

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Symposium on Iqbal and Petofi's spiritual kinship organized

Detailed News On Page-08

Georgia accuses Ukraine of stirring unrest

Detailed News On Page-07



Shadab named captain for Sharjah tour

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Siraj urges PDM for snap polls

NAZIR SIYAL



Movement (PDM) to announce general elections in the country. Addressing a press conference, MrHaq assailed the government over the flood funds, claiming, "The rulers will spend the flood funds to run their electoral campaign." Taking a dig at PPP, MrHaq said, "The people of Karachi have not accepted the PPP's government." He lamented the masses of Karachi were deprived of clean water and were not having the best of the facilities in the hospitals.

Fawad seeks names of all beneficiaries

DNA



has described Toshakhana beneficiaries "incomplete" as it did not mention the gifts received by generals and judges. The former minister made the demand in a video message tweeted on

PTI handle, a day after the federal govt made public the details of gifts retained by rulers and dignitaries from 2002 to 2022. Fawad said the list was "incomplete" as it only included records from 2002. He demanded that "a list of gifts retained before 1988 should also be released and the names of generals and judges who got gifts should also be included in it."

Hamza back ahead of Punjab polls

STAFF REPORT



turned to the country on Monday night in a bid to play an active role in his party's electoral campaign. Sources privy to the development said in connection with the elections, MrShehbaz would be given a key responsibility get the PML-N leaders and workers active for the electoral campaign.

Islamabad police reach Lahore

Imran leads rally, calls jalsa on 19

Ex-Premier says after Toshakahana records, PML-N's foreign funding will also be revealed

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced to hold a public gathering at the iconic Minar-e-Pakistan on Sunday, March 19 as part of the election campaign. PTI Chairman Imran Khan made the announcement after addressing a rally at Data Darbar. The public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan will be held at 2 PM. He told his party supporters that they ISLAMABAD: Two non-bailable arrest will have to struggle together. He said the warrants were issued for PTI chairman welcome received at the rally shows why the and former prime minister Imran Khan government is scared of the PTI's popularity. He said the Toshakahana records have been courts in cases linked to the Toshakharevealed and the matter is out in the open. na reference and threatening a woman He said the PML-N will have no place to hide additional district and sessions judge. after their foreign funding is also revealed. The PTI finally held an election rally under recovering from a gunshot injury from the leadership of former Chairman Imran an assassination attempt in Wazirabad Khan from Zaman Park to Data Darbar. The last year and has skipped hearings in former prime minister led the rally in a bul- several cases. The PTI chief was suplet-proof vehicle and waved at his supporters. posed to appear before two district The party had requested workers to participate and session courts in Islamabad but on foot due to security concerns, while the Imran's lawyers filed petitions seekdistrict administration restricted the routes by ing an exemption from the hearings placing containers on the roads. A number of citing security reasons. The courts of PTI leaders especially from Punjab along with Additional District and Sessions Judge their supporters were part of the rally. The Zafar Iqbal (hearing the Toshakhana PTI supporters thronged the streets and wel- case) and Senior Civil Judge Rana Mucomed the rally upon reaching different places. jahid Rahim (hearing the judge threat-PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry ening case) issued arrest warrants

Non-bailable arrest warrants issued for Khan

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

KHAYAM ABBASI

on Monday after he failed to appear in The 70-vear-old ex-premier has been remarked on the rally's strength and said. for Imran and instructed the police to

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Dar to talk to US over IMF delay

The decision comes as majority of demands have been completed

SHUJAAT HAMZA

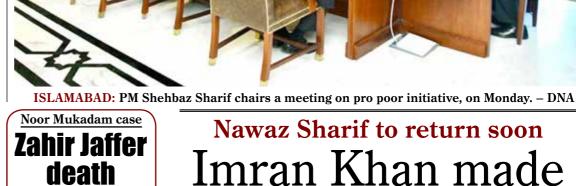
staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan has decided to seek US help for the revival of the stalled loan programme. Sources within the Finance Ministry familiar with the development said that the incumbent government ISLAMABAD: The monitoring Committee has decided to seek Washington's help as to oversee the implementation of austerthe majority of the demands of the fund ity measures has expressed serious conhave been completed. "There is no need for cerns on the use of vehicles above 1800 further delay in the staff-level agreement." cc by some officers and directed all the They further say Finance Minister Ishaq authorities to immediate stop the use of Dar will talk with the US envoy this week. all these cars. The committee that met It has been learnt that there are chances in Islamabad on Monday with Finance of a staff-level agreement between Pakistan Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair, reviewed and the IMF this week. The virtual talks the implementation of the decisions of were also scheduled with the International its first meeting on the implementation Monetary Fund. Sources further claimed of austerity measures. The meeting was that officials from State Bank of Pakistan updated on the status of use of luxury and IMF had held talks on Thursday. They vehicles and was apprised that majority

Implementation of ISLAMABAD: Following the delay in the austerity measures reviewed

DNA

discussed the points finalised in the Memo- of the allocated vehicles have been rerandum of Economic and Financial Policies. turned back by the Cabinet members.

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DNA

sentence

upheld

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday upheld the death sentence awarded to Zahir Jaffer in the Noor Mukadam murder case by the trial court and turned his life imprisonment into capital punishment. A two-member bench of the divisional bench, comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, issued the verdict which was reserved December 21 on appeals filed against the punishment awarded to the convicts and acquittal of co-accused for the brutal murder of the 27-year-old woman.

The court's decision for the double death sentence came following Jaffer's crime for Noor's rape and murder. He earlier received a 25-year imprisonment sentence with hard labour and a fine of Rs0.2 million after

Continued on Page 06

Japan to help Pak transport tents to Turkeyie

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan decided anew to dispatch a Self-Defense Forces (SDF) aircraft in response to the damages caused by the earthquake in southeastern Turkey, based on the Law Concerning Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team. To be specific, one SDF aircraft is scheduled to depart for Pakistan to transport emergency relief supplies, including tents available in Pakistan, to Turkey, said a news release issued by the embassy of Japan in

Continued on Page 06

emergency

Pakistan. This is the first

international

Nawaz Sharif to return soon

Imran Khan made properties by selling gifts, says Maryam

PML-N stalwart says we faced difficulties for four years

ABID RAZA

Pakistan LAHORE: Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Marvam lambasted Nawaz

on Monday Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, saying the latter had acquired properties for his generations by selling the Toshakhana gifts. Addressing an event in Lahore, Ms Nawaz took a dig at the deposed premier over the electoral campaign, saying, "Imran Khan says that I (Maryam) have the freedom of staging the electoral campaign but not him. We have faced difficulties for four years but nobody pointed fingers on Imran Khan." She lamented Mr Khan did not even reach the house of PTI worker Ali Bilal, also known as Zille Shah. Ms Nawaz added, "Zille Shah's mother said Imran Khan's sons are living abroad but my son has been killed.' Lashing out at Mr Khan over the matter of cipher, Ms Nawaz said, "To play with cipher means to play with the country.

Continued on Page 06

PML-N to field candidates in all constituencies

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) has decided to field its candidate in all constituencies for general elections in Puniah. The decision was made when PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif made a telephonic contact with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and party Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz. The contact between the top leadership of the party ruling in Centre comes as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a schedule for general elections in Punjab. It has announced that elections would be held on April 30 but clouds of uncertainty overhang the polls as the security officials, in a recent meeting, recommended

Continued on Page 06

Palestine welcomes Iran-Saudi agreement

The Ministry affirmed that this agreement would lead to stability, security and cooperation among the countries of the region

DNA

RAMALLAH: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine has welcomed the Saudi-Iranian agreement to resume diplomatic relations between them, which was sponsored by China. The Ministry affirmed that this agreement would lead to stability, security and cooperation among the countries of the region, and contribute to addressing outstanding issues and crises in our region. It further hoped that it would remove the specter of fighting and wars, and pull the rug from the hands of some countries that were looking for military solutions to their crises. In this context, the Ministry congratulates the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this diplomatic achievement, and we congratulate it on this decision. which reflects the depth of a political vision and historical responsibility towards its people and the peoples of the region and the world. 'We congratulate the Kingdom's leadership and people on this important and responsible achievement', he statement further added.

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Heavy losses reported as battle for Bakhmut rages - Page 08

Saudi-Iran accord; let's cross our fingers (P-2)

ANALYSIS

Ansar M Bhatti

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T may be a far-fetched approach Iran-Saudi easing of tensions may not augur well for the future investments which the Saudis



oil refinery in Gwadar to be established at a cost of USD 10 billion may also land in trouble because Saudis may now look for similar opportunities in Iran as well. Pakistan seems firm in its assumption that Saudi Arabia shall continue its engagement with Pakistan without any strings attached and the oil refinery project shall proceed as planned. But in the emerging scenario it seems as if Pakistan had to earn Saudi support in future. It may not be automatic and spontaneous as is the case at the moment. China too may shift its focus from Pakistan to espe-

cially Iran given the fact that the CPEC supreme that at least from the point of project fate still hangs in a balance and scores of Chinese have been killed so far in Balochistan and elsewhere.

Iran always tried to have good relations with Pakistan because of two main reasons. First it wanted to curtail Saudi influence and secondly it needed new markets to sell its natural resources. Being a neighbor, Pakistan turned out to be a viable option. But unfortunately Pakistan could not respond to Iranian gestures because of its being under American influence and partly because of US sanctions on Tehran.

In 2013 a 300-member strong Pakistani delegation led by the then President Asif Ali Zardari and comprising the country's foreign minister, petroleum minister and National Assembly speaker and a number of prominent politicians attended the historic inauguration of the multi-billion dollar Pak-Iran gas pipeline in Chabahar. The then Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad along with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari inaugurated the project. Even after the inauguration doubts continued to rule

view of the Pakistani side the entire exercise was just an eye wash. Since the general elections were around the corner therefore the then government tried to use this event for political purposes. The successive governments too did not do much about this gas pipeline mainly because of the US and Saudi pressures. Or perhaps that was the impression the Iranian used to give. Recently, Tehran has warned Islamabad to construct its portion of the gas pipeline until March 2024 or pay a penalty of \$18 billion. According to the official, Iran has stated

that the US sanctions on Tehran are illegal and Pakistan is bound to construct the 780-kilometer pipeline on its portion till February-March 2024. Iran has already completed part of the pipeline in its territory from the gas fields in the west to the border with Pakistan in the east.

The 25-year contract to export Iran's natural gas through a pipeline to Pakistan was signed between the two countries in 2009 and was supposed to be implemented by 2015. The two sides inked a revised deal in September 2019. Iran agreed not to approach any international court if Pakistan would finish the pipeline until 2024. If the Iran-Saudi détente goes well then certainly it will help Pakistan to complete the pipeline project sooner rather than later. If Saudi Arabia throws its weight behind this project then I am sure the American pressure won't be an obstacle.

The development has rung alarm bells in the important capitals such as Washington and Tel Aviv. The Israeli government has already started feeling the heat as the opposition has pointed all its guns towards the prime minister and the entire government. The opposition thinks Iran-Saudi rapprochement has badly exposed foreign policy flaws. In Washington too the atmosphere is somber. It may not be a matter of concern for the US that both Iran and Saudi Arabia have re-established diplomatic relations, for them the most worrying factor turns out to be the Chinese role in the whole exercise. This development is indeed a big foreign policy success for Beijing, which had huge economic stakes in the Gulf region and thus wanted peace and stability there.

tween Iran-Saudi relations and Pakistan India ties, however this development appears to have opened a window of hope for both Islamabad and New Delhi to give peace another chance. We cannot expect China to play a role in this regard because Chinese tensions with India are of much more magnitude than that of Pakistan and India's. To play a role China at the first place had to mend its fences with India, which seems impossible at least in the foreseeable future. It means the initiative has to come from within. Both India and Pakistan enjoy cordial ties with Saudi Arabia and Iran therefore it is possible that these two countries can play a role in diffusing mistrust between the two arch rivals. To begin with, re-appointment of the high commissioners may be a positive step in that direction. Regarding the agreement, the path to peace for Iranians and Saudis will not be easy since there are many spoilers who would be seeking to torpedo the deal. Now it is up to both sides as to how they make this agreement work.

Need to ensure suitable environment for working women

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that it was necessary to provide a proper work environment to women with zero tolerance for discrimination, fear and harassment. He stated this while addressing the inaugural session of the National Women Police Conference organized by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) under the theme of "Inspire, Empower, and Transform." The law minister said that policing for women or by women was a need of the hour, adding that nothing including law and religion stops women from playing an active and productive role in a profession of their choice.

He said that the legislation could give benefit only when the law was implemented in letter and spirit, adding that collective efforts were required for this purpose. The litigants were suffering due to the complexity of the law and jurisdiction issues, he said.

CII calls 2

day special

meeting on

Azam Nazeer said that society needed to bring changes in its attitudes towards gender issues to empower women. About 80% of women in the country needed cooperation and protection, he said. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah affirmed the commitment of the government to ensure that everyone in Pakistan had access to justice and that women are safe. They emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and women empowerment in the country.

During his remarks, US Ambassador to Islamabad Donald Blome emphasized the importance of women's inclusion in policing and the need for innovative policies to ensure equal access to justice. Highlighting the role of women in policing and acknowledging the challenges they face in their line of work, Ambassador Blome also discussed the need for collaboration and partnership between various stakeholders to ensure women have equal opportunities and access to justice. Executive Director of PCHR Shafique Chaudhry briefed the participants on the efforts towards improving gender inclusion and responsiveness in Pakistan police. USIP Country Director Imran Khan shared details about various activities under the U.S. Embassy-USIP Police Awam Sath Sath (PASS) program that USIP is carrying out in partnership with police departments and civil society organizations nationwide. The National Women Police Conference 2023 is part of a broader effort to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan. Speaking at the conference, Minister of Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister of Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Federal Minister of Climate Change Sherry Rehman also highlighted the importance of gender-responsive policing in Pakistan. The conference concluded with a summary of recommendations and a way forward, followed by closing remarks from U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Director Lori Antolinez.

PESHAWAR: Hundreds of the workers of ANP, PML-N motorcycles and 80 rounds general elections. - APP



PESHAWAR: Dr Riina Kionka, ambassador of EU to Pakistan meets Caretaker Chief Minister of KP, Azam Khan. Both sides discussed bilateral interests including green inclusive growth, community support, and youth employment. - DNA

Hundreds of political workers join PPP in KP

and PTI including influential political families announced joining PPP during a grand joining ceremony held here at Takhtabad (Shahalam) on Monday. In this connection. a function was held here with Provincial Deputy General Secretary PPP Malik Tehmash Khan in the chair, who welcomed the new entrants into the party fold. Addressing the occasion, Malik Tehmash Khan said that the people had been cheated in the name of the hollow slogans of change. He said that only PPP was capable of guaranteeing the bright future of the people of KP and would never compromise on the struggle for the rights of the people. He said that PPP was gaining popularity in the province as it was the only political party which had always honoured its workers. Malik Tehmash Khan directed the party office bearers and workers to make diligent and honest preparation for the coming

EU envoy calls on KP CM, discusses public welfare projects

Dr. Riina Kionka on the occasion said that EU in its upcoming support programs will have special focus on KP and Balochistan

DNA

PESHAWAR: Dr. Riina kionka, European Union's Ambassador to Pakistan on Monday called on Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammed Azam Khan. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest with a special focus on public welfare projects being carried out with the cooperation of the European Union in the province. First Secretary Cooperation Mr. Sven Ruesch and Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Imdadullah Bosal were also present on the occasion. Dr. Riina Kionka expressed her condolences and sorrow over the brutal blast in the Peshawar police line tion from the international that claimed precious hu-

man lives. The caretaker Chief Minister, while talking on the occasion, said that the European Union is providing support in various social sectors of the province adding that the government and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa highly valued and appreciated their cooperation. "We are looking forward to the same cooperation in the future as well," the chief minister remarked and said that the provincial government is looking forward to special support from the Union in the newly merged districts

of the province. He said that the government is going all out for the development of merged areas: however, cooperadevelopment partners is of vital importance in this regard. Muhammad Azam khan remarked that the people of merged areas had been suffering from multiple challenges for the last forty years due to war in bordering Afghanistan, and added that the people of merged districts need and deserve special focus in order to bring them into the mainstream of development and prosperity.

The difficulties and problems of merged areas can substantially be reduced by focusing on technical and vocational education, rural development, health and other social sectors. Dr. Riina Kionka on the occasion said that the European Union in its upcoming support programs will have special focus on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

'transgender issues'

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has called a two-day special meeting to discuss the issues of the transgender community which is scheduled to be held on March 14 to 15 with Dr Qibla Ayaz in the chair. Sharing key points of this special meeting with APP on Monday, CII Research Officer Dr Ashfaq Ahmed informed that apart from the council members, representatives of the transgender community, doctors, legal and social experts, civil organizations, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Ministry of Human Rights would also participate in the meeting in a bid to review all aspects of the issues pertaining to the transgender community. He said recommendations would be made regarding Transgender Act 2018, Amendment Bills and Transgender Protection Rules 2020, medical issues, administrative difficulties and social issues related to sterility and transgender in the meeting.

He said the meeting would be comprised of the CII members - Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Sahibzada Muhammad Hasan Haseebur Rahman, Allama Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Maulana Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Hamidul Haqqani, Dr Umair Mahmood Siddiqui, Pir Syed Muhammad Habib Irfani, Allama Muhammad Raghib. He said Hussain Naimi, Sahibzada Junaid Amin, Malakullah Bakhsh Kaliar, Justice (Rtd) Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Justice (Rtd) Altaf Ibrahim Muhammad Qureshi. Jalaluddin Advocate, Pir Khalid Sultanul Qadri, Allama Dr Abdul Ghafur Rashid, Farida Rahim Sahiba, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Zubair, Maulana Naseem Ali Shah, Sahibzada Dr Abul Hasan Muhammad Shah Al-Azhari would also be part of this consultative meeting. - APP

Masterminds of KPO attack killed, two others arrested involved in the recce and Ali and Mehran alias Mehar-

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information and Archives Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday said the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh Police had arrested two terrorists while two others were killed, who were involved in a terrorist attack on Karachi Police Office (KPO) on February 17th this year. Addressing a news conference, the minister informed that a special team comprising officers from federal intelligence agencies, CTD Sindh and other law enforcement agencies was constituted to investigate and expose the network of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involved in the attack on KPO. He said the team had some intelligence reports that the network

planning of the attack was hiding in bordering areas of Karachi and Balochistan. Last night, the CTD received a tip that some of the terrorists belonging to the said network would enter Karachi from the Hub area. Sharjeel Memon said a team of CTD was deployed on the route. About four terrorists riding on two motorcycles entered the city from the Manghopir area, when they were asked to stop they resorted to firing on the police team. During the exchange of firing two terrorists were killed while two others were arrested. The killed terrorists were

identified as Aryadullah alias Hassan and Waheedullah alias Khalid alias Huzaifa and both were masterminds of the KPO attack, he said. The arrested were identified as Abdul Aziz alias Muhammad

fayatullah, who exploded himself during the attack and the arrested accused Abdul Aziz for Rs. 1 million from a showroom in Hub. The money to buy the vehicle used in the attack was provided by Aryadullah and Abdul Waheed alias Khalid alias Huzaifah. The minister further informed that weapons and suicide jackets used in the KPO attack were transported by truck from the Tank area of KPK. The CTD recovered a suicide jacket, three pistols, two

ban. Sharjeel Memon said the

killed and arrested terrorists

were residents of Karachi.

The arrested terrorists dur-

ing the initial investigation

revealed that the car used in

the KPO attack was bought

by the suicide bomber Ki-

from the arrested terrorists.

Kosovo's ambassador holds a

DNA

Kosovo appreciated Pakistan's support in their struggle for independence. He said that Kosovo wants to strengthen its trade and economic relations with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to trade in many areas. Pakistani investors may use Kosove as a hub to promote their exports to European markets Agon Vernezi, said that Kosovo was interested in developing sector-specific relations with Pakistan to make some tangible progress and later those ties could be diversified to cover more areas of cooperation. He was of the view that regular interaction between the private sectors of the two



be the way forward to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties between Kosovo and Pakistan Speaking on the occasion, Amin Ullah Baig Vice President FPCCI & Incharge Capital Office, said that Pakistan could export many products to Kosovo including textile goods, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, IT products and services, sports goods, leather products, fruits and vegetables. He said that Kosovo is an unexplored market for the Pakistani business community and emphasised that both countries should facilitate the exchange of trade delegations and organise B2B meetings.

Amin Ullah Baig, emphasized evolving institutional mechanisms to promote economic and commercial cooperation as well as to enhance awareness about trade and investment opportunities available in the two countries. He further said that the business community could play an important role in forging stronger relations between the two countries. The need for exploring the possibility of the establishment of a Pakistan-Kosovo Business Council in the respective Federation Chambers was also agreed upon during the meeting. Mr. Rana Muhammad Sadique EC Member FPCCI, Mr. Arif Malik President Skardu Chamber, Mr. Syed Mansoor Nadeem, Islamabad Chamber, and Farukh Alvi Mining Association were also present on this occasion.

meeting with VP of FPCCI

ISLAMABAD: H.E Agon Vernezi, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Pakistan visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad held a meeting with Mr. Amin Ullah Baig Vice President of FPCCI & Incharge along with Zahid Anjum Honorary Consul republic of Kosovo and Mr. Gent Gjikolli, Frist Secretary Embassy of Kosovo. During the meeting, the matters of enhancing cooperation in diverse fields, including tourism, trade, investment, technology, and exchange of business delegations were discussed.

Pakistan vulnerable to climate change: WB

According to the report, the 2022 floods will likely hamper progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan by 2030

KARACHI: "Pakistan is highly vulnerable to worsening climate change; building resilience is key to avoiding poverty increases, otherwise, there is a significant probability of more frequent and intense events such as droughts, floods, and sea level rise." This was disclosed by a World Bank high-power delegation led by its Regional Director for Sustainable Development (SD), South Asia, Mr. John A. Roome who met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at CM House. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, the chief secretary, the chairman P&D, and others. Through a presentation, the world bank's regional director for South Asia told the meeting about the report that Pakistan's recent poverty reduction was fragile due to macro-fiscal vulnerabilities and low, volatile growth. The report said that the reduced extreme poverty due to off-farm economic and foreign remittances, growth in per

capita GDP has been volatile and low. The structural issues, including circular debt, large and unproductive subsidy regimes, and inadequate tax collection adds to fiscal stress and constrained investment in human capital, basic infrastruc-

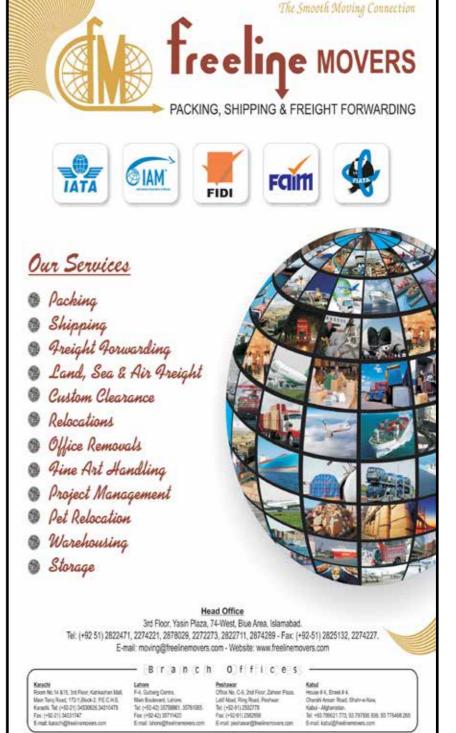
ture, and services. According to the report Pakistan has been a low GHG emitter, but there are opportunities in Pakistan's own interests to decarbonize the economy. Pakistan contributed less than one per cent of total Green House Gases emissions between 1990-2018. The GHG emissions per capita are low; about onethird of the global average. GHG emissions per GDP are decreasing but at a lower rate than the global average. The GHG emissions are growing fast due to population increases and economic growth, therefore focus may be made to significant decarbonization options in industry, power, and transport that deliver local co-benefits. Climate change is already having devastating effects on the country. The unprecedented floods brought one-third of the country under water, and caused 1,700 casualties, affecting around 33 million people, therefore Pakistan needs \$16 billion to recover.

According to the report, the 2022 floods will likely hamper progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan by 2030. Some 8.4 to 9.1 million people would be pushed into poverty, and 6 to 7 million people would fall further behind. Additional 7.6 million people face food security, 17 million women and children are at greater risk of preventable diseases, 4.,3 million people would face job loss or disruption and 640,000 women and girls are at risk of GBV and child marriage. The post-flood presents a significant opportunity for building long-term and systematic resilience. The report suggests that

an inclusive and resilient recovery through a `whole Pakistan approach leads to sustainable development for the people and country. The pillars of the recovery, according to the report, include the restoration of jobs and livelihoods, recovery and reconstruction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure, and strengthening government and stakeholder capacity for reconstruction, especially communities. Building resilience to these compound risks will require a strong pivot of the economy towards a development pathway that can sustain and strengthen equitable growth and limit the impact of climate change-related physical, transitional. and financial risks. The chief minister directed his P&D team to study the WB report and recommendations and then frame its own development plan in light of the report so that the province could be steered out of poverty through sustainable development. - APP

APCOYF felicitates President Xi ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation (APCOYF)

Aasma Ismail Butt on Monday congratulated Xi Jinping for the third term as the President of the Republic of China In a statement issued here, the Federation President said it was hoped that under the leadership of Xi Jinping, the relationship between Pakistan and China would further strengthen, leading to the development and prosperity of the people of both countries. Butt said that President Xi Jinping was unanimously elected by 2,952 members of the National People's Congress for the third term, proving that he was the heart of the Chinese people, and his popularity was not only in China but also existed in Pakistan. "Strong Pakistan-China bilateral relations promote the message of prosperity, friendship and love for both countries. Chinese President Xi Jinping's efforts to make Pakistan-China friendship more stable over time are commendable. We are hopeful for the future that China will always support Pakistan as a brother country in all times. China is the only country which has always appreciated the love of Pakistan and its people and has also given ample proof of being a benevolent friend," she added. All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation and the people across the country expressed their best wishes for Chinese President Xi Jinping and pray for his success ahead, she further said. - APP



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

March 17 / Ireland St. Patricks Day March 20 / Tunisia

National Day

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......051-28261210334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

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CAA	9281092
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Hospitals

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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal 4603666



CDA.....9221334-43 CDA.....9208301-04 Met Office.....9250360-6 TMA.....5770886



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
PotoharTown	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343



Islamabad.....0321-5744480

US advances women's inclusion in Pak Policing

MAHNOOR ANSAR/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan hosted the National Women Police Conference today at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad. Funded by the U.S. government, the conference united key stakeholders in policing and women's rights under the theme of "Inspire, Empower, and Transform.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) helped organize the conference.

During his remarks, U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome emphasized the importance of women's inclusion in policing and the need for innovative policies to ensure equal access to justice. Highlighting the role of women in policing and acknowledging the challenges they face in their line of work, he commended the or-

ISLAMABAD: The Nation-

al Highways and Motor-

way Police (NHMP) have

launched a campaign #No-

More to promote road safe-

ty and reduce violations on

According to the details

shared by NHMP on Mon-

day, the campaign aims to

create awareness among

motorways.



ganizers and attendees for their efforts in promoting women's rights and empowerment, expressing his hope that the con-

sponsible driving habits.

Those who violate traffic

laws and regulations, such

as not wearing seat belts,

using mobile phones while

driving, or speeding, would

For the enforcement of

the said campaign spotters

have been planted along

the motorways which are

be heavily fined.

Motorway Police introduce

strict enforcement regime

ference would lead to positive outcomes and tangible results. Federal Law Minister Senaaffirmed the Pakistani government's commitment to ensuring that everyone in Pakistan has access to justice and that wom-

need for collaborative efforts between government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. The National Women Police Conference 2023 is part of a broader

effort to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

in Pakistan. Through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the U.S. government has been working closely with the Government of Pakistan and civil society partners to support initiatives that promote women's rights and access to justice. The conference provided an important platform to discuss and share best practices, challenges, and opportunities for women's inclusion in policing, ultimately improving access to justice for

Women Intl Film Festival

concludes

ISLAMABAD: Women International Film Festival (WIFF) that was having its seventh year run concluded here late Sunday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) with amazing line-up of films all made by women from Pakistan and around the world. The event was supported by the Embassy of France in Pakistan and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Islamabad. The films screened during the two day festival included, The great Melies by Beatrice Campagna (Italy) based on the complex relationship between a father, a world famous illusionist, and a young musician daughter, is resolved after many years in the very place that has most deeply united and divided them. Three wishes. One truth by Cecilia Petrujno, (Argentina) based on Autumn 1984. Valeria is ten years old and lives in distress out of her father's violence. Speaking about it is forbidden. On her birthday celebration she finds a magical object that can help her to ease her sorrow. Now Valeria has a plan. Women of my family by Alissa Sophie Larkamp from Germany is a film as a personal stream of memories - the biographical fragments of a great-grandmother, grandmother and mother are marked by simple circumstances. Silk's balance by Elise Lorthiois from France revolves around life of five women in their adventure, high lining in the middle of the mountains. Betty's burning by Camille Vigny (Belgium) shows how to end a toxic and violent relationship. Awaaz by Halimah Tariq from Pakistan follows the story of Shakila Farooq, the first woman in Mardan to take a stand for educating hearing and speech impaired girls, she fights to change the mindset and norms of a patriarchal society. Baira Gharakh by Mehreen Jabbar from Pakistan highlights that nothing goes as planned when a wife, her husband, and his friend end up in the same house at the same time. Other films include, The most boring granny in the whole world by Damaris Zielke from Germany, 48 hours by Azadeh Moussavi from Iran, Inadequate by Beyza Yildir from Turkey, Hot rod by Juliette Gilot from France, Nobody by Mingyuan Li from United States, The woman under the tree by Karishma Kohli from United States, Late winter by Jasna Safia from Croatia, My mother's daughter by Ahmen Khawaja, Mariam Khan from Pakistan, Misophonia by Melodi Tozum from Turkey.—APP

ICCI delegation returns after 5-days visit of Ethiopia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President, returned after a very successful and historic 5-days visit of Ethiopia where the delegation met with the country's political leadership, businessmen, government officials and the local community. The delegation was received at Addis Ababa Airport by Mrs. Birtukan Ayano, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. The delegation attended the Pak- Ethiopia Business Forum, which was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen. 70 delegates from Pakistan including ICCI delegation members were in attendance in the Business Forum.

The delegation also met with the Ethiopian Minister for Industry, Minister for Mines and Commissioner of Ethiopian Investment Commission besides visiting Ethiopian industrial parks. Giving an overview of the visit, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the visit of Pakistani delegation would start a new chapter of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Ethiopia and boost business and investment relations between the two countries. He said that Africa is a huge market of over 1.4 billion people and Pakistan has huge potential to promote trade and exports with Africa through Ethiopia, which is a gateway for Africa.

He said that Pakistan has made a Look Africa Policy, which has not as yet achieved its desired goals. He said that the visit of Pakistan's business delegation to Ethiopia would make positive progress towards the objectives of Look Africa Policy.

He said that Pakistan's two close friends Turkiye and China have made good investments in Ethiopia and Africa, which provides Pakistani investors better confidence to explore Ethiopia for business and investment opportunities.

equipped with high-defifurther enhance the effecmotorists and promote re-COMSTECH and the University of Jordan organize workshop

ISLAMABAD: The chemistry department of the University of Jordan and COM-STECH organized jointly "Workshop on Modern Spectroscopic Techniques and Their Applications in Research" during March 12-14. This three-day workshop consisted of lectures of eminent scholars and practical sessions involving hands-on experience on interpretation of spectroscopic data. This workshop offered the opportunity of hands on training on modern spectroscopic instruments and software that are used in the field of chemical and biological sciences. Lectures followed by discussion session further strengthened the knowledge and understanding of the modern spectroscopic techniques and promoted research partnership between the scientists of OIC countries. Assistant Secretary General-OIC, H.E. Mr Askar Mussinov said that It is my delight to welcome vou all in this 3 - day event organized by COMSTECH and University of Jordan. He said that spectroscopy offers the necessary tools to investigate the structure and function of small chemical

compounds as well as biolog-

ical macromolecules. He said

spectroscopic techniques at the regional level through the contribution of eminent scholars from various universities and R & D institutions. He conveyed, on behalf of OIC secretariat in Jeddah, well wishes to COMSTECH

we sincerely hope that this COMSTECH / Director IC- In the inaugural session event will contribute in the CBS, H.E. Maj. Gen. Sajjad the University of Jordan development and strengthen- Ali Khan (Retd.), Ambassa- announced to become ing of the capacity in modern spectroscopic techniques at dor, Embassy of Islamic Republic Of Pakistan, Amman, STECH Consortium of Jordan, H.E. Ambassador Askar Mussinov, Assistant Secretary General (S&T), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia, H. E. Prof. Dr. Atta – Ur- Rahman

nition cameras to capture

clear photos of vehicles. In

addition to that, cameras

will also capture violations

such as drivers not wearing

seat belts and using mobile

The vehicle number will

also be recorded which will

make it easier for author-

ities to issue challans. To

phones while driving.

Excellence (CCoE) and signed the agreement with COMSTECH. Experts of the spectroscopy from Germany, China, Greece, Pakistan, Jordan and Egypt participated as

tiveness, a variable mes-

saging system will be put in

place which will display the

vehicle number on the back

screen reminding the viola-

Meanwhile, NHMP have

urged motorists to cooper-

ate with the Motorway Po-

lice and follow traffic rules

and regulations to avoid

tor about the fine.



and University of Jordan for organizing this illustrious gathering, and offered full support of our secretariat to COMSTECH for achieving its mission and objectives. The inaugural session was addressed by H.E. Prof. Dr. Nathir Obeidat, The President of the University of Jordan, H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General

(FRS), President, Network of Academy of Sciences of Islamic Countries (NA-SIC), Professor Emeritus/ Patron-In-Chief ICCBS, H. E. Prof. Dr. Adnan Badran, Chair of The Board of Trustees of The University of Jordan, H.E. Prof. Dr. Azmi Mahafza, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research

resource persons. Among these speakers, we had pioneers of this field whose work is shining light to many chemists and biologists around the world. Researchers from Algeria, Pakistan, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Turkiye, USA, Kenya, Palestine and Kazakhstan participated in the workshop

ECP establishes Online Scrutiny Cell

Cell to provide legal assistance and support to 297 Returning Officers (ROs) during the rigorous scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates vying for provincial assembly seats of Punjab. According to ECP spokesperson, the special software links several government agencies such as the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) with the Election Commission Secretariat. The Cell, tasked to work round the clock, was also equipped with fax, telephone, and internet facilities. The necessary proforma and Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) have been devised and provided to all the Returning Officers (ROs) to help them carry out their duties effectively. This move by the ECP is aimed at ensuring free and fair elections in Pakistan and promoting transparency in the electoral process. With the help of advanced technology and the coordination of various government agencies, the ECP hopes to eliminate any possibility of electoral malpractice and uphold the integrity of the democratic process. The returning officers were required to send candidate's particulars to the online Scrutiny Cell daily. -APP

Leader awards entry submission extended

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives has extended the deadline for submission of entries for the Development Leadership Award (DLA) till March 16 to provide more opportunities to the applicants. The decision was taken amid providing maximum opportunities to the candidates. Earlier, the deadline was February 25. However, it has been extended to March 16. The DLA initiative was taken by the Planning Ministry to mark the celebrations of 75 years of independence.

The key objective of these awards is to honour Pakistani citizens and overseas Pakistanis who have contributed significantly to the socioeconomic development of Pakistan. The DLA will be given to outstanding individuals in recognition of high achievers, emerging leaders and overseas Pakistanis in specific fields which include teachers, researchers, public policy experts; business owners; investors; startups, social enterprises, philanthropists; social activists; journalists, and others. Under the awards, three main categories were established which include high achiever (over 35 years of age), emerging leader (under 35 years), and recognizing accomplished overseas Pakistanis. A high-powered 'DLA Evaluation Board' - comprised of intellectuals, practitioners, professionals, and policymakers – will evaluate the submissions and forward recommendations to the Prime Minister Office. It may be noted that since the government came into power in April last year several initiatives have been taken for the development of the country, particularly for the youth and DLA is one of the initiatives to recognise the contribution of people in respective fields. -APP

MARCH 2023

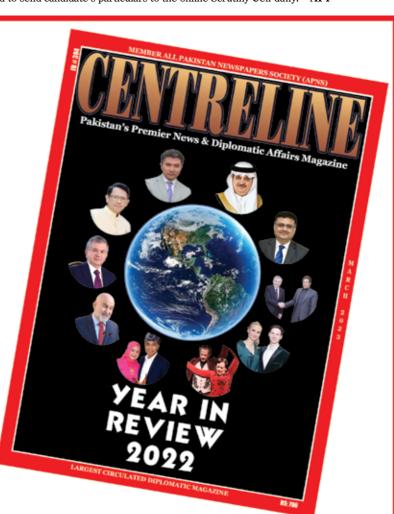
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Briefs

Qadir Patel asked parents to cooperate in anti-polio drive

ISLAMABAD: Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday reiterated that the government was committed to eradicat ing polio from the country and urged parents to cooperate with the polio workers during the campaign.

"The aim of launching polio campaigns was to protect children through immunization and boost their immunity," he said while talking to a private news channel. He said that 21 million children under the age of five would be vaccinated during the anti-polio drive which started today.

He said that polio workers were our national heroes who were playing a key role in the fight against this virus. He also asked Islamic scholars, media and civil society to play an active role to eradicate polio from our

The anti-polio campaign would provide the necessary awareness to the citizens, he added.-APP

ANF recovers 705 kg drugs in four operations; arrests three

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 705 kg of drugs while conducting four operations and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF recovered 2.4 kg charras from a car intercepted near 'Tarnol Phatak' on G.T. Road, Rawalpindi. Two drug smugglers were also rounded up during the operation. In another operation, ANF recovered 500 grams of heroin concealed in a laptop from the possession of a Sharjah-bound passenger, a resident of Buner, arrested at Faisalabad Airport.

The spokesman informed that a bid to smuggle drugs to a foreign country through Gwadar was foiled and ANF recovered 510 kg charras and 21 kg Ice drug buried underground, hidden in bushes at Saji point in the Dasht area of Balochistan. In another operation, ANF conducted a raid in Pashkan, Gwadar, and seized 155 kg charras and 16 kg

Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.—APP

Minister for promoting innovation-led productivity growth

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud on Monday appreciated the role of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in the development of the Asia-Pacific region saying that it is time to revitalize the commitments and to strive to achieve APO's vision of inclusive, innova tion-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the five-day "International Training Course On Productivity Gainsharing in Agribusi-Enterprises", the minister welcomed the international delegates and conveyed his gratitude to APO and National Productivity Organization (NPO) for addressing this important topic. He further added that working in tandem with APO, Pakistan will be able to find solutions to long-standing issues of the agriculture. This training course will provide knowledge on the application of gainsharing tools and share best practices to make agribusiness enterprises more productive and profitable. Gainsharing has the potential to contribute to agricultural productivity as farmers are empowered, actors in supply chains are motivated to create increased feeling of ownership, and companies receive greater profits due to higher productivity and enhanced efficiency throughout supply chains. -APP



ISLAMABAD-: A man is walks under the shades of tree on a green belt alongside 7th Avenue in Federal Capital. -Online

Construction at IJP-Road causing trouble for commuters

He said that the road construction project is already causing significant disruptions, and breakdowns of vehicles only worsen the situation

ers in Rawalpindi-Islamabad have been facing severe traffic jams, dust and smoke pollution issues due to the IJ Principal road expansion project which is being carried out to improve the road infrastructure. The residents hail along IJ Principal Road, I-8, I-9, I-10, and Satellite Town have demanded its early completion as the dust and smoke pollution was

causing respiratory diseases in the area and the project has also significantly affected the ecological environment of the

The primary concern has been the heavy vehicles that are constantly moving in and out of the construction during peak hours, Rehman Ahmed a road user told APP, adding that long queues and significant delays

convenience for commuters. Another citizen, Abdul Jabbar said that drivers are violating traffic rules by not following lane discipline and overtaking from the wrong side. This results in further chaos on the already congested road, he added. He said that commuters are having a tough time navigating through the traffic and reaching their destinations on time. He said that the road construc-

tion project is already causing breakdowns of vehicles only worsen the situation. He said that the situation has become so dire that commuters have started to seek alternative routes to avoid the IJP Road.

A resident of Satellite Town Maaz Khan said the passage of heavy vehicular traffic coming from various parts of the country was causing mental agony

for the commuters owing to the traffic jams at various points of the under-construction project. When contacted by the Islamabad Traffic Police, an official informed that the authorities are aware of the problem and have taken measures to address it. However, he said the construction project is expected to continue till 23rd March 2023 and the flow of traffic will be

PRCS initiates global road safety program

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red and avoid any mishaps. Crescent Society (PRCS) Global Road Safety Program aiming to sensitize students about road safety and prevent accidents through adopting global modules.

According to the PRCS official, the initiative focuses on strengthening road safety systems through adopting international best practices on legislation, education, enforcement, use of technologies and international regulatory framework to ensure road safety

The main objective of this activity was to spread road safety awareness among our young generation and to strengthen the global road safety education program in Pakistan.

The initiative will also help to develop socially responsible behaviour among youth and engage them to play their role as agents of behavioural change in society. As a part of this program, PRCS is organizing awareness sessions for students regarding road safety and

lic and private educational institutions of the Federal Capital including IMS Girls school G-6/1-3, Islamabad Model Girls School i-10/4. IMS Girls school no 2 i-10/1, Roots International school Liverpool campus Islamabad.

During these sessions global road safety modules were given to the students to educate the future generation on how to combat road incidents by bringing certain changes in our lifestyles.-APP

PTC grabs four prestigious CSR awards

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited (PTC) was awarded with four prestigious awards for their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the categories of Business Practices", "Green Environmental Stewardship", "Sustainability Innovation "and "D&I Leader". The prestigious CSR Awards, registered with the IPO, Government of Pakistan, was present-

ed to Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited at a 12th Annual Int'l CSR Summit and Awards ceremony held in Karachi. The decision of the panel was ratified by the executive board of The Professionals Network (TPN) and Ethical Business Update (EBU a digital magazine).

While commenting on this huge recognition of the company's efforts, MD and CEO PTC Syed Ali Akbar said that we are honored to be the award winners for the four highly vetted CSR categories

this year. These awards are not just a validation of our company's efforts in creating a positive impact on society and the environment.

It also serves as a reminder that businesses have a responsibility to contribute to the greater good and to strive for sustainable development". PTC will continue its commitment towards cre-

ating a positive impact in social uplift and environment protection and creating A Better Tomorrow for all our stakeholders, he added.

5th Pakistan culinary championship from March 14

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) as a stra tegic partner of the Chefs' Association of Pakistan (CAP) and the College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM) is organizing the 5th PICC from March 14 to 16,

The three-day PICC-2023, which will be held at Royal palm golf and country club, will provide a great opportunity to promote gastronomy tourism in Pakistan and will also provide a platform for young professional chefs to showcase their culinary talent to the world.

According to PTDC officials, the event is the harbinger of a new era of culinary education and food trends in Pakistan.

Through the participation of university, college and school students, Pakistani professional chefs and international culinary teams and delegates, the championship would connect Pakistan with the global world.

The PICC-2023 is set to foster an image of Pakistan which would depict us as a peaceful, friendly, creative and immensely talented nation on the planet.

To aware the masses of the importance of PICC-2023, you are requested to please send us a shout-out of at least 30 to 40 seconds so that we may post that on our social and digital media forums.-APP

Economy suffering due to bad politics

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said Pakistan's major problem is not a bad economy but bad politics.

The public is being dealt with harshly and their buying power has been eroded while the wealth of the upper class is continuously increasing, it said. Poor are getting poorer, the middle class is vanishing under inflation while the rich are getting rich with an

amazing speed, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW. He said that the claim of reducing government expenditure is false at best as it will not result in any change. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that according to the United Nations, the Pakistani elite receives benefits worth 17.4 billion dollars annually, while the government's announcement to reduce expenses if implemented as claimed, will barely save Rs200 billion. He noted that annually six hundred billion rupees are used for development, while five hundred and thirty

billion rupees are being used for pensions, which is being increased every year. Pakistan is the only country in the world whose rulers

call their nation tax evaders on domestic and foreign forums, while in reality, the people pay a lot of taxes and the elite are tax evaders, he observed.

Dr. Mughal said that in 2010, the people of Pakistan paid a tax of 1500 rupees, which has now increased to 9400 billion rupees. Taxes are not decreasing but increasing, but at the same time, government expenses are also increasing. In 2010, government expenditure was 2400 billion rupees, which has now reached 11000 billion rupees, which shows that the tax has not decreased, but the expenditure has become uncontrollable, he informed. People have recently been given an electric shock of 250 billion rupees, the gas price burden has been increased by 350 billion, the petrol burden has been increased by hundreds of billions of rupees, and Rs170 billion in new taxes have also been imposed. At the same time, he said, people are being fooled by putting the whole blame on the IMF which is considered a convenient scapegoat. Dr. Mughal said that one billion worth of electricity is being lost and stolen daily in the country, PIA is losing seventy billion rupees annually while the railways is losing sixteen crores daily. All this loss is the result of political incompetence and corruption while the masses are made to pay for bad politics.

Imran Khan ready to spread political chaos: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said Imran Khan was ready to spread political chaos again today but not ready to answer in court. In a pair of tweets, the federal minister criticized former prime minister Imran Khan for not appearing in the court.

Senator, Sherry Rehman said the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chairman was

all right to lead the rally and had no security concerns either during the rally. "But when called by the court, he (Imran Khan) ask for exemptions from attendance citing health and security reasons. Instead of adjourning the hearing and delaying the hearing, the court should take action against Ladley (blue-eyed) Khan (Imran Khan)," Sherry Rehman said.

Imran Khan, she said, was playing with the lives of the PTI workers for his so-called politics. "Are those who take out bloody marches and rallies well-wishers of their workers and the country?" Sherry Rehman gueried.-DNA



Programme (PSDP). Out of the total authorized/ disbursed amount, the total amount spent so far on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 250.3 billion. 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 Rs300 million for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) out of which Rs 265.44 million have been spent so far, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform.

The detail shows that Rs 99.5 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 160.2 billion have been disbursed to corporations while Rs 299.8 billion have been disbursed to the federal ministries out of a total allocation 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/PEP-CO, the government has disbursed Rs 53.01 billion. The federal government

Govt disburses Rs 399.7 bn under

PSDP 2022-23 in 8 months

has also disbursed/authorized Rs 90.01 billion out of a total allocation of Rs 90.06 billion for various development projects of the cabinet division, however, only Rs 41.1 billion have been spent on the development projects of the cabinet division so far.

> Similarly, the data shows that Rs 5.8 billion have been disbursed to Aviation Division, and Rs 282.63 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 964.5 million have been spent during the period under review.

For Higher Education Commission (HEC), the government has authorized the release of Rs 26.23 billion, and Rs 45.8 billion for provinces and special areas. Rs 550.61 million for the Commerce Division, Rs 63 million for Communication Division (other than NHA), and Rs 1.45 billion for Defense Division.

Likewise, the government also disbursed Rs 511.30 million to Finance Division, Rs 710.8 million to Establishment Division, Rs 4.1 billion to Federal Education and Professional Training Division, and Rs 14.2 billion to Housing and Works Divi-

Ranjha calls for Imran Khan's arrest

Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Leader Mohsin Shahnawaz Raniha on Monday demanded the immediate arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan for persistently mocking the law of the land.

Talking to media persons at Islamabad Ketchery, Ranjha accused Imran Khan of being a thief and urged him to surrender himself before the court, where he should present a certificate of being an honest and truthful (Sadiq and Ameen) person. Ranjha alleged that Khan had played havoc with the country's economy and had failed to initiate any development projects during his stint in government.

He called for the implementation of court warrants against Khan, who he claimed had been caught red-handed and was absconding from courts despite relevant court orders. Raniha also expressed his frustration at the court's time being wasted on security and plaster issues, highlighting the seriousness of Khan's alleged crimes. The PTI has yet to respond to these accusations.-APP

Connectivity projects of USF to be completed by June

ISLAMABAD: Over seventy connectivity projects worth Rs 65 billion Universal Service Fund (USF) are underway for the connectivity of far-flung would be completed by June this year.

"28 million people would get broadband facilities after the completion of these connectivity projects," said an official of the ministry of IT. He said, since its inception, USF has awarded 123 projects worth approximately Rs. 124.8 billion in subsidy under its flagship programs and empowered more than 26 million people living in over 12,000 mauzas, thereby covering over 120 districts across Pakistan. USF has also successfully laid more than 12,000 km of Optical Fiber than 600 Tehsil Headquarters (THQs)/Union Councils (UCs) and major towns of Pakistan and is paving the way for 5G technology. He said, all these projects of USF are playing a vital role in gender empowerment and accelerating the accessibility of e-suite services that include e-education, e-health, e-agriculture, e-finance and e-commerce, and bridging the digital divide in Pakistan.—APP

Renowned actor. director Kaifee remembered

ISLAMABAD: Famous film actor and director Kaifee was remembered on the occasion of birth and death anniversaries which incidentally fall on the same day. Kifayat Hussain Bhatti, known by his film name Kaifee, was born on March 13, 1943, in Gujrat.

He was the younger brother of the legendary Punjabi singer and actor, Inayat Hussain Bhatti. Both brothers worked together to make some highly successful films in Pakistan.

His first film as an inde-

pendent film director was 'Muonh Zor' (1966), which was a silver jubilee hit film, while his second film 'Chann Makhna' (1968) became a super hit golden jubilee film. In the same year, he introduced himself as a film hero in 'Sajjan Pyara' (1968). His third film was 'Jind Jan' (1969). 'Ishq Deevana' (1971) was another golden jubilee film and his film 'Zulm Da Badla' (1972) celebrated the diamond jubilee. Raju Rocket, Jagga Gujjar, Ultimatom Roti Kapra Aur Insan, Erada, Challenge Bikray Moti, Mele Ga Zulam Da Badla were some of his major hit films. Kaifee directed 35 films and acted in almost 100 films. Only two of his films as director were in Urdu language, 'Bikhray Moti' (1975) and 'Roti, Kapra aur Insaan' (1977). His last film as director was 'Maidan' in 2004. Kaifee was married to film actress Ghazala in the 1970s, and later to actress Chakori. His sons Hasan Ali Kaifee and Asad Ali Kaifee both are in showbiz. -APP

Pacific islands should shun tug of war

apanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi will reportedly visit the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and the Cook Islands in late March. That the senior Japanese official visited Fiji and Palau around 10 months ago reveals the increasing importance Japan is attaching to the Pacific island countries, which the Japanese media have described as a new frontline in the country's competition for influence with China. The visits, expected to take place from March 18 to 22, come after China reached a comprehensive consensus on many issues including security with the Solomon Islands last year. Hayashi thus intends to affirm the three island states' cooperation with a "free and open Indo-Pacific", and is considering suggesting security cooperation as well, according to a Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper report.

The "free and open Indo-Pacific" concept, first raised by Japan in 2016, smacks of the Cold War mentality as it portrays China's rise as a threat to the region that must be countered by a United States-led alliance of like-minded countries. That Japan is now going all out to pursue this confrontational approach against China in the South Pacific does not augur well for peace and stability in the region. For decades China has been committed to close cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect with the Pacific island countries in such areas as poverty reduction, climate change and disaster prevention, which has brought tangible benefits to the people in the region, greatly improving their well-being and helping them achieve sustainable development.

The wide range of consensus that China reached with the Solomon Islands on security and climate change during then foreign minister Wang Yi's visit to the Pacific nation last May injected new synergy into their win-win cooperation. Yet China's commitment to building a community with a shared future with the Pacific island countries, especially the cooperation deal with the Solomon Islands, has been vilified by the US and its regional allies such as Japan as an attempt to expand its political and economic reach, and even military buildup, in the region. Such has been the extent of the smear campaign that Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh

Damukana Sogavare, in an address to the United Nations General Assembly last September, said his country had been "unfairly targeted" by "a barrage of unwarranted and misplaced criticisms, misinformation and intimidation". He also said that the Solomon Islands had adopted "a 'friends to all and enemies to none' foreign policy", suggesting that the country does not want to take sides in any geopolitical competition for sphere of influence.

What the Pacific island countries most urgently need are funds, technology,

and expertise to help them build better infrastructure and deal with the climate

change crisis, not geopolitical competition between major powers. Hopefully,

Hayashi will bear that in mind during his upcoming trip to the three countries.

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Decoupling a wrong path leading nowhere

y highlighting the record high trade volume between China and the United States last year, nearly \$760 billion, Premier Li Qiang gave a to-the-point reply to a question on the Joe Biden administration's attempts to decouple the world's two largest economies at his first news conference in Beijing on Monday, two days after taking up his post. Li's previous long-term work experience in Shanghai granted him many opportunities to have contact with senior executives of US enterprises operating in China. The confidence and interest that the US business community expressed in the Chinese economy and market, he said, consolidated his view that there is much potential to be tapped in China-US cooperation. His remarks should serve to convey a clear message to the US side that China will maintain its policy continuity to weave the Chinese economy deeper into the fabric of the global industry and supply chains. The dramatic rise in foreign direct investment in China over the past three years, when the US intensified its decoupling and containment practices targeting China and when the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of regional geopolitical tensions were seriously taking their toll on the world economy, should also awaken Washington to the fact that what it is acting against is not a "China threat" but the overall trend of economic globalization. The question Li raised at the news conference - How many people are actually benefitting from the US' decoupling practices? – deserves an answer from Washington. What threatens the US' national security and interests is its institutional maladies, not China's development. Yet Washington is so consumed by its partisan struggles that no efforts are made to address these. China is only a convenient scapegoat for the US politicians to divert domestic attention from the country's true challenges and to build cliques to protect its hegemony.

The Biden administration put 28 Chinese entities on its Entity List on March 2 citing violations of its sanctions, which is nothing but typical long-arm jurisdiction, and blacklisted another 24 Chinese enterprises and one individual for the same reason on March 9. The message from the US side is clear, Washington is intent on walking farther down the wrong path in its China policy. As Foreign Minister Qin Gang has warned, no amount of guardrails can prevent derailing, and there will surely be conflict and confrontation if the US does not hit the brakes but continues to speed down the wrong path. In its haste to reach its objective, Washington is taking a reckless gamble which puts at stake the fundamental interests of the two peoples and even the future of humanity.

A hoax normalcy by G20 Summit

Mukthar Baba

The 2023 summit of G20 which is expected in the United Nations recognized disputed land of Jammu & Kashmir is already under military occupation for more than seven decades. Since 1989, when the movement for Kashmiri Freedom took the form of an armed insurgency, more than half a million Indian troops have been deployed there, making it one of the most highly militarized regions of the world. Some estimates place the number of Indian occupying troops deployed as high as 900,000. With a ratio of one soldier to every ten civilians, Indian counterinsurgency has progressed as a classic dirty

overnment of India, which holds the presidency of G20 – a premier forum for international economic cooperation, shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues is maliciously gathering attention to validate its crimes against humanity in Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

The 2023 summit of G20 which is expected in the United Nations recognized disputed land of Jammu & Kashmir is already under military occupation for more than seven decades. Since 1989, when the movement for Kashmiri Freedom took the form of an armed insurgency, more than half a million Indian troops have been deployed there, making it one of the most highly militarized regions of the world. Some estimates place the number of Indian occupying troops deployed as high as 900,000. With a ratio of one soldier to every ten civilians, Indian counterinsurgency has progressed as a classic dirty war, where the army treats the civilian population as the enemy. The troops are deployed not only along contested borders but across civilian areas as well.

In this situation, human rights abuses occur on a massive scale: torture in the vast military camps and interrogation centers that sprawl across the Valley, rape, disappearances, extrajudicial killings, the use of civilians for forced labor and as human shields, destruction of crops and homes, arson, arming pro-Indian militias to terrorize the population.

By attempting to hold the G20 Summit in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir, India is not only trying to maneuver its soft power against Pakistan which is primary party to Kashmir dispute but to pretend hoax normalcy in the war-torn region. The muscular policy of the notorious National Security adviser of India Ajit Doval after the abrogation of Articles 370/35-

A, which safeguards the land and citizenship rights of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir state has exposed India and its genocidal crimes perpetrated in IIOJK. The fascist ruling government BJP which has blood of Kashmiris on its hands is adopting an indirect approach to not only pronounce its sovereignty over the internationally recognized disputed territory but by implication would also seek international acquiescence to all its war crimes and crimes against humanity to suppress the right of self-determination movement in IIOJK. In February 2019 the UN genocide watch statement on Kashmir warning that the region is at thebrink of genocide and the recent US intelligence report during the US congressional hearing apprehending increased tension between India and Pakistan and India and China with the possibility of a conflict between them is an eye-opener for the G20 Countries that India is playing diplomatic faux which will aggravate an already tense, sensitive and explosive environment. The multiple UNSC Resolutions on this internationally recognised disputed territory remain relevant and applicable therefore, another critical ramification of the G20 will be seen as giving the credence to the Indian criminal aggression claiming Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as an integral part of India. Last year Pakistan Ministry of Foreign affairs (MOFA) in its statement showed its concern about holding G20 summit in IIOJK and warning international community that India has been seeking to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in flagrant violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, international law, and the 4th Geneva Convention. But Pakistan must undertake pragmatic measures to prevent India from violating the UN resolutions on IIOJK. It must work to generate a swell against this Indian move with

or without the G-20. A proactive policy needs to be installed that engages all stakeholders importantly China and Turkey and apprises them of the ramifications of such execution. On the other hand, the Kashmiri diaspora must approach the EU parliament and other country heads with the dossiers of the crime against humanity perpetrated by India in IIOJK. Pakistan must exercise its legal right as a 'disputant party' and seek the appropriate remedy before UNGA, UNSC, OIC, & SAARC.

The permanent representative of Pakistan in United Nation must unambiguously put across its position on IIOJK in the ongoing 52nd regular session of the Human rights council in the light of relevant UNSC Resolutions and ask the UN about the malicious design of India holding G20 in war-torn region and also highlight the sensitive strategic environment of IIOJK and the adverse consequences of a G-20 summit in the disputed territory. Most critically, Pakistan and China must coordinate their policies and adopt mutually supporting positions on the issue. China has already expressed its disapproval of such an exercise but has withheld its further response so far. APHC and Kashmir Diaspora must write to all foreign ministers of G20 about the ongoing situation in IIOJK and appeal to them to speak against the state-sponsored violence and terrorism in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The stakeholders must urge G20 members to use their influence to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir, one that takes into account the wishes and aspirations of the people of the region.

-The writer is Senior journalist from IIO-JK and has been associated with liberation movement since decades. He is presently International media In Charge of Masrat Alam Bhat, Incarcerated Chairman of APHC

Israel-Palestine Conflict and the Role of Media

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Over the years, the conflict has been marked by violence and insecurity on both sides. Palestinian militant groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have carried out attacks against Israeli civilians, while Israel has responded with military force, including airstrikes, ground offensives, and the construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Efforts to resolve the conflict have been ongoing for decades, but a lasting

he conflict between Israel and Palestine is a long-standing and complex issue that has been ongoing for decades. The conflict stems from the competing claims of Israelis and Palestinians over the same land in the region, which is considered sacred by both Jews and Muslims. The conflict has resulted in a series of wars, violent clashes, and ongoing tension between the two sides. At the heart of the conflict is the issue of land and territory. Israelis believe that the land of Israel is their ancestral homeland and argue that they have a right to establish and maintain a Jewish state in the region. Palestinians, on the other hand, claim that the land is rightfully theirs and that Israel's creation in 1948 displaced and dispossessed them. Over the years, the conflict has been marked by violence and insecurity on both sides. Palestinian militant groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have carried out attacks against Israeli civilians, while Israel has responded with military force, including airstrikes, ground offensives, and the construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Efforts to resolve the conflict have been ongoing for decades, but a lasting peace agreement has yet to be achieved. Key issues in the negotiations include the borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state, the status of Jerusalem, the rights of Palestinian refugees, and the security of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Media coverage of the conflict is often polarized, with different media outlets presenting differing views and interpretations of events. In general, media coverage tends to reflect the biases and perspectives of the countries and societies in which the media outlets are based. This can lead to a situation where the same event is reported in vastly different ways

in different parts of the world. Media coverage of the conflict can also have a

ical decision-making. Coverage of violent incidents and terrorist attacks can fuel public anger and frustration, while coverage of peace talks and diplomatic efforts can generate hope and optimism. In addition, media coverage can influence international responses to the conflict, such as sanctions or diplomatic pressure on one side or the other. There is also the issue of media censorship and control. In some cases, media outlets in Israel and Palestine may be subject to government censorship or influence, limiting their ability to report on certain aspects of the conflict. This can lead to a situation where the public is only exposed to one side of the story, which can further polarize the situation and make it more difficult to find a peaceful resolution. The role of media in the conflict between Israel and Palestine is complex and multifaceted. While the media can play an important role in shaping public opinion and policy, it is important for media outlets to strive for objectivity and balance in their reporting, and for individuals to seek out multiple sources of information in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.

Media bias is a major issue in the coverage of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Many media outlets have been accused of having a pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian bias, which can influence the way the conflict is reported and perceived by the public. Media bias can take many forms. For example, news outlets may selectively report certain events or emphasize certain aspects of the conflict while downplaying or ignoring others. They may also use loaded language or rely on sources with a particular bias, which can further distort the coverage of the conflict. In general, the bias in the media coverage of the conflict tends to reflect the political and ideological positions of the news outlets and their audiences. Media outlets in Israel tend

significant impact on public opinion and political decision-making. Coverage of violent incidents and terrorist attacks can fuel public anger and frustration, while coverage of peace talks and diplomatic efforts can generate hope and optimism. In addition, media coverage can influence international responses to the conflict, such as sanctions or diplomatic pressure on one side or the other.

There is also the issue of media censorship and control. In some cases, media outlets in Israel and Palestine may be subject to government censorship or influence, limiting their ability to report on certain aspects of the conflict. This can to emphasize Israeli perspectives and concerns, while Palestinian media outlets tend to do the same for Palestinian perspectives and concerns. Similarly, media outlets in the United States and Europe may have their own biased on their national interests or political agendas. It is important to note that not all media outlets are biased, and that some strive to provide balanced and objective coverage of the conflict. However, it can be difficult for the public to distinguish between biased and unbiased coverage, and media bias can further exacerbate tensions and misunderstandings between Israelis and Palestinian media outlets tend to do the same for Palestinian media outlets in the United States and Europe may have their own biases based on their national interests or political agendas. It is important to note that not all media outlets are biased, and that some strive to provide balanced and objective coverage of the conflict. However, it can be difficult for the public to distinguish between biased and unbiased coverage, and media bias can further exacerbate tensions and misunderstandings between Israelis and Palestinian perspectives and concerns.

The role of media in the conflict between Israel and Palestine is a complex issue, and there are differing opinions on whether the media has played a positive or negative role. On one hand, media coverage of the conflict has brought attention to the ongoing violence and human rights abuses in the region, which has helped to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion in support of peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.

On the other hand, media coverage can also be biased and one-sided, and can contribute to the polarization of public opinion and the perpetuation of stereotypes and misunderstandings about the conflict. Additionally, some media outlets may sensationalize the violence, which can lead to further escalation and tension.

Ultimately, the media can play a positive role in the conflict by providing accurate, fair, and balanced coverage that highlights the perspectives of both Israelis and Palestinians and promotes peaceful dialogue and resolution. However, it is important for media consumers to be critical of the sources and biases of the information they consume and to seek out diverse perspectives to gain a more nuanced understanding of the conflict.

World / Sports



Briefs

Imran leads rally, calls jalsa on 19

From Page 01 "Watch the scenes of the rally in Lahore at this time and understand that stopping Imran Khan is like inviting people's wrath." Talking to the media before the rally kicked off, PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said they will remain peaceful and

during the rally. "I will say to the administration we have to remain peaceful, have remained peaceful and don't want chaos. We have no intention of destroying the peace and this is not our party's thinking or plan

the administration should

refrain from any hindrances

of action," he said. Meanwhile Islamabad Police reached Lahore to arrest Imran Khan. According to sources the police reach Lahore on Helicopter while the Islamabad police chief says that a police party was already present in Lahore.

Nonbailable arrest...

From Page 01 present him before the courts on March 18 and March 21, respectively. The court of ADSJ Zafar Iqbal restored non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran in the Toshakhana reference. It instructed the police to arrest the PTI chief and present him in court by March 18. Imran has thrice skipped indictment hearings in the case. He is accused of concealing, in his assets declarations, details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana - a repository where presents handed to government officials from foreign officials are kept. The sessions court was set to indict Imran in the Toshakhana Reference on

Dar to talk to US over IMF delay

Feb 28, but his lawyer had

requested the judge that

he be exempted from the

hearing because he had

to appear in several other

courts. His indictment was

deferred twice before.

From Page 01 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had asked Pakistan to implement demands before reaching a staff-level agreement for the revival \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) stalled for months. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) raised the monetary policy rate by 300 basis points to 20per cent - one of the pre-conditions of International Monetary Fund. "This decision reflects deterioration in inflation outlook & its expectations amid recent external and fiscal adjustments. MPC believes this outlook warrants a strong policy response to anchor inflation expectations around the medium-term target of 5-7 percent," the statement said. "MPC noted that reduction in CAD is important but requires concerted efforts to improve the external situation. It emphasized that any significant fiscal slippage would undermine monetary policy effectiveness in the context of achieving the price stability objective," the SBP added. Pakistan accepted another

Japan to help Pak transport tents to...

pre-condition of the Inter-

national Monetary Fund

(IMF) for the revival of \$7

billion Extended Fund Fa-

cility (EFF) as the govern-

ment agreed to increase

electricity rates for consum-

ers of K-Electric (KE) and

agricultural community.

From Page 01 relief operation to be carried out in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), upon the request from the Government of Turkey, a member of NATO, and NATO, to Japan, its global partner, to cooperate in the transportation of relief supplies by an SDF aircraft. Japan is determined to continue to provide necessary assistance in cooperation with NATO and international organizations, utilizing its experience and knowledge as an earthquake-prone country.

PAK vs AFG

Shadab to lead Pakistan as PCB announce squad

"Shadab Khan has been the Pakistan vice-captain in white-ball cricket for the past couple of years and it is logical that he takes over the side in the absence of Babar Azam for the short three-match T20I tour of Sharjah," said the PCB high-up

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced a 15-member squad for a three-match T20 series against Afghanistan with all-rounder Shadab Khan picked to lead the side in the absence of full-time skipper Babar Azam, who has been rested. PCB Managing Committee head Najam Sethi and Chief Selector Haroon Rashid made the announcement, saying that the squad was finalised keeping in view the team's future plans.

The three-match series will be played between March 24 and 27 in Sharjah. Afghanistan have played Pakistan in three T20 Internationals and four ODIs in multi-national events - without any win so far - but this will be the first bilateral series between the two countries. The newly-announced squad has four uncapped players, namely, Ihsanullah, Ayub, Tahir and Zaman.

According to the PCB statement, skipper Babar Azam, along with Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi have been rested. Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Mohammad Hasnain and Khushdil Shah also couldn't make it to the final squad during the selection process. It is pertinent to mention here that the aforementioned nine players were part of the Pakistan squad that qualified for the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 against England in Australia last year. Meanwhile, Sethi congratulated Shadab on his new role. "Shadab Khan has been the



Pakistan vice-captain in white-ball cricket for the past couple of years and it is logical that he takes over the side in the absence of Babar Azam for the short three-match T20I tour of Sharjah," said the PCB high-up.

He also confirmed to journalists that former great Mohammad Yousuf had been

retained as batting coach "to ensure continuity" in the upcoming series.

Explaining the rationale behind the new picks, Haroon Rashid said the board followed the standard rotation policy by resting the leading performers and providing high-performing do-

Shadab Khan (Captain) Abdullah Shafique Azam Khan, Faheem Ashraf Iftikhar Ahmed Ihsanullah, Imad Wasim **Mohammad Haris Mohammad Nawaz Mohammad Wasim Junior**

Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood, Tayyab Tahir, Zaman Khan mestic performers with opportunities

to demonstrate their talent and potential at the international level. "This will also allow us to test the temperament and abilities of these players and help us strengthen our pool of players as we look

forward to building and preparing a formidable side for next year's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the United States," he told a press briefing. He insisted that the selection com-

mittee ensured that it selected a side that was equally strong and capable of winning the series against a strong Afghanistan side. He said seven players had been retained from the last series to make the squad balanced.

The chief selector said Babar, Fakhar, Haris, Rizwan, and Shaheen had been "provided breaks" from the short Sharjah series to let them complete their rehabilitation. "This will help them regroup, recompose and recharge their batteries and be fully fit for the challenges in the tough and challenging 2023-24 season," Rashid noted.

PSL 8th Edition Qualifier: TBC vs TBC **WEDNESDAY 09:30 PM MARCH 15, 2023** Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Austerity measures reviewed

From Page 01 The forum expressed concerns on the non-return of remaining luxury vehicles and directed the Cabinet Division for strict implementation of the decision and to get back the luxury vehicles within three days.

The meeting also deliberated on the withdrawal of use of security vehicles and decided to implement the decision in letter and spirit. Ministry of Law and Justice was entrusted with the task to approach the Superior Judiciary suggesting implementation of austerity measures in Judiciary and approach Chairman Senate and Speaker National Assembly regarding use of tele-conferences for all meetings to save time and expenditure.

Imran Khan made properties...

From Page 01

I am fully confident that Imran Khan has been launched to worsen the situation of the country. How can you become the premier after you took the country to quagmire in four years. Reminding Mr Khan of the qualities of a "true leader", Ms Nawaz said, "A true leader always leads from the front." She recounted the tenure of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, saying, "The country witnessed record growth during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif." On Sunday, Ms Nawaz launched a broadside at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, saying he was postponing the election rally due to the fear of the police.

PML-N to field candidates...

From Page 01 the electoral body to delay the elections due to security concerns. Sources said Nawaz Sharif held detailed discussion on Punjab elections with her daughter and the PML-N president and decided to contest polls on all seats of the provincial assembly. They said Maryam Nawaz had sent her recommendations for election of candidates from across the province to the PML-N supremo. Sources said the candidate will be finalised in view

meeting of the PML-N's parliamentary board. Zahir Jaffer death

of the recommendations of

the parliamentary board and

after holding their interview.

Nawaz Sharif will chair the

From Page 01

sentence...

the rape was proven. The December 21 last year in the high-profile murder case in which the prime accused, Jaffer, was sentenced to death after a long-drawn-out trial of over four months. The trial court awarded a death sentence to Jaffer last February, while the two suspects Jan Muhammad and Muhammad Iftikhar – the gardener and security guard at Jaffer's house – were awarded 10 years of imprisonment each.

Other suspects in the case

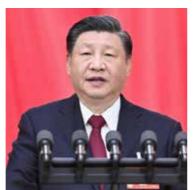
including Jaffer's parents, Zakir Jaffer and Ismat Adamjee, along with all employees of Therapy Works were acquitted by the court. The convict also received a 25year imprisonment sentence with hard labour and a fine of Rs0.2 million. Jaffer was also awarded a 10-year imprisonment sentence for the abduction and an additional oneyear for keeping the victim in illegal confinement. Before reserving its judgement in the case, the court remarked the lawyers of the parties were allowed to submit their additional arguments on the pleas within seven days. The verdict was reserved after hearing the arguments from parties in separate pleas against the death sentence handed out to Jaffer, and the acquittal of convicts and accused - filed by Noor's father.

China's Xi urges greater self-reliance amid tensions with US

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday called for forming a mighty force for building a great modern socialist country and advancing national rejuvenation as the curtains closed on the annual "two sessions," which started a new chapter of Chinese modernization with a competent leadership and detailed policies. From this day forward to the mid-21st

century, the central task of the entire Communist Party of China (CPC) and all Chinese people will be to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts, said Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), while addressing the closing meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), the national legislature.

"The relay baton of building a great modern socialist country and advancing national rejuvenation has been historically passed on to our generation," said Xi, who was unanimously elected Chinese president and chairman of the CMC of the People's Republic of Chi-



na Friday at the session. Xi stressed accelerating Chinese modernization in accordance with the strategic decisions made at the 20th CPC National Congress. "The people's trust is the biggest motivation that drives me to march on and a great responsibility I shoulder," Xi said. "I will faithfully fulfill my responsibilities bestowed by the Constitution, with the nation's needs as my mission and the people's interests my yardstick.' Xi pledged to perform his duty scru-

pulously, do his utmost, and prove

worthy of the trust of all NPC deputies and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups. On the new journey ahead, China will unswervingly advance high-quality development, Xi said.

The country should fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts and accelerate efforts to create a new pattern of development, he noted. Xi called for fully implementing the strategy for invigorating China through science and education, the workforce development strategy and the innovation-driven development strategy.

China should work to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, promote industrial transformation and upgrading, advance coordinated urban-rural and regional development, and foster green and low-carbon economic and social development, Xi said. Efforts should be made to effectively upgrade and appropriately expand the economy, and continuously increase the country's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities and composite national strength, he said. - Agencies

Williamson century leads hosts to finalball win against SL CHRISTCHURCH: Kane Williamson hit a sublime unbeaten

century to lead New Zealand to a thrilling two-wicket win over Sri Lanka off the final ball of the first Test. Williamson's 121 not out saw the Black Caps chase down 285 on a rain-shortened fifth day in Christchurch. The hosts needed eight off the final over and scrambled a bye from the last ball to seal a dramatic win. Defeat ended Sri Lanka's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final in June. Sri Lanka needed to sweep New Zealand 2-0 in this series to qualify, so India will now face Australia in the final at The Oval.

The fourth and final Test between the two sides in Ahmedabad finished in a draw, ensuring India won the series 2-1. The Black Caps started the final day on 28-1, requiring 257 more runs for victory. After the first two sessions were washed out, the umpires ruled there would be a maximum of 52 overs bowled in an extended final session, meaning New Zealand had to score at nearly five runs per over.

They slipped to 90-3 before Williamson combined with Darvl Mitchell for a 142-run stand off 157 balls, with Sri Lanka left to rue wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella dropping Williamson on 33. New Zealand wobbled after Mitchell was bowled for 81 by Asitha Fernando, who then also removed Tom Blundell and Michael Bracewell. It left the hosts on 266-6, needing a further 19 runs with 16 balls remaining. Captain Tim Southee also fell, but Williamson managed to take the match to the final over. Matt Henry was run out attempting a second run off the third ball, bringing an injured Neil Wagner to the crease. The fast bowler has a bulging disc in his back and a torn right hamstring and has been ruled out of the second Test. - DNA

Tenpin Bowling closing ceremony marred by disorder

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of the National Tenpin Bowling Championship was marred by disorder as media boycotted the ceremony in protest as the poor arrangements were witnessed during prize distribution ceremony of the event at Bowling Club Jinnah Park Rawalpindi.

According to the details, National Assembly Members Samina Matloob, Zahra Wadood Fatemi and Romina Khurshid Alam were invited for prize distribution ceremony of the championship which organized by Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation (PTBF) but due to indiscipline and disorderly event, the media persons faced difficulties to cover the event. Meanwhile, Member of the National Assembly Samina Matloob was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the championship and gave away the prizes and medals to the winning players of the event.

Belarus, Iran vow to boost ties

Raeisi says the Islamic Republic has turned the threats posed by unilateral sanctions into an opportunity to make significant progress. Raeisi made the remarks during a press conference with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko after they met at the Saadabad Palace in Tehran on Monday. "Iran has created an opportunity from the sanctions enforced on the country, and we have made remarkable progress despite the threats. We are ready to share our experiences with our friend Belarus," Raeisi said. He said both Iran and Belarus oppose unilateralism and that is the way to neutralize sanctions and make a progress. Lukashenko arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the invitation of President Raeisi. During their joint press conference, Raeisi also said that the two countries have had relations for three decades and the ties between them have deepened

during the current administration



"Both countries are determined to improve their relations and trade," he said. "The economic relations between Iran and Belarus are not comparable to the past." Raeisi also said that Iran and Belarus signed agreements in sectors such as industry, mine, trade, and agriculture today, expressing hopes that the agreements pave the way for

improved bilateral relations. "We are determined to promote our regional and trans-regional relations with Belarus and had fruitful negotiations with the Belarusian president," Raeisi said. He added that Iran and Belarus can enhance bilateral cooperation within the framework of SCO and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). - DNA

Rashid Malik inaugurates Invitational Tennis Tournament

A total of 30 matches were played on the first day of the championship. All the top players advanced to the second round with comfortable victories and a high-standard of tennis was witnessed during some of the matches

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA) Secretary General Rashid Malik formally inaugurated the All Pakistan National Invitational Tennis Tournament 2023 at Lahore on Monday. Rashid Malik (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) graced the opening ceremony as chief guest and inaugurated the prestigious tournament in the presence of participating players, their families and tennis lovers. Malik also witnessed a men's singles match and applauded both the players for showcasing their skills during the match.

A total of 30 matches were played on the first day of the championship. All the top players advanced to the second round with comfortable victories and a high-standard

some of the matches. In the men's singles 1st round,

Aqeel Khan beat Ahtesham Arif 6-1, 6-1 while Davis Cupper She-

of tennis was witnessed during Pakistan No 1 tennis player hzad Khan beat Rai Asim Zafar 6-1, 6-2 respectively. Men's singles 1st round results:



Nalain Abbas beat Col Atif 6-2, 6-3, Mudassar Murtaza beat Mahatir Muhammad 6-2, 6-0, Ahmad Babar beat M Talha Khan 6-0, 6-0, Hamid Israr beat Sikandar Hayat 6-3, 6-3, Semi Zeb Khan beat Fayyaz Khan 6-2, 6-3, Heera Ashiq beat Saqib Hayat 6-0, 6-3, M Salaar beat Faizan Fayyaz 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, Yousaf Khalil beat Kamran Khan 6-1, 6-1, Ahmad Nael Qureshi beat Asadullah 6-2, 6-2, Imran Bhatti (Gymkhana) beat Abdul Hanan Khan 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 and M Shoaib beat Bilal Asim 6-4, 6-1.

Boys U-16 1st round results: Hafiz Hussain beat Hafiz Hassan 6-4, 4-6, 12-10, Yousaf Manoo beat M Hameed 6-1, 6-3, Abubakar Khalil beat Mustafa Zaidi 6-2, 6-2, Hamza Ali Rizwan beat Ismail Ahmad 6-2, 6-3 and Aalay Husnain beat Moavia Butt 0-6, 7-5, 12-10.

India's

passenger plane leaves

for Doha after

'medical

emergency' landing at JIAP

ISLAMABAD: A passenger plane of India made a 'medical emergency' landing at

the Jinnah International

Airport (JIAP) Karachi at 0012 hours on Monday and

left for its destination, Doha

(Qatar), after around a four-

The pilot of a Doha-bound

Air Indigo flight, which

took off from Delhi, was 16

nautical miles east of Pan-

jgur (Balochistan) when he

made the emergency call re-

questing a doctor and ambu-

lance, an Aviation Division

"The pilot requested to

divert the plane, which

carried 163 passengers,

to Karachi because of the sickness of a passenger," it

added. The pilot asked that

the patient, a 60-year-old

Nigerian woman, was not

breathing and had no pulse.

Following the medical in-

spection, the Air Indigo

flight left for its destination

at 4:06 am, with the body of

the ill-fated Nigerian wom-

an on board.—APP

news release said.

hour stopover.

Briefs

Protest in Chisinau against Moldova's pro-Western govt

CHISINAU: Thousands took to the streets in Chisinau on Sunday demanding that the Moldovan government fully covers the costs of winter energy bills, and urging lawmakers "not involve the country in war." Opponents of the pro-Western President Maia Sandu have repeatedly called for her to step down, arguing that Russia should be Moldova's number one partner. Local authorities say the demonstrators were coordinated by the pro-Russian oligarchs Vladimir Plahotniuc and Ilan Shor, who are wanted internationally for corruption charges.

Sunday's protest was one of several held in recent weeks, organised by a group calling itself 'Movement for the People', which is backed by Moldova's Russia-friendly Shor Party, which holds six seats in the country's 101-seat legislature. The United States has accused Russia of wanting to destabilise the Republic of Moldova in order to overthrow the pro-European government in Chisinau.

Moldovan police said on Sunday they have foiled a plot by groups of Russia-backed actors who were promised 9,000 to organise "mass disorder" during the protest. Seven people were detained.

The head of Moldova's police, Viorel Cernauteanu, said in a news conference that an undercover agent had infiltrated groups of "diversionists," some Russian citizens, who had been promised \$10,000 to organise "mass disorder" to destabilize Moldova during a protest in the capital, Chisinau. Seven people were detained, he said.—APP

Japan's Nobelwinning author dies at 88

ISTANBUL: Japan's Nobel-winning novelist Kenzaburo Oe has died, his publisher Kodansha said on Monday. He was 88.

"He died of old age in the early hours of March 3," the publisher said in a statement, adding that a family funeral had already been held. Born on Jan. 31, 1935 in Ehime province, Oe was a major figure in contemporary Japanese literature.

In 1994, he became the second Japanese to win the Nobel Prize in Literature after Yasunari Kawabata.

The Nobel Committee had described him as someone "who with poetic force creates an imagined world, where life and myth condense to form a disconcerting picture of the human predicament today."

—Agencies

Nationwide polio vaccination campaign starts

in Afghanistan

KABUL Afghanistan's Public Health Ministry, in cooperation with international organizations, started a nationwide polio vaccination campaign in the country, Monday. Over 9.4 million children under the age of five are supposed to be vaccinated against polio in this campaign, according to the Ministry. Bamyan, Daikundi and Ghor and some other regions with polar climate

paign, said the Ministry. In this campaign, vitamin A is also set to children aged six months to five years to increase their immunity against various diseases.

are not included in this cam-

Acting Public Health Minister, Dr. Qalandar Ebad said that the Ministry of Public Health is determined to eradicate polio from Afghanistan, adding the recent developments in this regard are promising.

Polio is a viral disease that has no cure and can only be prevented and eradicated by vaccination. Any child who gets this disease will remain paralyzed for the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, during this year, no positive cases of polio have been recorded in the country, and last year, only two cases of

paralysis were reported in Paktika and Kanar.—**DNA**



KARACHI: Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan A.Metelitsa took part in the opening of the National Exposition and Business Forum of Belarus within the framework of the international industrial exhibition «International Trade and Industrial Fair-2023» in Karachi.—DNA

Georgian PM accuses Ukraine of stirring unrest

Irakli Garibashvili has lashed out at Vladimir Zelensky for rallying support for the mass protests in Tbilisi

News Desk

TBILISI: Kiev has its hand in the unrest over the controversial foreign agents legislation in Georgia, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili has claimed, urging Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky to take care of his own country instead of fueling riots in Tbilisi. The PM made the remarks in an extensive interview with Georgia's Imedi TV channel that aired on Sunday.

Garibashvili strongly condemned the support expressed by Zelensky towards the protesters, accusing him of yet again trying to open a "second front" against Russia in Georgia. Earlier this week, Zelensky issued a video address to Georgians, stating that every Ukrainian wishes a "democratic" and "European success" to the country.

"An even greater escalation of hostilities is expected in Ukraine, and many external forces are interested in opening a 'second front' on Georgian soil. How else to explain that the President of Ukraine Zelensky, during the conflict in his country, finds time to appeal to several thousand participants of a destructive action in Georgia?" Garibashvili wondered, urging the Ukrainian leader to "[take] care of himself and his country" first. Moreover. Gari-



bashvili accused Kiev of long seeking to destabilize Georgia, with such efforts apparently predating the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In particular,

gian president-turned Ukrainian official Mikhail Saakashvili back to his home country in October 2021 to stage a "coup," he asserted. "Saakashvili was sent in deliberately, the main goal was to stage a coup here and drag the country into war at the right time. We don't doubt it today," Garibashvili stated. The PM also claimed that "a few dozen" Georgian fighters returned from Ukraine amid the unrest over the foreign agents law and urged them to have no "illusions" over the situation in the country. "We know significantly more than they could imagine," he warned, adding that no "second front" will materialize

party remains in power. Over the course of the ongoing hostilities with Russia, Ukrainian officials have repeatedly criticized Tbilisi over its neutral stance, urging it to open a "second front" against Moscow instead. One such call was made early in the conflict by Ukraine's secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Alexey Danilov, who accused Georgia of "behaving not very appropriately" at the time. The official openly admitted that a potential new conflict over South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which broke away from Tbilisi in the 1990s and were recognized as independent by Russia in the aftermath of the 2008 war,

CPEC brought

development

in Pakistan

BEIJING: As a flagship project of the Belt and Road

Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

has not only brought infrastructural development in

Pakistan, but also paved way for industrialization. In-

frastructural scholar exchanges may also pave a better

and further way for CPEC. A brighter future of Pak-Chi-

na cooperation remains to be seen, said Zhang Shuibo,

dean of School of International Project Management

of Tianjin University, China, who is also a deputy to

the 14th National People's Congress(NPC), according

to Gwadar Pro. "We should establish a scholars' alli-

ance of Countries of Belt and Road initiative (BRI)

on infrastructure construction to deepen and nor-

malize relevant academic exchanges. It will

also make international cooperation on infrastruc-

said Zhang Shuibo. Over the past decade, the Belt

and Road Initiative has made remarkable achieve-

ments. Constructions of railways, ports, airports

and roads in the BRI countries have played a positive

role in promoting their economic and social develop-

ment. However, due to the differences in technical

standards, legislation and religious culture between

China and the host countries, China sometimes faces

challenges in the implementation of the programs. "Con-

flicts and misunderstandings occur occasionally, which

increases the cost and elongates construction." Zhang

ture construction more efficient and sustainable,

Int'l arms trade shrinks 5.1% in 20182022 LONDON: The volume of the international arms trade in 2018-2022 contracted by 5.1% from the previous five-year period, according to a

the international arms trade in 2018-2022 contracted by 5.1% from the previous five-year period, according to a report released on Monday. The five largest weapons exporters were the US, Russia, France, China, and Germany, with a share of 76% of global exports from 2018 to 2022, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its report.

Accounting for 40% of the global total in that period, US arms exports surged 14% from 2013-2017.

A total of 41% of US arms exports went to the Middle East, down from 49% from the previous period.

Russia's arms exports, meanwhile, plunged 31% in 2018-2022 compared to the previous half-decade.

India, with a 31% share, was the biggest recipient of Russian weapons, followed by China with 23% and Egypt with 9.3%.

Russian exports to India fell 37% between the two five-year periods, while they surged 39% to China and 44% to Egypt.

"However, Russia made no deliveries to Egypt in 2021-2022 and the volume of deliveries to China in 2020-2022 was at a much lower level than in 2018-2019," it

said. The report projected a further decline in Russia's arms exports due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, now in its second year, as the country will likely to prioritize the production of arms for its own military. "The multilateral sanctions, including wide-ranging trade restrictions, imposed on Russia, coupled with pressure from the USA and its allies on states not to acquire Russian arms, will also hamper its efforts to export

French arms exports soared by 44% during this period, with nearly a third of this increase going to India. The country also expanded its share in global weapons exports to 11% from the previous five years' 7.1%.—APP

arms," it added.

'Iran-Saudi Arabia deal to strengthen peace in Gulf'

hanced relations with Saudi Arabia can not only help secure the interests of both nations but boost joint cooperation and convergence with the aim of consolidating regional peace and stability in the region, and the Persian Gulf in particular. Speaking at a weekly press briefing in Tehran on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said that boosting regional stability benefits all countries in the region.

The remarks came three days after Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore diplomatic ties and reopen embassies seven years after their relations were severed. China mediated the rapprochement between the two Middle Eastern

powers.
"The agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to return to their natural politi-

activate the two countries' high capacity in various fields," Kan'ani said.

"By expanding their cooperation, Tehran and Riyadh can help secure the interests of their nations. They can also have a positive effect on strengthening joint cooperation and convergence in the region in order to consolidate regional peace and stability, especially in the strategic Persian Gulf region."

He also hailed China's important role in brokering the Iran-Saudi deal, noting that Beijing showed that it wants to contribute to the stability and security of the region as well as Asia with goodwill. The spokesman also announced that the Iranian and Saudi foreign ministries are making arrangements for a meeting between the two foreign ministers in the near future.

turn to their natural political relations can once again "Given the goodwill that exists, we hope that this meeting will take place in the near future and that the implementation of the [Iran-Saudi] agreement will be expedited," he added.

"There is no obstacle to the

meeting of the two top dip-

lomats, and God willing, the

arrangements will be made through diplomatic channels." Kan'ani also appreciated the constructive role played by Iraq and Oman regarding the Iran-Saudi pact, saying the two countries hosted almost eight rounds of talks between Tehran and Riyadh. Asked about the recent visit by an Iranian parliamentary delegation to Bahrain, he said that the positive reactions to the Iran-Saudi deal show that the diplomatic breakthrough can have positive effects on regional relations, including those between Iran and other countries, adding that Iran-Bahrain ties are not an

exception.

The Islamic Republic's political will revolves around the neighborliness policy and the expansion of relations with neighboring Asian countries, the spokesman added.

spokesman added.
"Fortunately, with the positive atmosphere that we are witnessing in the region, this positive development (the deal with Saudi Arabia) can happen in connection with other regional countries as well, including Bahrain. We should further trust the path of diplomacy and take steps in this direction." he explained

and take steps in this direction," he explained.
Kan'ani said that Iran already has a political relationship with Jordan, but stands ready to expand ties with the Middle Eastern state. "The Islamic Republic's principled policy is strengthening relations with neighbors. We are definitely ready to develop ties with Jordan."—Agencies

Pakistan learns poverty alleviation experience from China

Shuibo pointed out. -DND

DNA

BEIJING: For the first time in the past three years, China's Ministry of Commerce welcomed the first batch of informational officials who came in-person for training seminars, according to China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday.

Monday.

Ms. Pizwak Imtiaz, Section Officer (F&A), Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS), has just concluded a 14-day Seminar on China's Poverty Alleviation Practices under the Global Development Initiative. The seminar, hosted by the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), Ministry of Commerce, China, is one of the 5 seminars that took place from 22nd February to 7th March for a total of nearly 200 officials from 27 countries across the globe.

"Another colleague from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan attended the seminar on International Cooperation and Trade", she told China Economic Net (CEN)

reporter. "The Seminar included a 4-day trip to the coastal city of Fuzhou, Fujian, during which we visited the Juncao Technology Research Center in Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University", she said, adding, "Juncao Technology uses wild-grass for cultivation of medicinal mushrooms that has transformed the production of high-yield mushrooms since 1989 and helped ecological protection by preventing soil erosion and desertification. The technology is currently under experiment in Gwadar Port in Pakistan." In addition, the visit included a trip to the Fuyao Glass factory which produces world quality automobile glass to key manufacturers across the globe, creating jobs, infrastructure and employment opportunities to locals since 1987. "I was impressed by the village businesses that are modern, digitized and profit-based. Whether agro-based or industry-reliant. there has been a targeted shift towards digital systems empowered by locals

who are effectively trained in marketing, media, and enterprise develop-

Additionally, the online and infrastructural value chains created across struggling regions in the northern and western provinces of China have allowed these regions to be part of the country's growth rather than hurdles", she recalled. "All tiers of government local institutions and businesses are synergized to work towards the common goal. This system of centralized planning but decentralized and coordinated implementation provided an excellent opportunity for locals to have specialized solutions to their problems. This is something that developing nations struggle with, owing to there being different institutions working often with lack of coordination", she observed. She told CEN reporter that the poverty rate in Pakistan has declined from 57.9% in 1998 to 24.3% in 2015, but it remains unacceptably high as of today. A much higher percentage of the population faces non-monetary

deprivations.

Prevalence of multidimensional poverty is 38.4% (including education, health and living standards). Rural multidimensional poverty headcount is as high as 55%, in contrast to urban areas where only 9% of urban population is multidimensionally poor.

, Pakistan faces challenges of food insecurity amid various climatic challenges; 36 percent of the population is currently food insecure.

In a joint effort, PA&SS Pakistan and the Ministry of Commerce, China signed an MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Poverty Alleviation in December, 2021. In August, 2022, the two Ministries jointly organised the China-Pakistan Forum on Commerce-Driven Poverty Reduction

and Social Development.

"The Seminar on China's Poverty Alleviation Practices under the GDI is the first in-person event conducted, and hopefully will lead to many other meaningful areas of collaboration", she said.

Junior doctors start 3-day strike in England BIRMINGHAM: Tens of thousands of junior doctors in

BIRMINGHAM: Tens of thousands of junior doctors in England have launched a three-day strike on Monday in a dispute over pay and working conditions.

The doctors have started forming picket lines outside hos-

pitals across the country. The British Medical Association (BMA), an association and trade union representing and negotiating on behalf of all doctors in the UK, has been campaigning for a pay rise for months in the country that is severely hit by the cost-of-living crisis. However, negotiations between the unions and the government have not yet resulted in an agreement. The talks will continue this week with the hope of a breakthrough in the long-running pay dispute. Prior to the start of the industrial action, BMA launched an advertising campaign saying junior doctors could earn more serving coffee at the cafe chain, Pret a Manger. "Pret a Manger has announced it will pay up to £14.10 (\$17) per hour. A junior doctor makes just £14.09. Thanks to this government you can make more serving coffee than saving patients. This week junior doctors will take strike action so they are paid what they are worth," BMA said. It said junior doctors in England have suffered a 26.1% real-term cut to their pay since 2008/09 and are campaigning for pay restoration. In a joint statement, BMA junior doctors committee co-chairs Robert Laurenson and Vivek Trivedi said: "Is £14.09 an hour really all junior doctors are worth? These are people who can be providing life-saving care, having trained intensively at medical school, and racking up around £100,000 worth of debt in the process.-APP



DNA

LONDON: Muttahida Qa-

umi Movement (MQM)

founder Altaf Hussain has

lost £10 million approx-

imate worth of London

properties case to his

former loyalists in the

MQM-Pakistan (MQM-P)

after a legal battle at the

IT Minister Syed Aminul

Haque represented the

Insolvency and Compa-

nies Judge Clive Jones,

sitting as a High Court

Judge in the High Court

of Justice Business and

Property Court of England

and Wales, has ruled that

that the MQM-P is the

real MQM and its mem-

bers are the true benefi-

ciaries of the trusts that

control London's proper-

ties which are currently

under the control of Altaf

Hussain. The judge ruled

that MQM founder Al-

taf Hussain had resigned

from the party after his

August 2016 speech. The

judgment means that the

UK judge has ruled in the

favour of MQM-P led by

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui,

and against MQM-London,

a copy of the judgment

exclusively which shows

that ICC Judge Jones has ruled that the lawyer act-

ing for Syed Aminul Haque

of MQM-P has established

that the MQM's April 2016

Constitution was adopted

and "it has not been estab-

lished that the 2015 Con-

stitution was adopted and

on the balance of probability it was not."

India's

plane makes

emergency

landing at JIAP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A passenger

plane of India made a 'med-

ical emergency' landing at

the Jinnah International

Airport (JIAP) Karachi at

0012 hours on Monday

and left for its destination,

Doha (Qatar), after around

a four-hour stopover. The

pilot of a Doha-bound Air

from Delhi, was 16 nautical

miles east of Panjgur (Ba-

lochistan) when he made

the emergency call request-

ing a doctor and ambu-

lance, an Aviation Division

news release said. "The

pilot requested to divert

the plane, which carried

because of the sickness of

a passenger," it added. The

pilot asked that the patient,

a 60-year-old Nigerian na-

tional (identified as Abdul-

lah), was not breathing and

had no pulse. Following the

medical inspection, the Air

Indigo flight left for its des-

tination at 4:06 am, with the

body of the ill-fated Nigeri-

Pakistan highly

vulnerable to

climate change

KARACHI: Pakistan is high-

ly vulnerable to worsening

climate change; building

resilience is key to avoiding

poverty increases, other-

wise there is a significant

probability of more fre-

quent and intense events

such as droughts, floods,

This was disclosed by a

World Bank high-power del-

egation led by its Regional

Director for Sustainable

Development (SD), South

Asia, Mr. John A. Roome

who met with Sindh Chief

Minister Syed Murad Ali

Shah here at CM House.

The meeting was attended

by provincial ministers, the

chief secretary, the chair-

Through a presentation,

the world bank's region-

al director for South Asia

told the meeting that Pa-

kistan's recent poverty

reduction was fragile due

to macro-fiscal vulnerabil-

ities and low and volatile

growth. The report said

that the reduced extreme

poverty due to off-farm

economic and foreign re-

mittances, growth in per

capita GDP has been vol

atile and low.-DNA

man P&D, and others

and sea level rise.

an national on board.

led by Altaf Hussain. Geo News has received

party in the UK court.

UK High Court.

Islamahar POST



LHC seeks

minutes of cabinet

meeting on

Toshakhana LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday

sought minutes of the federal cabinet meeting about

Toshakhana gifts on March 21. Justice Asim Hafeez

passed the orders while

hearing a petition filed by

Munir Ahmad for complete

details of Toshakhana gifts.

During Monday's hear-

ing, the court ordered the

presentation of Toshakha-

na record prior to 2002

in any format available,

adding that it would pass

appropriate orders after

reviewing the record. The

court adjourned further

hearing till 11:30 am. Lat-

er, as the court resumed

proceedings, an additional

attorney general submitted

a 466-page report of mak-

ing the Toshakhana record

public from 2002 to 2023.

He further submitted that

the federal government had

formulated a policy about

At this, the court adjourned

further hearing till March

21 and sought minutes of

the federal cabinet meet-

ing about Toshakhana gifts.

The petitioner Munir Ah-

mad had filed the petition

seeking complete details of

Toshakhana gifts received

by the rulers and the bureaucrats from foreign dig-

nitaries since the creation

87 new

Corona cases

reported in

24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Health offi-

cials on Monday said that

87 new Coronavirus cases

were reported during the last

24 hours across the coun-

try. As per the data shared

by the National Institute of

Health (NIH), the case posi-

tivity ratio was 2.19 percent

while 10 patients were in

critical condition. No death

was reported from the Coro-

navirus in the last 24 hours

while 3,972 Covid-19 tests were conducted. As many

as 981 tests were conducted

in Lahore out of which, 16

cases were confirmed with

a ratio of 1.63 percent, while

234 tests were conducted

in Rawalpindi out of which

four cases was reported con-

of Pakistan.-APP

Toshakhana gifts.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Heavy losses reported as battle for Bakhmut rages Briefs **Altaf loses** £10m case to MQM-P at UK High Court

Analysts say Bakhmut has little strategic value, but has become a focal point for Russian commanders who have struggled to deliver any positive news to the Kremlin

News Desk

KYIV: Ukraine and Russia have reported inflicting heavy losses as the battle for Bakhmut rages on. Moscow has been trying to take the eastern Ukrainian city for months in a grinding war of attrition. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces had suffered more than 1,100 deaths in the past few days, with many more seriously injured. Russia said it had killed more than 220 Ukrainian service members over the past 24 hours.

The BBC is unable to verify the numbers given by either side.

Analysts say Bakhmut has little strategic value, but has become a focal point for Russian commanders who have struggled to deliver any positive news to the Kremlin. Capture of the city would bring Russia slightly closer to its goal of controlling the whole of Donetsk region, one of four regions in eastern and southern Ukraine annexed by Russia last September following referendums widely condemned outside Russia as a sham. Ukrainian commanders, who have committed significant resources to defending the city, say their strategy aims to tie Russia's forces down and prevent Moscow from launching any further

offensives in the coming months. "In less than a week, starting from 6 March, we managed to kill more than 1,100 enemy soldiers in the Bakhmut sector alone, Russia's irreversible loss, right there, near Bakhmut," Mr Zelensky said in his nightly video address. He added that 1,500 Russian soldiers were wounded badly enough to keep them out of further action.

Russia's defence ministry said Russian forces had killed "more than 220 Ukrainian servicemen". The commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, said the Russian mercenary Wagner Group was attacking his troops from several directions in a bid to break through defences and advance to the central districts of the town. The paramilitary organisation is at the heart of the Russian assault on Bakhmut. Its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, has staked his reputation, and that of his private army, on seizing Bakhmut. He said on Sunday that the situation in the city was "difficult, very difficult, the enemy is fighting for every metre".

"And the closer to the city centre, the fiercer the fighting," he said in a voice recording published on Telegram. After his envisioned capture of Bakhmut, "we will begin to reboot" and "will start recruiting new people from the regions", he said.

Xi could visit Putin, speak to Zelenskiy

KYIV: Chinese President Xi Jinping could wade deeper than before into Ukraine diplomacy as soon as next week, staging both his first trip to Russia and his first talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy since Moscow's invasion. Several sources familiar with the plans said Xi could visit Moscow next week, an earlier-than-expected trip in response to a long-standing invitation from President Vladimir Putin. His plans to also hold a video conference with Zelenskiy were reported by the Wall Street Journal, citing sources. The Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The Kremlin said it had nothing to announce yet. Ukraine's president's office did not immediately respond.

The sources who told Reuters of the plan for Xi to visit Moscow declined to be identified given the sensitivity of the issue. "As a rule, announcements of official foreign visits are coordinated synchronously by mutual agreement of the parties," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "When there is such readiness, we will let you know." A visit by Xi to Russia would be a major event for Putin, who portrays the war in Ukraine as a conflict with the combined might of the West and has frequently spoken of his plans to host Xi in coming months. Russia relies on China to buy oil and gas it can no longer sell in Europe. But if Xi's visit coincides with a video meeting with Zelenskiy, that could be an even bigger coup for the Ukrainians, who want Beijing to remain neutral rather than firm up their support for Moscow. Zelenskiy has called on Xi to speak to him.— Agencies

SYRIA: Pakistan Ambassador in Syria Air Marshal R Shahid Akhter, Education Minister of Syria and Governor of Latakia along with Students and locals welcoming Pakistan Ship NASR at Latakia. -APP

Philippines, US kick off joint drills

WEB DESK

FORT MAGSAYSAY: The Philippines and United States launched army-to-army exercises on Monday, with a focus on enhancing the Southeast Asian nation's ability to protect and defend its territory from external threats. The drills come on the heels of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's decision last month to expand the United States' access to his country's military bases - a move that has infuriated China since the Philippines is seen as a fulcrum of geopolitical rivalry between the two major powers. More than 3,000 Filipino and U.S. soldiers will participate in the three-week long annual exercises called Salaknib, which involve multiple small-arms live-fire exercises, artillery and mortar live-fire events, and construction projects.

Mastermind of KPO attack killed in encounter

KARACHI: The master-Indigo flight, which took off mind of terrorist attack on Karachi Police Office (KPO) has been killed along with a companion in a police encounter in Karachi. The Counter-Terrorism Department personnel shot dead the two terrorists in Manghopir area of Karachi. According to CTD officials, 163 passengers, to Karachi the slain terrorists were identified as Iryadullah son of Gul Qadir Khan and Abdul Waheed son of Saif Mali Khan. CTD Officials said 26-year-old Iryadulllah was the Karachi commander of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) while the other terrorist was 23-year-old.

A suicide vest, five different weapons and two motorcycles were also seized during the CTD action. A team of Bomb Disposal Squad defused the suicide jacket. For further legal proceedings, bodies of both the terrorists were shifted to

Iinnah Hospital.

According to CTD sources, two terrorists had already been arrested and identified as Abdul Aziz Siddiquie and Mehran Habibi. Both were the facilitators of the KPO attackers as they came on a motorbike while the attackers were riding in a car. The third terrorist who had been killed during the KPO attack has now been identified as Yasir, the CTD sources said, adding Yasir belonged to Afghanistan, that's why the investigators could not obtain any data about him from Nadra. The sources said the terrorists had made the plan to strike KPO in Afghanistan and started recce of their target about eight months ago. On February 17, five people were killed in a terrorist attack on KPO. The hours-long combat between terrorists and law-enforce-

ment agencies - compris-

ing Pakistan Army Special Service Group (SSG), Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Sindh Police, at the KPO located at Sharea Faisal left five people martyred and 18 injured. All three terrorists belonging to the banned militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed in the action.

Witnesses had said that the terrorists had left their car outside the Saddar Police Line family quarters, walked to the KPO and entered after cutting the barbed wire. They had added that there were two other people with them who had pointed out the KPO to the militants and fled after hugging them.

The KPO building was severely damaged due to the incident and the terrorists had the support of "foreign powers" for their planned operation.-DNA

Turkey's quake toll tops 48,000 Soylu said the government plans to set up 115,585

containers for as many families in 239 sites across the affected region. He said 23 sites had been established so far and 21,000 containers were set up, with 85,000 people living in them.

ANKARA: The death toll in Turkey from last month's major earthquakes has risen to 48,448, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said on Monday, as authorities rush to set up container cities to house for the longer-term those left homeless by the disaster.

The combined death toll including those killed in Syria has climbed to more than 54,000. Speaking at a news conference in Malatya, one of the provinces hit by the quakes, Soylu said the toll in Turkey included 6,660 foreign nationals, mostly Syrians, adding that authorities were still trying to identify 1,615 victims.

The earthquake and subsequent powerful tremors injured more than 115,000 in Turkey and left millions sheltering in tents or seeking to move to other cities. President Tayyip Erdogan has pledged to rebuild homes within a year but it will be many months before thousands can leave their tents or container housing, and daily queues for food, and move into permanent housing. Soylu said the government plans to set up 115,585

containers for as many families in 239 sites across the affected region. He said 23 sites had been established so far and 21,000 containers were set up, with 85,000 people living in them.

He said 433,536 tents had been set up since the earthquake in 354 sites, adding that businesses would be given new temporary workplaces in the next 10 days. During a visit on Sunday to Hatay, one of the worst-hit regions, Erdogan said Qatar had pledged to send 10,000 containers, which were used during the soccer World Cup at the end of last year. Soylu said of the 36,257 buildings that collapsed, the rubble of 5,321 had been cleared, while 6,000 of 18,219 buildings slated for immediate demolition had been knocked down and the resulting

rubble cleared. He said the collapsed buildings and those slated for immediate demolition made up only 25% of the work, while other heavily damaged buildings that need to be demolished and cleared make up 75%.-Agencies

are deeply imprinted on the national ego

of both the Hungarians and the Pakistanis.

The Ambassador shared with the audience

the findings of his own research regarding

how Iqbalbecame aware of Petőfi's poetry.

He gave a detailed picture on the inter-

mediate role, the well-known intellectual,

poet and translator, Umrao Singh Sher-Gil,

the father of the famous Hungarian-Indian

painter, Amrita Sher-Gil has played in fos-

tering the spiritual bonds between the two

national poets notwithstanding the historic

Besides the Hungarian Embassy and Prof.

Dr. Ghulam Moeen-ud-Din Nizami, Dean of

Faculty of Oriental Learning (also a poet

and geographic gap separating them.

firmed with a ratio of 1.71 percent while five cases were confirmed from 111 tests in Peshawar with the ratio of 4.50 percent. Meanwhile. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened.—APP

Gwadar **DNA**

Pak-Iran ink

MoU for

supply of

electricity to

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the supply of 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity to Gwadar. On the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Energy Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan visited Iran from March 10 to 13, said a press release issued here Monday. Khurram Dastgir held meetings with Iranian Minister of Energy Ali Akber Mehrabian. Both ministers emphasized further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries, besides extending cooperation in the the energy sector. They showed interest in initiating new joint ventures in the energy sector. The minister's visit aimed

at finalizing an agreement on power supply to Gwadar, which was initiated in his earlier visit in June 2022. In a record time of nine months, the electricity transmission line has been laid from Iran to Gwadar. For the finalization of the agreement, three sessions were held by technical teams in which extensive discussions were held.

The project would be inaugurated at the earliest and it would ensure uninterrupted supply to Gwadar which would lay a foundation for a prosperous Gwadar. During his visit, Khurram Dastgir also attended a ceremony organized by Embassy of Pakistan. Tehran to commemorate Pakistan National Day.

Symposium on spiritual kinship between Petőfi, Iqbal Petőfi's and Iqbal's heritage and message

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sándor Petőfi (1823-1849), the national poet of Hungary, the Hungarian Embassy in Islamabad - in collaboration with the University of the Punjab - organized a Symposium on the spiritual kinship between Petőfi and the Pakistani national poet Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938). The symposium took place at the Senate Hall of the University that gave a special flavorto the event as the higher education institution was founded by the Hungarian-born professor Dr.Wilhelm Leitner in 1882.

Sándor Petőfi had a significant role in the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-1849. He sacrificed his life for the independence in the war and became the symbol of the Hungarian struggle for freedom. Muhammad Iqbal's work and ideology were influenced by the poetry of Petőfi, whom Iqbal wrote a poem to pay tribute to his spiritual kin, the Hungarian poet. The name of Petőfi is certainly not wide-known in Pakistan although the symposium was not the first time when the Hungarian national poet was introduced to the Pakistani audience. In 2007 with the help of a few literature loving Pakistanis, the Embassy of Hungary has published the first ever book of selected poems of Petőfi in Punjabi language. The then Ambassa-



the poems, wrote the foreword while the poems were translated by poetess Mrs. SarwatMohiuddin, who also attended the symposium as guest-speaker.

By organizing the symposium, Mr. Béla Fazekas who came back to Pakistan after 12 years as a second time Ambassador has demonstrated that his dedication to the legendary Hungarian poet was not limited to the publication of Petőfi's selected poems Pakistani public's interest in Petőfi alive by focusing on the spiritual kinship of the two national poets, Petőfi and Iqbal. In his speech, the Ambassador highlightedthat a national poet's fame does not come only from the quality and excellence of his own writing but also from the legend that was built around him by his contemporaries and by the generations that followed.

only. He decided to continue keeping the

himself!), Mrs. SarwatMohiuddin also attended the event and she gave a lecture about the linguistic challenges of the translation of Petőfi's poems from Hungarian to Punjabi language. She read out some of Petőfi's poems from the Hungarian-Punjabi bilingual Petőfi anthology, which was accepted with loud applause from the audience.Prof.Dr.Nizami highlighted that in accordance with the zeitgeist Iqbal wrote his poems in Persian, therefore the Faculty of Oriental Learninglooks after Iqbal's poetic legacy. The Dean, being a Persian translator, had been familiar with Igbal's Petőfi-poem and he said that that poem was

dor Mr. Béla Fazekas himself has selected also written in Persian.-Agencies Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com