's involvement in the devastating war. They also called for the neutrality of Austria, carrying banners and chanting slogans against the Western military alliance and the European Union's arms deliveries to Kiev.

"Austria is neutral and we want to stay neutral because we don't want to be involved in any war," Brigitte Fink, a Vienna resident, was quoted as saying by CCTV. "But being a part of the European Union, we are forced to support whatever European Union decides. So if they decide to deliver weapons, we deliver weapons. And we think delivering weapons can never bring peace." The weapon deliveries to Ukraine continue as the West refuses to pay heed to Russia's warnings that it will only prolong the simmering conflict. -DNA

Iran ready for a prisoner swap with Belgium

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday expressed its readiness for a long-awaited prisoner swap with Belgium, days after the European country's Constitutional Court gave the green light for such a move. Following the decision "by the Belgian Constitutional Court, we can now say that the way to implement the agreement has been opened, and the Islamic Republic of Iran certainly welcomes this change," foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told reporters in Tehran. The move would see Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele -- jailed in Iran for 40 years for several charges including spying - swapped for Iranian official Assadollah Assadi who was convicted in Belgium for masterminding a plot to blow up a 2018 opposition event outside Paris. Under a treaty Belgium and Iran signed in 2022, Vandecasteele would have been eligible to be swapped for Assadi but in December Belgium's constitutional court suspended the implementation of the treaty.-Agencies

EU's solutions for Ukraine don't work: Hungarian FM

BUDAPEST: The first step in bringing peace to Ukraine should be to stop people from being killed and establish a ceasefire as soon as possible. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said on Sunday, during an interview with Sweden's SVT. The diplomat dismissed the idea of supplying Ukraine with weapons, currently being done by a number of NATO countries, as a viable method to achieve peace. Asked why Hungary refuses to send weapons to Kiev, Szijjarto pointed to the devastating consequences of the war, and how Western arms have only exacerbated the conflict. "Look at the infrastructure, look at the people, look at the number of people leaving the country, look at their former houses, look at the damage, the energy infrastructure. This country is being demolished, destroyed. I don't think that would be of interest to anyone," he said. Szijjarto stated that Hungary, as opposed to other European countries, sees the first priority in the Ukrainian conflict as being to "stop killing people," and suggested that the only way to achieve that is to enter discussions that would hopefully lead to a sustainable peace agreement. He also noted that the solutions that were being offered in Europe "simply did not work" because everyone is too invested into the "war psyche." As for sanctions, the minister pointed out that they have also failed to achieve an effect. "We have introduced packages of sanctions already. Did it bring us any closer to a solution? No. -DNA

Poisoning of students 'unforgivable' crime schoolgirls had been poisoned

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Avatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday termed the serial poisoning of schoolgirls a "big and unforgivable sin," calling on the authorities to "seriously pursue the matter."

"If it is proven that the students were poisoned, the perpetrators of this crime should be severely punished. There will be no amnesty for these people," he said, in a video released by his office. His remarks came as cases related to serial poisoning of schoolgirls continue to be reported from different cities across Iran even as investigations continue to find the cause of the mysterious illness.

A report in the Persian-language Etemaad newspaper on Saturday put the total number of poisoning cases at more than 2,000 since November last year, when the first cases were reported. The report said a total of 125 schools in different Iranian cities,



including the capital Tehran, have reported cases of this mysterious illness so far, sending ripples of shock across the country. Last week, Shahriar Heidari, a member of the Iranian parliament's internal security and foreign policy commission, cited a "reliable source" as saying that "nearly 900"

Weapons smuggling in Sweden out of control

LONDON: Sweden has one of the highest rates of firearm-related violence in Western Europe, a result of an ever-increasing number of gangs and criminal networks responsible for the high inflow of illegal firearms to Sweden, according to experts.

Despite one of the world's strictest gun laws, the country still faces significant firearm-related bloodshed, with many experts calling for additional policies to combat the illegal flow of firearms and gang criminality. According to a 2021 report by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Serbian pistols, and Yugoslav-era hand grenades are fueling the country's rising gang violence that is partially due to the legacy of the currently dissolved, so-called "Yugoslav mafia" that dominated Stockholm's criminal underworld through the 1990s. At the time. Serbian war crimes suspect Zeljko Arkan Raznatovic effectively dominated significant parts of the urban criminal economy in Sweden, another report, published in 2021 by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, said. However, recent reports suggest that while Balkan weapons greatly contribute to ever-escalating firearm smuggling in the



Scandinavian country, there are other factors also playing a significant part. For instance, there are fears among the country's experts that criminal networks may have access to weapons allegedly shipped from Ukraine, according to reports by the local Sveriges Radio. In Sweden's second-largest city, Gothenburg, arms smugglers have been requested to acquire weapons from war-torn Ukraine for further sale to criminal gangs in the country, the radio broadcaster said. Weapons smuggling expert at the Swedish Customs Service Jesper Liedholm expressed fears that criminals may have access to more powerful weapons to smuggle in Sweden and that any type of weapon provided to Ukraine as Western aid may also come back to the country, it added. But Mathias Stahle, a journalist and an author of the book Vapensmederna

(The Gunsmiths: The Men Who Are Arm ing Sweden's Criminals), told Anadolu that while the Moscow-Kyiv war is still ongoing, he does not think that there is "a lot of leakage of weapon from Ukraine today." However, he added that "one day, the war will end, and then, those weapons, they need to go somewhere, someone will want to make money from them." Sweden may not be the only Scandinavian country where criminals may have access to weapons that are meant for Ukraine, as last October, the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation said weapons sent to Ukraine may have found their way back to criminals in Finland.

The first cases of these serial poison-

ings were reported last November

when at least 18 schoolgirls from one

of the schools in the central Iranian

city of Qom were transferred to a

hospital. The students complained of

symptoms such as nausea, headache,

breathing problems, cough and body

pain. It followed similar incidents in

other girls' schools in the city. Cases

reported from several cities In recent

weeks, the wave has spread to cities

and provinces including Tehran, Ar-

dabil, Isfahan, Khurramshahr, Ker-

manshah, Azerbaijan, Bandar Abbas,

Urmia, Ahwaz, Zanjan, Mashhad etc

with hundreds of schoolgirls admitted

to hospitals, according to local media

reports. In most recent cases, at least

30 students from three schools were

transferred to medical centers in cen-

tral Zanjan city on Sunday for symptoms

of poisoning, reports said.-APP

Out of control Ardavan Khoshnood, a criminologist and a political scientist researching violent crimes and gang violence in Sweden at Lund University, told Anadolu that in Sweden, weapons smuggling is out of control. According to Khoshnood, hundreds of various types of weapons, including automatic guns, semi-automatic weapons, grenades, and also explosives, get smuggled into the country daily, from various countries, mostly from Eastern Europe, due to high demand by many gangs and criminal networks in Sweden.-Agencies







Briefs Taliban's women persecution **'crime against** humanity'

GENEVA: The Taliban's treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan could amount to a crime against humanity, according to a U.N. report presented on Monday at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Taliban seized power in August 2021, drastically curtailing women's freedoms and rights, including their ability to attend high school and university. In a report covering July to December 2022, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, found that the Taliban's treatment of women and girls "may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity". "The Taliban's intentional and calculated policy is to repudiate the human rights of women and girls and to erase them from public life," Bennett told the United Nations Human Rights Council. "It may amount to the international crime of gender persecution for

be held accountable." A spokesperson for the Taliban-run information ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The Taliban have in the past said they respect women's rights in line with their interpretation of Islam and Afghan culture and that they plan to open schools in future once they establish certain conditions for girls. Bennett said the Human Rights Council should send a strong message to the Taliban that the "abysmal treatment of women and girls is intolerable and unjustifiable on any ground, including religion". "The cumulative effect of the restrictions on women and girls has a devastating, long-term impact on the whole population, and it is tantamount to gender apartheid," he said. - APP

which the authorities can

Kyiv: Forces holding on in 'hellish' Bakhmut battle

Russia is trying to encircle Bakhmut to secure its first major gain in more than half a year, at the culmination of a winter offensive that has brought the bloodiest fighting of the war

News Desk

KYIV: Kyiv said on Monday its troops were still holding out in a "hellish" fight for Bakhmut, while Washington said that even if the eastern Ukrainian city should fall to a Russian offensive, it would not necessarily give Moscow momentum in the war.

In the latest sign of a feud between Russia's military and the Wagner private army leading its Bakhmut assault, Wagner's boss demanded more ammunition and said his aide had been barred from the military's operational headquarters. Russia is trying to encircle Bakhmut to secure its first major gain in more than half a year, at the culmination of a winter offensive that has brought the bloodiest fighting of the war. Ukrainian troops have been reinforcing positions west of Bakhmut in apparent preparation for a possible retreat, but so far appear not to have decided to pull out.

Speaking to reporters in the Middle East, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said he would not predict when or if Ukrainian troops might leave the city, but that its fall "won't necessarily mean that the Russians have changed the tide of this fight".

"I think it is more of a symbolic value than it is strategic and operational value," Austin said. Moscow says capturing the city would be a step towards its major objective of seizing the full territory of the surrounding Donbas region. Kyiv says Russia's losses in trying to seize a city reduced to rubble could determine the future course of the war by destroying combat power ahead of decisive battles later this year.

Volodymyr Nazarenko, a Ukrainian commander in Bakhmut, said there had been no order to retreat and "the defence is holding", albeit in grim conditions. "The situation in Bakhmut and around it is utter hell, as it is on the entire eastern front, Nazarenko said in a video posted on Telegram. President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office said he had discussed the operation on Monday with his chief of the general staff and commander of ground forces, who both "spoke in favour of continuing the defensive operation and further strengthening positions in Bakhmut". Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Wagner boss who sent tens of thousands of convicts recruited from Russian prisons into battle around Bakhmut, issued the latest in a barrage of statements that have deepened

his rift with Russia's top brass. Prigozhin said he had written a letter on Sunday to the commander of the Ukraine campaign "about the urgent need to allocate ammunition". On Monday morning he said his representative at operational headquarters had had his pass cancelled and been denied access. There was no immediate response from the Russian Ministry of Defence. Since the start of this year, the Ukraine campaign has been commanded personally by Russia's top general, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov. Prigozhin claimed last week that his men had practically surrounded Bakhmut. But on Saturday he appeared in a video with a gloomier assessment, warning that the front would collapse should Wagner be forced to retreat - although it was not clear when the video was recorded. He has accused ministry officials of "trea-

son" for failing to supply adequate ammunition to his forces, something the ministry has denied. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who has kept a low profile for most of the war, has been on a rare visit to his forces in Ukraine in recent days, awarding medals and meeting commanders. On Monday, he visited the eastern city of Mariupol, largely destroyed by Russian forces last year after a months-long siege.

After losing ground throughout the second half of 2022, Russia launched a winter offensive of intense trench warfare, making use of hundreds of thousands of reservists called up late last year. Apart from Bakhmut, Russia's offensive has produced no notable gains, failing to seize ground in Luhansk province further north and taking heavy losses in particular around Vuhledar to the south. Kyiv, for its part, has focused mainly on defence for the last three months, trying to inflict high casualties while preparing for a counter-offensive when new weapons arrive and the muddy ground dries out. The Institute for War Studies think-tank said it was still not clear whether Ukraine would pull out of Bakhmut or stay on to continue wearing down the Russian force. Either way, Moscow's offensive appeared to be reaching its high-water mark. "The likely imminent culmination of the Russian offensive around Bakhmut before or after its fall, the already culminated Russian offensive around Vuhledar, and the stalling Russian offensive in Luhansk Oblast are likely setting robust conditions for a future Ukrainian counteroffensive," its researchers wrote.

priorities

the Pakistan Democratic Movement

(PDM) could go to any lengths to delay

the polls. He also reacted to the hints

dropped by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhu-

tto-Zardari about quitting the government

over unfulfilled promises regarding the

rehabilitation of the flood victims. - DNA

Biden hails 'breakthrough' S. Korea plan

WASHINGTON: United States applauded plans announced by South Korea to compensate victims of Japan's forced wartime labor, as President Joe Biden on Monday hailed the agreement as a "historic breakthrough" between two American allies.

Seoul has looked to forge closer ties with Tokyo as a way to counter nuclear-armed North Korea, and the United States has described its trilateral relations with South Korea and Japan as central to Indo-Pacific regional stability.

'Two of our closest allies, Japan and the Republic of Korea, have reached a historic breakthrough," Biden said on Twitter. "The United States stands with the people of both nations as we all move towards a safer, more secure, and more prosperous future." Earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington applauded Seoul and Tokyo "for their courage and vision, and call on the international community to join our commendation of this mo-

mentous achievement." South Korea-Japan ties have long been strained over Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula. Around 780,000 Koreans were conscripted into forced labor by Japan during the 35-year occupation, according to data from Seoul, not including women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops.

Seoul's plan is to take money from major South Korean companies that benefited from a 1965 reparations deal with Tokyo and use it to compensate victims, South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin said. - APP

Zardari,



Shab-e-Barat to be observed

ISLAMABAD: The Shab-e Barat, a night of forgiveness or day of atonement, would be observed with religious reverence across the country, including twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday night.

On this particular night, the majority of faithful would seek forgiveness from the Allah Almighty and the people whose rights were usurped consciously or unconsciously. They prefer to keep fast on the very next day to express submissiveness in the court of Allah Almighty and beg His countless blessings for both the worlds.

A large number of people hailing from all schools of thought would offer the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him by paying homage at the graves of their loved ones on Shab-e-Barat. Shedding light on the significance of this sacred night, Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muham-Tahir mad Mehmood Ashrafi urged the people not to block the roads adjacent to the graveyards due to wrong parking which causes nuisance to rest of the motorists. - APP

ECC approves Hajj Policy 2023 with forex cover of \$90 million

As per policy Hajj quota allocated to Pakistan for the year 2023 is 179,210, which would be distributed between govt and private hajj schemes at a ratio of 50:50

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Monday approved Hajj Policy and agreed to provide foreign exchange cover of US\$90 million. The summary to this effect was presented by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony before the cabinet committee, the meeting of which was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

As per policy Hajj quota allocated to Pakistan for the year 2023 is 179,210, which would be distributed between the government and private hajj schemes at a ratio of 50:50, according to a press statement issued by the finance ministry.

Out of the government and private hajj schemes, a quota of 50% each would be reserved for sponsorship scheme, it said adding for the year 2023, tentative hajj package for Northern region is PKR 1,175,000/- and for the South Region is PKR 1,165,000/-.

ISLAMABAD: Professor Jean Pascal Van Ypersele, the candidate for the post of Chair of the intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), accompanied by the Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan Charles Delogne

calls on Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman. - DNA

The ECC also approved Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) of Rs 12 billion in favour of Planning Commission for conduct of 7th Population & Housing Census and Rs. 3,244 million in favour of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety for National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP).

The ECC deferred a summary presented by Ministry of National Food Security & Research on Urea Fertilizer requirement for the year 2023 with direction to incorporate the recommendations of committee framed by ECC on gas distribution plan headed by Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. The ECC also deferred another summary submitted by Ministry of Industries and Production on Solar Panel & Allied Equipment Manufacturing Policy-2023 with direction to review and revise the proposed policy considering inputs from all stakeholders. - APP

Indonesia landslide kills 11, dozens missing

JAKARTA: At least 15 people were killed and dozens feared missing after torrential rains and landslides battered one of Indonesia's outermost islands bordering the South China Sea, disaster officials said Monday (Mar 6). Pictures provided by the national disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) showed mud and debris from the landslides had inundated houses near a cliff on the remote Serasan island. Bits of metal torn off roofs and fallen trees were visible. The remoteness of the village where the landslide struck in the Natuna region of Riau province, combined with poor weather and downed communication lines, complicated rescue efforts, according to officials. "We've been updated that 50 people were missing, 15 dead people were evacuated," Natuna Search and Rescue Agency's head Abdul Rahman told AFP, revising an earlier toll. Riau Islands Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson Junainah added that with the communication network in the affected area - between Borneo island and peninsular Malaysia - cut off, it was hard to get the latest information.

"The weather is unpredictable. The wind is strong and the waves are currently high," said the official, who like many Indonesians

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goes by one name. A 60-person search and rescue team departed for the disaster-hit area from Penagi port in Natuna Island in the afternoon, BNPB spokesperson Abdul Muhari said in a statement on Monday evening. Muhari predicted that access to the far-flung island would be difficult. "Normally it takes five hours by fast boat," he said. "Tomorrow, the national disaster mitigation agency will deploy a helicopter to speed up the logistics delivery process," he told local television channel Kompas TV. A main road in the village was also cut off because of the landslides, further hampering the evacuation process. Indonesia is prone to landslides during the rainy season, aggravated in some places by deforestation, and prolonged torrential rain has caused flooding in different areas of the archipelago nation. Experts say the country's weather-related disasters are likely being made worse by climate change. Floods further south in Banjar district, in the Indonesian part of Borneo, have inundated more than 17,000 houses and disrupted lives for a month. Neighbouring Malaysia has also been hit with torrential rains and vast floods. At least four people have died and nearly 41,000 were evacuated last week

in several states of the country. - APP

Bilawal condemn terror attack

DNA

KARACHI: Former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the terrorists' attack in Bolan, Balochistan. He expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of law enforcement personnel in the attack.

Zardari said that terrorism is an unpardonable crime and the terrorists must not and cannot escape punishment. Asif Ali Zardari condoled with the families of the martyrs and prayed to Almighty Allah for the early recovery of the injured.

In a separate message, Chair Pakistan Peoples Party and Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemned the terrorists' attack on security personnel in Bolan area of Balochistan and expressed profound sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of nine security personnel in the attack.

Bilawal said that the planners and facilitators of this attack will be brought to book. He also prayed to Almighty Allah for early recovery of the injured.

Government to stamp out menace of terrorism: Rana

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Monday said the government would provide all resources to provinces for maintaining law and order and root out the menace of terrorism through effective measures. Addressing a press conference, he said there would be no cut in the resources of provincial governments and all requirements of law enforcement agencies would be fulfilled. "Though economic condition is very tough and austerity measures are being taken but the government would not compromise on needs of law enforcement agencies and all resources to be provided to them as per directions of the Prime Minister," he maintained. During the meeting of the Apex committee, he said that federal government had assured to provide all resources to the provinces for maintaining law and order. The min-

ster said that entire nation was standing with the brave and courageous law enforcers who were even sacrificing

their lives to eliminate terrorism. Rana Sana said that one civilian and eight personnel of the Balochistan Constabulary were martyred and 13 were wounded in a bomb attack in Bolan. He said that constabulary van was on its way back to Quetta from Sibi when an explosion occurred on the Kambri bridge in the area bordering the Sibi and Kachhi districts. The minister said that a suicide bomber riding on motorbike rammed into the police van. He said that wounded personnel had been shifted to hospitals through helicopter and every possible treatment was being given to them. Regarding comments of Maulana Fazlur Rehman about postponement of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid security concerns, the minister said that his opinion regarding postponement of election was valuable

However, he said the decision to hold elections was not of the government but of the Election Commission of Pakistan. PDM would hold a meeting to discuss this matter as it seem difficult to run the election campaign in the current situation, he said.

Regarding the possible arrest of Imran Khan, the minister said that things were clear against Imran Khan and he would have to appear before court to face the trial. He said that PTI leaders including dramatized the situation when Islamabad police team reached Lahore to arrest Imran Khan. " If Imran Khan is so much obedient to law, he should appear before the court as per orders," he added.

The minister said the verdict of the court about Imran Khan would be accepted and implemented in case he was acquitted or awarded punishment. " Imran Khan will have to appear before the court in next hearings otherwise he will be presented there," he maintained.

