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Balochistan anti-polio vaccination drive, target set to vaccinate 2.5m children

Right decision to go ahead with Russia trip, says FM Qureshi

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi asserted on Friday that the government's decision to go ahead with the recently concluded Moscow visit was correct, explaining that there had been a shift in the country's foreign policy towards geo-economics, which warranted progress on regional connectivity.

thing in going ahead," he added. The visit coincided with escalating tensions between Russia and the West as the former launched an operation in neighboring Ukraine. The timing of the visit has been questioned but top Pakistani government officials termed it one of the rarest opportunities for the energy-starved country to make headway in energy and regional connectivity. Addressing the matter, Qureshi told media persons the before Prime Minister Imran Khan left for Moscow along with a delegation of ministers, he had presided over a meeting to analyse the evolving conflict. He said the current foreign secretary and four former foreign secretaries, former ambassadors, including those who served in Moscow, and other senior officials were present at the meeting. "We consulted [them], we weighed pros and cons and then decided the way forward accordingly," the foreign minister said, dispelling the impression that the decision to visit Moscow was not well thought out.

He emphasised the importance of "collective wisdom" in this regard, saying that he had been inviting former ambassadors and foreign secretaries for consultation and advice after assuming the role of foreign minister. "Institutional memory is of good use and we should benefit from experience," he said. "Using this collective wisdom, we concluded that the solid rationale for connectivity of our bilateral relations with Russia should not be lost sight of. In light of this, we decided to keep our plan for the visit unchanged." The foreign minister further said the objective of the visit was "maximise the diplomatic space for Pakistan". He described the visit as "satisfactory" and said "everyone saw the right decision. Our diplomatic space has increased. More over, Qureshi said, the government saw the visit as an opportunity to take Russia into confidence on the issue of Afghanistan and the evolving situation in South Asia, particularly with regards to Indian-occupied Kashmir. Web Desk.

Right decision to go ahead with Russia trip, says FM Qureshi



QUETTA: People shifting dead body of police personnel at civil hospital after unknown person open fire on police at east bypass.

Hashmi, Bizenjo, Umrani, Bangulzai, Kakar condole over the death Dr. Hayee

Senior parliamentarian and patron-in-chief of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Senator Saeed Hashmi, central leader Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Senator Mir Sadiq Umrani, National Party (NP) leader, Senator Tahir Bizenjo, former home minister Agha Omar Bangulzai, and former federal minister Haji Rehman Kakar have expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of seasoned politician Dr. Hayee Baloch. In their separate statements, the political leaders termed it a big loss to the politics of the country in general and Balochistan in particular. "We lost a great democratic figure," Senator Hashmi said. The political leader said that the late Dr. Baloch had spent whole for the acquisition of rights of the people of Balochistan. "He was a symbol of political struggle in Balochistan," Mir Sadiq Umrani said. "He was a political leader in Balochistan," Mir Sadiq Umrani said. They said that Dr. Hayee Baloch had always played from the front in Baloch nationalist politics. "Dr. Sah's struggle throughout his life for Baloch nationalist politics," Dr. Sah's daughter, Agha Omar Bangulzai stated that late Dr. Baloch was a principled politician and never compromised over political values and principles. Haji Rehman Kakar of the former Uthman-e-Islam (U) tested his demise a great political loss to the country and province. People belonging to various walks of life expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr. Hayee Baloch.



LAHORE: Opposition Leader in National Assembly Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif talking to media persons after hearing at Accountability Court in Provincial Capital.

Balochistan anti-polio vaccination drive, target set to vaccinate 2.5m children

QUETTA: A five-day anti-polio campaign inaugurated in Balochistan on Friday that will be commenced across the province from Monday 28th February. Secretary Health Balochistan Noor-ud-Haq Baloch inaugurated a five-day polio campaign in Balochistan and a seven-day polio campaign in high risk districts of the province, including the provincial capital, Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah and bordering town Chaman. During the inauguration ceremony held at Children Hospital Quetta, Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), Balochistan's Coordinator Hameedullah Nasir, Chief Executive Officer Children's Hospital Dr. Habib Bakar, Assistant Professor Children's Hospital Doctor Aftabullah Bizenjo, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Nasar, WHO and UNICEF representatives were present on the occasion. Talking to media persons on the occasion, Secretary Health Noor-ud-Haq Baloch said that a target has been set to vaccinate around 2.5 million children during the campaign. More than 10,000 teams will take part in the polio campaign across the province. "The role of parents, political leaders, religious scholars and administration is very important in the fight against poliovirus. With positive thinking, attitudes, and support, the polio campaign can be made successful," he said. The Secretary Health further said that the Child Immunization Program was a significant pillar of the efforts to eradicate poliovirus. The Health Department was not only trying to provide adequate resources for immunization of children against the disease, but also trying to keep no stone unturned to increase coverage in remote areas. He maintained, "The polio vaccination coverage has been increased by more than 97% in every campaign across the province. The poliovirus can target children who are deprived of the polio vaccine," Secretary added. He also appealed the refusal parents to give essential polio drops to their loved ones so that the virus could be completely eradicated from the country. INP.

No one can stop from using 'constitutional right' of no-confidence motion: Shehbaz

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Opposition Leader in National Assembly (NA) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday has said that no one can stop them from using 'constitutional right' of no-confidence motion. Talking to media, the PML-N leader said that he was maligned in front of the nation as he was summoned in Saaf Panj case but arrested in Agha Khan Hearing scandal. I was alleged of committing corruption of billions of rupees in Saaf Panj project. Everyone was acquitted but engineer Raja was detained and sent to jail, he told. Shehbaz Sharif said the court decision regarding Saaf Panj project is our victory, claiming that he had saved nation's money. I am facing the case trial for one and a half years, he went on to say. PML-N president said the people are suffering due to increasing inflation in the country. The poverty has elevated in the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he stated. Shehbaz Sharif said that the Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan-National Accountability Authority (NAA) nexus has caused damage to the economy of the country. INP.

Mohsin Baig granted bail by Islamabad Court

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court on Friday granted post-arrest bail to media personality Mohsin Baig in a case pertaining to possessing an illegal weapon. Judge Waseem Hussain Gondal directed the applicant to furnish surety bonds worth Rs30,000 to secure the bail. Magistrate police filed two cases against Baig after he allegedly attacked Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials who arrived at his residence in Islamabad to arrest him on the complaint of Communications Minister Muzaf Saad. One of the two cases was lodged under section 13/2005 of the arms law for the offence of carrying an unlicensed weapon. During the hearing today, the investigation officer submitted the case record in the court. A state counsel opposed the bail plea, requesting the court to dismiss it. On Feb 21, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued contempt of court notices to Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Wing Babar Bakht on petitions seeking dismissal of cases against journalist Mohsin Baig. Sardar Lateef Khosa appeared before the court on behalf of Baig's wife, while Advocate General Niazullah Niazi represented the state. During the proceedings, Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Aftab Minallah remarked that Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) abused its power. INP.

Two policemen martyred one injured in Eastern bypass area of Quetta

Police sources said policemen were on a routine patrolling in the area when attacked by terrorists. The assailants fled unharmed from the spot. The injured policeman was rushed to civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. Governor and CM Balochistan condemned the attack. Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha and Chief Minister, Mir Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the attack. INP.

their separate statements, they expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of human loss. However, they vowed that the perpetrators of the attack would be brought to justice. Police and Frontier Corps personnel reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. As per the initial police investigation, this was an act of targeted killing. Although, so far no group has claimed the responsibility for the attack.

In Pak Army, two Hindu military officers promoted to rank of Lt Colonel

ISLAMABAD: Two Hindu military officers were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on Friday. Born in 1981, Major Dr. Kailash Kumar, hailing from Sindh's Tharparkar district commissioned in the army in 2008. Major Dr. Anil Kumar, hailing from Punjab, is a resident of Sindh's Badin district and got commission in the army in 2007. Both the officers have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Reacting to the development, Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) chief Dr. Ramesh Kumar wrote on his official Twitter handle: "Heartiest congratulations to the promotion of 2 Hindu Officers to Lt Colonel Rank." Earlier in February, Chief of

Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa had said that minorities in Pakistan are equal citizens and the job of the state is to protect them, the military had said in a statement. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief expressed these remarks during a visit to Nagarparkar, Sindh's Tharparkar district, where he spent the day with troops and was also briefed by the local commander on operational readiness of the formation.

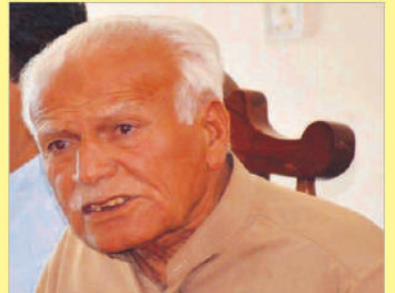
Harassment of women an unforgivable crime: Sen. Samina Mumtaz

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz said that the harassment of women is an unforgivable crime. The Women's Act has been enacted and all available resources are being utilized to ensure its implementation. The media can play an active role. In a statement issued here on Friday, she said that for the dignity of women in schools, colleges, universities, public transport, markets and offices and other places of work, a sense of responsibility has to be created in the society for forcing women to leave their homes and their families. Senator Samina Mumtaz said that works for the welfare of women and if they have a sense of insecurity in such places then how will they be able to work. This

process can create awareness in our young generation that the dignity and protection of women is the responsibility of all the people living in the society. If they come out and face any harassment then they must raise their voice against harassment and the job of the state can be stopped, she added. The member of Upper House said that this legislation would help in better defense of women's rights. She urged the women to lodge any complaint related to harassment without any fear or risk or contact the Federal and Provincial Ombudsmen directly. "Everyone has the right to a safe and dignified workplace environment, and this is only possible if we ensure that the laws are enforced," she said. INP.

Baloch nationalist leader Dr. Hayee Baloch dies in a traffic accident

Seasoned Baloch nationalist leader Dr. Hayee Baloch died in a traffic accident on Friday. He was going to Bahawalpur from Faisalabad after attending a conference when his vehicle met an accident. Mukhtar Chalgari, a former political colleague of Dr. Baloch said that the vehicle of the late leader collided with another vehicle when he was going from Faisalabad to Bahawalpur. The dead body of the late nationalist leader would be brought to Balochistan for burial. He would be laid to rest in his ancestral district Kachi tomorrow (Saturday). Political leaders expressed grief and sorrows. Senior leaders and people belonging to almost all walks of life have expressed grief over the demise of Dr. Hayee Baloch. "This is an irreparable loss to Baloch nationalist movement", Dr. Malik Baloch, the former Balochistan Chief Minister said. He expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr. Hayee Baloch. Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha, Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo have also grief and sorrow over the sudden death of Dr. Hayee Baloch. They prayed that may Allah rest the departed souls in peace and give patience to the family members.



Who was Dr. Hayee Baloch? Dr. Baloch was born in 1945 in Chigari area of district Kachi in Bhabhri. He got basic education from Bhabhri Kachi and did his MBBS from Karachi. He started his political career with the Students Organisation (BSO) and later served as the Chairman of the students' organization. Throughout life, Dr. Baloch played from the front for the acquisition of rights of small nationalities in general and Baloch rights in particular. Dr. Baloch cleared an MNA in 1970 on the ticket of NAP. Dr. Baloch remained a member of the National Assembly in 1970 along with Nawab Khair Baksh Marri and other leaders. He was elected on the ticket of the then defunct National Awami Party (NAP). Dr. Hayee Baloch and late Nawab Marri had refused to sign over the 1973 Constitution in the country and expressed reservations in this regard. Dr. Baloch remained a political ally of Nawab Bugti and Sardar Attaullah Mengal. Dr. Baloch remained a political ally of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti and Sardar Attaullah Khan Mengal and played an important role in the politics of Balochistan. In the 1990s, Dr. Baloch was elected as Senator during the government of Shabaz Mehmood. In 2005, Dr. Baloch played a key role in establishing the National Party. However, in 2009, differences surfaced between NP and Dr. Baloch parted ways with Dr. Malik Baloch and the late Mir Hasid Khan Bizenjo.

Securing agriculture based livelihoods for farmers in Balochistan

By: Ms. Neelum Agriculture officer

Future of 600 medical students of Balochistan at stake

Pakistan Medical Commission's (PMC) decision to withdraw concession granted for regularization of students studying prior to the college recognition has put the future of around 600 students at stake. Concerned quarters including the Balochistan government, teaching faculty are responsible for the deficiencies and poor standard of education, which don't meet the PMC criteria for regularization of students.

Teaching faculty members enjoyed all perks and privileges and failed to protect the future of students. Students from across the province have been studying in the three medical colleges i.e. Loralai, Khuzdar, and Turbat for the last three to four years.

Students' job was to pass the test conducted for admissions. It was the responsibility of the health department and faculty members to put things in order. The PMC asked the students to appear in a test for regularization. The students refused to appear in the test and launched a protest movement against the PMC.

This also reflects the standard and quality of education in Balochistan. Irregularities in the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) is an open secret. Nevertheless, the system is mum about the BBISE scandal.

Health Minister Balochistan writes a letter to the President. The PMC decision has also prompted the Balochistan health minister, Syed Ehsan Shah to write a letter to the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi to intervene and protect the future of students of the province. After the 18th amendment, the province has more constitutional powers. Although, the political leadership has failed to exercise the constitutional powers after the 18th amendment.

The PMC is a regulatory body. It must review its decision and avoid ruining the academic future of medical students of Balochistan. This province and its people have already suffered a lot. It needs a healing touch rather than complicating the issues.

Balochistan province is famous for its agriculture based resources. Agriculture sector provides livelihood to more than half of the population of Balochistan, its favorable climatic condition helps to produce high quality fruits. It is called Fruit Basket of Pakistan. Apple is the major fruit of Balochistan contributing more than 80% to the total Apple production of Pakistan. Balochistan has a significant impact on the household income of the farmers in the region. Farmers have been growing and exporting Apples for many years yet they are marred by various agricultural techniques, alternative pest management system and marketing strategies that could increase their yield. Many farmers are compelled to quit farming due to low returns in the quality of their produce as a result of irrigation and other factors. The potential reduced dramatically due to deteriorating effects on the soil. The current farming problem is increasing rapidly in the rural areas. This main problem confronting the

farmers is the shortage of irrigation water, also includes scarcity of water, unavailability of agricultural inputs, lack of strong agriculture system, agricultural marketing, inadequate storage facilities and poor agricultural techniques, lack of packaging skills, poor transportation facilities, loss of value added practices for local markets, pre and post-harvest losses due to old agriculture methods, basic hygiene issues and untrained labor force.

Apple value chain is the largest value chain in Balochistan. About 100 apples are marketed in Balochistan, while the remaining 90% is marketed to the other parts of Pakistan. Due to lack of adequate storage facilities, most of the apples are stored in rural cities of the country. Stakeholders that are involved in agriculture are making collabative efforts to improve the value chain. Agriculture extension department, Planning and Development Department, NGOs, UN agencies such as UNIDO and FAO are also contributing and strengthening relevant government department services through different activities for reducing food losses and improving Apple Value Chain in the province.

The Project for Agriculture and Agro-Industry Development Assistance in Pakistan (PAAID), funded by JICA and implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is considerably contributing for building the capacities of relevant stakeholders to strengthen the system and enhance capacities of relevant stakeholders in the Apple Value Chain in Balochistan. Inclusion of stakeholders in the project is to enhance the productive and compliance capacities of relevant stakeholders in the Apple Value Chain in Balochistan. Inclusion of stakeholders in the project is to enhance the productive and compliance capacities of relevant stakeholders in the Apple Value Chain in Balochistan.

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Progress paradoxes

By Hassan Baig

A country's economy or economic progress is an integrated model based on multiple factors, which complement each other for the overall economic development. Almost all developed countries from the Asian Tigers to the EU and China - worked on one principle to achieve economic growth and that was to optimise and utilise their resources in the best interest of their nations.

Pakistan is a case in point, whose perpetual financial crisis could be described as the 'metaverse of the paradox of economic development'. There is a historical background of this straggled economic development.

The country's real potential for development could not be achieved due to multiple factors ranging from its inconsistent economic policies to its never-ending political instability. In the first two decades since 1947 - until the end of the 1960s, the country's macroeconomic indicators looked impressive, achieving one of the five stages of economic development at the international level. Although this period was marred by political transitions - which resulted in the disintegration of Pakistan in 1971 - economic growth during this period was remarkable. This was the time when the famous 23 Westerners who controlled over 90 percent of the national

resources got promiscuous, which created feelings of interregional and interpersonal inequality and disparity, causing political damage to the very existence of Pakistan. The economic period of the first martial law administrator, Ayub Khan, marked the 'green revolution and industrialisation in almost all sectors of the economy. It was branded as the 'golden age' of economic growth in the favour of erstwhile West Pakistan, increasing anger among the people of then East Pakistan. But the overall economic growth was slow, as state-owned enterprises (SOEs) badly suffered from inefficiency and lack of competitiveness.

The whole process was reversed in 1977 when the third martial law administrator assumed power and this was another political transition. The private sector was helped to private investors. After the 1979 oil price hike, the agriculture sector flourished as the country built two dams - Tarbela Dam and Mangla Dam - with a vast network of water distribution in the form of a multi-billion dollar project. The aid from the US for supporting it in the Soviet-Afghan war. And since it was a boom time, the economy of Pakistan got a lot of financial aid from the US and the West.

After the death of General Zia in 1988, the economic growth rate which was quite impressive in the period of a civilian setup, started picking up during the military rule. The reasons were obvious - American and Western aid declined, rather stopped - soon after the withdrawal of

the Russian forces from Afghanistan during 1979 when Zia Bhutto got power after the fall of Dhaka in 1971. His nationalisation policy caused a drastic decline in economic growth. In the 1990s, the much-needed economic reforms showed desirable results, but another political intervention came in when General Musharraf ousted the political government of Mr Nawaz Sharif in October 1999.

Initially, the economic growth rate drastically dropped. Later the 9/11 attacks took place in 2001, which proved to be a bane for Pakistan's economy. The US and the West again sent financial aid to Pakistan for the 'war on terror'. At this time the fight was against those who were declared 'freedom fighters' and 'terrorists'. The Russian invasion in 2022, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pakistani currency is fast depreciating, and the inflation rate is soaring. The economic growth is slow, and a large amount of debt, debt service payments eat up most of the revenues collected by the Federal Reserve (FRB). The current macroeconomic indicators are not encouraging either. The monetary policy seems inconsistent, and the fiscal policy is unable to respond to real issues.

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Detained

By Diana Block

Under the banner 'Our decision is freedom... to administration - five hundred Palestinian administrative detainees collectively protesting against the Israeli military courts at the beginning of January 2022. The boycott was also taken up by their legal counsel who will no longer attend or participate in the proceedings on their behalf. This courageous stance was provoked by the drastic escalation in military administrative detention orders against Palestinians, which followed the military operations in Gaza after the Palestinian Unity Uprising/Intifada of April 2021. During the last six months, the Israeli military review of administrative detention orders takes place at closed sessions that do not allow the public or family members of the detainee to be present.

Often an administrative detainee is released and on their way home when an order renewing the detention is issued and they are cruelly returned to prison.

United Nations experts and Special Rapporteurs have repeatedly issued statements, most recently on 21 October 2021, strongly condemning Israeli practices of administrative detention.

refusal to participate in the procedures highlights the lack of trust in any judicial process". Administrative detainees are held without charge for so-called 'security reasons'. Detainees are held without trial and are being told about the evidence against them. In most cases, they are simply informed that there is 'secret evidence' which neither they nor their lawyer can see. They are often interrogated and tortured after arrest. There is no clear or defined sentence and military administrative detention orders are renewable indefinitely every six months. The military review of administrative detention orders takes place at closed sessions that do not allow the public or family members of the detainee to be present.

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The gathering storm

Zamir Akram

War clouds have once again gathered over Afghanistan, as America's longest war in its history has ended. The Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace. In fact, a renewed civil war has already started between the Taliban and the Afghan government. The impact of such a conflict will not remain confined to Afghanistan but will engulf the entire region.

The Taliban have already made extensive territorial gains. They claim to now control 85 per cent of Afghanistan, especially the rural areas and the crucial highways, thereby encircling the major cities with fighting currently raging for the control of Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad. The Taliban are also trying to rebrand themselves, projecting a more tolerant and responsible image in order to increase their domestic and international acceptability.

Rejecting Taliban claims, the Afghan government has asserted that its forces are regrouping in the north and the Taliban advance will retake local territory. The government has also criticised local Tajik, Hazara and Uzbek militia to boost the capabilities of its troops while relying heavily on military support by Washington and New Delhi. In these circumstances, a protracted civil war is now the most likely outcome.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is correct in stating that the Americans made a mess in Afghanistan. The Biden administration has rushed to the exits, a band on a tag Afghanistan to its fate. American 'over the horizon' military operations in support of the Ghani government, such as recent operations in Kunar, will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplemented. China's extension of its BRI into Afghanistan as well as its investments in the country will also be put on hold. For Pakistan, the costs would be even higher as the Indian security objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be preferable to a Taliban government.

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between Secretary Blinken and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is that India and Afghan intelligence agencies would feel encouraged to intensify support for terrorist groups like the ITB and Baloch separatists against Pakistan. The Chechens, Uzbeks, and Russians are leaving and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of access to increasingly target China, Russia and Iran.

In these circumstances, Afghanistan will not only face further destabilisation but will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplemented. China's extension of its BRI into Afghanistan as well as its investments in the country will also be put on hold. For Pakistan, the costs would be even higher as the Indian security objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be preferable to a Taliban government.

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Tokyo Olympics

Kamal Siddiqi

Pakistan won no medals in Tokyo. The country won a medal was won in 1992 at the Barcelona Games where our hockey team clinched bronze. This is something that has happened to the country that produced so many Olympic greats? Have we resigned ourselves to a country that despite the poor performances in Tokyo, were there some moments to cheer. For example, Arshad Nadeem made history as the first ever Pakistani athlete to qualify for the final of any track and field event in the Olympic Games. He was born Nadeem made it to the final of the men's 400m hurdles race with a time of 85.16m, well beyond the qualification mark. Nadeem eventually finished fifth in the competition but the success prize for his efforts.

Similarly weightlifter Muhammad Nadeem won a medal for Pakistan but he turned plenty of heads as he was the only Pakistani to qualify for the final of his event. The 21-year-old lifter from Gujranwala, making his Olympic debut, took part in the 67kg category and held the gold medal for 10 minutes before eventually being bumped down and denied a podium finish.

But the fact is that among the 10 athletes who took part in the Tokyo Olympics, only Nadeem and Talib came close to winning a medal. Both finished fifth in their respective disciplines. What about the others? Pakistan's shooters were disappointed. National champion Gulam Mustafa Bakhri qualified for the medal round at the end of stage one of the 25m rapid fire pistol shooting competition but was eliminated after failing to score enough points in the second round. Another Pakistani shooter, Khalid Akhtar, was also eliminated in the final of his event. The country's top medal contender, Parveen Parveen, was eliminated after failing to score enough points in the final of her event. The country's top medal contender, Parveen Parveen, was eliminated after failing to score enough points in the final of her event.

Pakistan vs Australia: Security plan finalized for Rawalpindi match

RAWALPINDI. Security arrangements have been finalized for the test match between Pakistan and Australia at Rawalpindi cricket stadium with 4000 police deployed to secure the teams. According to police, the business centres surrounding the Rawalpindi cricket stadium will remain closed during the test match between Pakistan and Australia with double roads at the Rawalpindi food street, and Alama Iqbal Park to be sealed. The motorbikes will be suspended in certain parts of Rawalpindi while the

route of the metro bus will also be restricted during the test match. 4,000 cops will be deployed for the security of the traffic route. The match will be played from 29 March to 5 April. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced the 16-man Test squad while confirming that Saqlain Mushtaq will continue as head coach for another year. Squad: Iqbal Azam (captain), Muhammad Rizwan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafiq, Azhar Ali, Iftikhar Ashtar, Farwaq Alam, Harris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Nauman Ali, Saad Khan, Saad Shabbir.

and in Rawalpindi with the opening Test to be played from 29 March and the four white-ball matches to be played from 29 March to 5 April. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced the 16-man Test squad while confirming that Saqlain Mushtaq will continue as head coach for another year. Squad: Iqbal Azam (captain), Muhammad Rizwan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafiq, Azhar Ali, Iftikhar Ashtar, Farwaq Alam, Harris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Nauman Ali, Saad Khan, Saad Shabbir.



QUETTA: Horse riding police patrolling in Provincial steer during Friday time.

CTP Peshawar launches action against one-wheelers, 12 youth held

PESHAWAR. In line with the directions of Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat, the City Traffic Police (CTP) Peshawar launched crackdowns against one-wheelers, in different areas of the city on Friday.

During separate actions at Northern Bypass and other areas of Peshawar city, the CTP held 12 youth doing one-wheeling and impounded their bikes. Later the parents of the detained youth provided a written guarantee of keeping their children away of the activity in future after which they were set free.

CTO Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat said that one-wheeling was a hazardous game which often takes the lives of not only one-wheelers but also put lives of other road users at stake. He said that strict action will be taken against one-wheelers and no one will be spared under any circumstances. I.N.P.

FBR taking steps to recover Rs3.5 trillion stuck revenue

ISLAMABAD. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is taking steps to resolve tax-related disputes, including the recovery of Rs3.5 trillion revenue, which has been stuck up for many years due to litigation in different courts, says a report carried by WealthPK.

He said such a situation has now become a big challenge not only for the government and FBR, but also for the courts. Thus, the situation requires immediate and urgent strategy by coordinating with all stakeholders for a positive way forward.

It is essential to immediately establish Specialized Litigation Management Resource Centre (SLMRC) headed by an appropriate and corporate expert at the FBR headquarters having linkages with field formations to resolve the issue.

The FBR Chairman Dr. Ahsan Ali Khan said informed the Standing Committee of National Assembly on Finance that Rs3.5 trillion revenue has been stuck up due to the cumbersome process of four stages of appeals regarding these tax-related cases in different courts.

He said the government should also suitably amend the tax laws as per observations and judgments of the superior courts through new tax legislation. He said the government should also introduce such amendments to laws, which create a complete automation environment within the FBR for automation.

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COVID-19: Pakistan records decline in vaccination ratio

ISLAMABAD. Pakistan has recorded a notable decline in the vaccination ratio against Covid-19 since last Friday.

The interest of the masses to get jabs against the pandemic is witnessing a downward trend as the number of daily cases is decreasing.

During the last 24 hours, the national vaccination ratio stood at 2.73 per cent. The highest ratio was reported in Sindh at 4.92% during the corresponding period.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) vaccinated masses at 1.29% The vaccination ratio in Punjab was recorded at 1.62 per cent and in Balochistan it remained 2.21 per cent.

452% during the corresponding period. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) vaccinated masses at 1.29% The vaccination ratio in Punjab was recorded at 1.62 per cent and in Balochistan it remained 2.21 per cent.

High powered delegation to meet Afghan Commerce Minister at Torkham border on Feb 28

ISLAMABAD. Led by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood, accompanied by Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Saqib, a high powered delegation is scheduled to meet Afghan Minister of Commerce and his team at Torkham border on February 28 (Monday).

This was informed during the meeting of Afghanistan Inter-Ministerial Coordination Cell (AIIC) on Friday. The two delegations will visit the Torkham border to witness cross border movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Various important matters related to smooth movement of people and patients across the border, issuance of temporary admission documents, increase in timings of border crossing points, establishment of joint border infrastructure, training of Afghan nominees for trade related capacity building courses and smooth crossing of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan were discussed during the meeting. Time frame for reinitiating the stalled Torkham border road project and start of luxury bus service between Peshawar-Jalalabad and Quetta-Kashgar will also be part of discussion.

Prime Minister Inran Khan has announced Rs. 5 billion package to assist Afghanistan in addressing the impending humanitarian and economic crisis.

Under the package several initiatives have been taken by AICC including supply of life-saving medicines and technical assistance for restoration and functioning of hospitals. In addition to PM's Relief Package, Pakistan is also sending relief goods and food supplies to Afghanistan on daily basis. Recently, a delegation of Afghan Chambers also visited Pakistan and held discussions with the business community to explore trade opportunities between the two countries. I.N.P.

Parents of Pakistani students stranded in Ukraine appeal gov't for help

ISLAMABAD/KIYVE. The parents of thousands of Pakistani students stranded in Ukraine on Friday appealed to the government to help their children in getting them out of the battle zone.

Thousands of Pakistani students have become unsafe in the country which is facing Russian invasion. They said they had become helpless as they were forced to stay at bus stations and shelters. They were also facing problems in getting food. They complained that the Pakistan embassy was not helping them. They appealed to the government to arrange for them to get out of Ukraine as the situation was getting worse.

On the other hand, while talking to the media, the Pakistan envoy to Ukraine, asked the Pakistani pupils stranded in Kharkiv to reach Western Ukraine. He told them to reach Ternopil and if they were directed to other cities, they should get a train and reach Lvov.

People from Karachi to Kashmir fed up of inflation, unemployment, poverty: Faryal

ISLAMABAD. Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women's Wing and Member Provincial Assembly, Mrs Faryal Talpur has said that people from Karachi to Kashmir are fed up with the uncontrollable inflation, unemployment and poverty. The PPP cannot leave the people alone in these difficult circumstances.

She was talking to officials and leaders of PPP Azad Kashmir who called on here at Zardari House, Islamabad. The meeting reviewed the preparations in Azad Kashmir for the People's March scheduled to start on 15th February from Karachi led by the Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhatti Zardari.

Addressing the meeting, Mrs. Faryal Talpur said that Chairman Bilawal Bhatti Zardari would lead the people's march from Karachi to Islamabad from February 27 to March 8 to get the people out of trouble. She said that the long march would be the best option for getting the people out of their difficulties.

The visiting delegation included PPP Azad Kashmir President Chahryar Yasir, Choudhry Latif Ashraf, Sardar Yaqub Ali Khan, Faissal Mumtaz Rathore, Choudhry Muhammad Riaz, Sardar Saad bin Saad and Yasirullah Arif. Members of the party led by Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also met Mrs. Faryal Talpur at Zardari House Islamabad and briefed her about the preparations for the long march in KP province. I.N.P.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas hold khuli kachehri in his office.

SCBA again seeks SC's review of MPs' lifelong ineligibility

ISLAMABAD. Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Ahsan Bhatti on Friday filed an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) against the objections raised by the court's own registrar to the petition he had drafted earlier, in which he had sought apex court's review of lifelong disqualification of a public office holder under article 62-F of the constitution.

The SCBA president pointed out that the SC was not a trial court, and that it was its own verdicts which had made a declaration by a court of law necessary for disqualification under the aforementioned article.

"Therefore, it is my request to the honourable court to remove these objections and fix its application for the hearing," Bhatti wrote in his application.

The SC had, on February 1, 2022, declined to admit for hearing the petition challenging the lifelong disqualification of lawmakers under Article 62(F) of the constitution.

The court registrar returned the petition filed by Supreme Court Bar Association's president Ahsan Bhatti by raising objections to it. I.N.P.

Listening and reading evoke almost identical brain activity

ISLAMABAD. Whether the words of a story come from listening or reading, it appears that the brain activates the same areas to represent their semantics, or meaning, according to new research.

Using detailed brain scans, scientists at the University of California (U.C. Berkeley), have created the world's first 3D semantic maps that can accurately predict which parts of the brain will respond to particular categories of words.

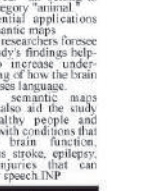
"At a time when more people are absorbing information from audio books, podcasts, and even audio texts," says lead study author Fatma Deniz, "a postdoctoral researcher in neuroscience at UC Berkeley, our study could help us understand whether they're listening to or reading the same materials; they are processing semantic information similarly."

The scans enabled the researchers to monitor brain activity by measuring blood flow in different parts of the brain. The researchers matched the brain activity with time-coded transcripts of the stories. That way, they could tell which part of the brain responded to each word.

They also used a computer program to allocate a semantic brain maps, the team invited volunteers to listen to and read the same stories while they recorded detailed functional MRI scans of their brains.

Potential applications of semantic maps. The researchers foresee the study's findings helping to increase understanding of how the brain processes language.

The semantic maps could also aid the study of healthy people and those with conditions that affect brain function, such as stroke, epilepsy, and injuries that can impair speech. I.N.P.



Book highlighting negative impacts of deforestation launched

Islamabad. Pakistan National Council of the Arts in collaboration with young students from the Ministry of Climate Change has organized a book launching ceremony "My Tree Book" along with a Mime & cartoon show at PNC-A.

The event was meant to enlighten youth and children about the negative impact of less tree environment on climate resulting in global warming and importance of trees and forests in controlling the rising temperatures and Glaciers Lake outburst flooding.

Nigar Nazir, renowned cartoonist and illustrator has authored this book and lauding her effort, PNC-A has organized the book launch ceremony cum show at PNC-A's Auditorium in collaboration with Geo studio and the Ministry of Climate Change.

Required Consultant Doctors

1	0/Physician	5	Dentist	9	Other Pediatric Surgeon
2	G/Surgeon	6	Dermatologist	10	Gynecologist/Obst
3	Pediatrician	7	Cardiologist	11	ENT Consultant
4	Urologist	8	Neurologist	12	Psychiatrist Doctor

Contact: No. 0300-9902238 / 0333-3607599.
Address: Near Iqbal Mill Mehrabees Bui pass Road Quetta

Embassy in Pakistan. He also thanked Nigar Nazir, the first Pakistani female cartoonist to present such an informative book with interactive video descriptions and illustrations through cartoons which will definitely help to educate the audience and public to overcome environmental problems with great Project Director (GloF), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, while recalling his childhood memories of seeing Geo on TV and newspapers told the audience that Geo was the popular cartoon character in 1970s and 1980, while

going to school and college he eagerly used to see geo cartoons on TV and in newspapers. He also thanked Nigar Nazir to present such informative book with interactive video descriptions and illustrations through cartoons which will definitely help to educate the audience and public to overcome environmental problems with great Project Director (GloF), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, while recalling his childhood memories of seeing Geo on TV and newspapers told the audience that Geo was the popular cartoon character in 1970s and 1980, while

Malik Amin Aslam, chief guest of the ceremony while talking to the audience, urged to prevent danger of pollution on environment through strict measures of piling up of plastic garbage equivalent to two mountains on K2 which he related with "soorya ka jin" authored by Nigar Nazir in 2012 when he was State Minister for the Ministry of Environment.

our study could help us understand whether they're listening to or reading the same materials; they are processing semantic information similarly." 3D semantic maps to create the 3D

Gwadar set to boost marine commerce between Dubai, other ports

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar set to boost marine commerce between Dubai, other ports, WealthPK reported on Friday.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Pakistan's largest commercial partner in the Middle East besides being a key source of investments and remittances.

With the operation of Gwadar Port and steady progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is ready to connect with the Middle East, WealthPK reported.

Today's marine economy recognizes the sea and oceans as the primary source of long-term economic growth across the world. Owing to its closeness to the Strait of Hormuz (SofH), the principal shipping route connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, Gwadar port appears as an excellent hub port in the marine and maritime commerce from Central Asia, Afghanistan, and west China, etc.

Gwadar's geostrategic location now allows it to monitor and control oil trade routes as well as Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) linking South Asia, West Asia, Africa, and Central Asia. Gwadar's deep-sea port is one of the few in the world that allow it to extend its activities. It has the same functional capacity as the Persian Gulf ports.

Pakistan is attempting to establish a new corporate domain similar to that of the UAE. Industrial brick-and-mortar investments are promoted in special economic, technical, and export zones. On December 16, 2021, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said the UAE's 'Brothers Gas' had announced USD 15 million investment in the Faisalabad Special Economic Zones (SEZ), WealthPK reported.

Since China is now the city's largest non-oil trading partner, Dubai and Gwadar are likely to become sister ports. As a result, Gwadar will handle virtually all of the UAE's \$50 billion China trade by sea.

UAE's investment in Gwadar is a mature port equipped with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). When fully operating, Gwadar will assist to boost marine commerce between Dubai and other ports while also reducing congestion.

Pakistan's trade with the UAE has been growing and generous bilateral ties. Pakistan was the world's first country to recognize the UAE's sovereignty and its contributions to this new country through the establishment of vital sectors, significant deployment of labour and national infrastructure, as well as regional support.

In a recent speech commemorating the UAE's 50th National Day, Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi commended the cornerstone of Pak-UAE relations (CPEC) and said the UAE is one of Pakistan's largest foreign investors, adding that economic connections with the country were increasing. He said bilateral trade volume was over \$8 billion, making the UAE Pakistan's largest trading partner. In 2021, bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UAE reached \$10.5 billion, up from \$7.5 billion in 2020 due to worldwide trade restrictions.

However, the current year's trade volume is up again, reaching \$8.33 billion by 2021 which is depicted in the given figure. The construction of the Gwadar Port presents various prospects for both countries. International companies, such as the low cost of labour in Pakistan, which draws foreign investors. Second, Gwadar is located near the Indian Ocean, which facilitates the building of shipping facilities INP.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Noor Ul Haq Baloch administering polio drop to child during inauguration polio campaign in provincial city.

School sealed in Mansehra after detection of COVID-19 cases

MANSEHRA: A Government High School was sealed here on Friday after detection of several coronavirus cases among the students.

According to details, several students of Government High School No 2 Garhi Habibullah district Mansehra were tested positive for COVID-19. On recommendations of District Health Officer (DHO), the said school was closed till March 03, 2022 INP.

Man killed in Swabi truck-bike collision

SWABI: A man was killed when an over speeding truck hit a motorcycle here on Friday, police said.

According to details, a reckless driven truck knocked down a motorcycle at Jehanaira Road of Swabi. Motorcycle driver Shah was killed on the spot and truck driver fled the scene.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem. The police impounded the truck and after registering a case against driver at large started raids for his arrest INP.

Man killed in firing over women dispute

DI KHAN: A man was killed while his brother escaped narrowly in firing of armed men over women dispute here on Friday, police said.

According to details, the incident took place in Deraizinda area of Dera Ismail where carpenter Mohabbat Khan Nemat Khan so Haji Sajan hailing from Musa Khel sprayed bullets at two brothers over women dispute.

As a result of firing, 33-year-old Abdul Karim s/o Habib was killed on the spot while his brother Abdul Kaleem escaped narrowly.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police also registered a case against the assailants started raids for their arrest INP.

Punjab PDWP approves three development schemes

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Friday approved three development schemes of School Education and Roads Sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 4,290.72 million.

Chairman Planning & Development Board Abdullah Khan Samial presided over the 6th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of current fiscal year 2021-22 which approved the said schemes.

The approved development schemes included Koli e Sulaiman Public School of Excellence (Boys & Girls) at Barhi, DG Khan at the cost of Rs. 1,300.00 million, Construction of Doudhla Bypass Road via Chakwal Road to Madhni, Length 5.80 Km (0.96 to 5.80 Km) Tehsil Kuruk District Rawalpindi at the cost of Rs. 638.02 million and Dashedization / Improvement of Maitan National Road, Length = 21.00 Km, District Mianwali at the cost of Rs. 2,162.70 million.

Provincial Secretary P&D Mujahid Sheedi, all Members of the Planning & Development Board, Provincial Secretaries of concerned departments, and other senior representatives of the relevant Provincial Departments also attended the meeting INP.

Strict accountability in police dept underway as per vision of IGP Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of the Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad, Muhammad Ahsan Younas, strict accountability in underway in police department. Stern departmental and legal action has been taken against two officials, 08 complaints were found to be fabricated.

According to the details, IGP Islamabad Ahsan Younas organized the 'Kullu Katcheri' (open court) in his office on daily basis for timely and on merit resolution of the problems of citizens.

During the 'kullu katcheri' held in last one week, 10 complaints made by citizens against the police were sent by IG Islamabad to the Internal Accountability Unit for inquiry. INP

Russia's Skolkovo Foundation, STZA sign LOI to promote cooperation in advance technologies

ISLAMABAD: The Skolkovo Foundation, Russia's principal agency for the development and commercialization of advanced technologies and Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of Pakistan have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to enhance bilateral cooperation in the technology sector, foster business relations and increase exchanges between the scientific and technological institutions of two countries.

The LOI was inked by Mr. Igor Drozdov, Chairman of the Board, Skolkovo Foundation and Amer Ahmed Hasani, Chairman, Special Technology Zones Authority during the historic visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, to the Russian Federation. Prime Minister Imran Khan witnessed the signing ceremony.

The Skolkovo Foundation, founded in Moscow, 2010 has a mandate of supporting technological entrepreneurship in Russia and to commercialize the results of scientific research activities. The number of Skolkovo residents already exceeds 3,200 and the Foundation promotes them with an array of services that are necessary to roll out developments into inter-continental markets. Located at Skolkovo Innovation Center is the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech) which is listed in the Nature Index 'Top-100 Young Universities' list.

The STZA's strategic partnership with Skolkovo Foundation will pave ways for introducing Russian technologies in Pakistan and open doors for leading Russian IT companies and organizations to invest and operate in Pakistan's Special Technology Zones. INP.

5-day anti-polio in Punjab from Feb 28, teams tasked to vaccinate 22m children

LAHORE: Like other parts of the country, a five-day anti-polio vaccination campaign in 30 districts of Punjab will kick start on February 28. The government has set a target of vaccinating 22 million children up to the age of five years across the province, deploying more than 12,000 polio workers during the upcoming five to be continued till March 4.

Chief Secretary Punjab Khe said that a high level meeting to review the arrangements for the campaign, results and Secretariat here on Friday. He directed the provincial authorities to make the campaign a success, saying 'The country must be made polio-free for the health and future of our children.'

The Chief Secretary said that for complete eradication of polio, everyone needs to continue working with national spirit.

He also appreciated the services rendered by the staff of health department, administration and police in the anti-polio drive.

The Secretary Primary Health gave a detailed briefing to the meeting. He said that the coverage rate in the anti-polio campaign completed in the nine districts of the province in January was over 100 percent. 7.1 million children were vaccinated against the target of 7.1 million. He said that effective government measures and hard work of the staff have yielded positive results and no case of polio has been reported in Punjab for the last 14 months.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Primary Health, Special Secretary Specialized Health and officials concerned while all the divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. INP.

CS directs constituting committee to devise plan for beautifying markets in Lahore

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Afzal AEZ has directed the authorities concerned to set up a committee for devising a strategy to implement the proposed project of beautification of markets in 15 prime locations of the provincial capital.

He issued the directives while talking to a delegation of traders led by Chief Minister's coordinator for Trade and Business Affairs, Nasir Samial while called on him at his office in the Civil Secretariat on Friday.

The meeting reviewed priorities of traders and provision of facilities in the markets. Speaking on the occasion, CM's Coordinators Nasir Samial proposed starting a pilot project for beautification and improvement of infrastructure in 15 major markets of Lahore.

The Chief Secretary Punjab directed the authorities concerned to set up a committee for devising a strategy to implement the proposed project. The committee would comprise representatives from relevant government departments including local government. Talking to the delegation, CS Kamran Afzal said the government is providing a conducive environment for the promotion of business activities, adding that cooperation of traders is of utmost importance in implementation of the pilot project.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Home), IG Punjab, secretaries of local government and excise and taxation departments were also present. INP.

Ethiopia to open embassy in Pakistan to promote trade relations: State Minister Rameto

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Redwan Hussain Rameto has said that an Ambassador was being assigned to Pakistan and soon a full-fledged embassy would also be opened here to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

While addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) here on Friday, Redwan Hussain Rameto said that Ethiopia was considering to issue visa on arrival facility to Pakistan businessmen so that they could easily visit his country to explore business opportunities. He said that flight resumption between Ethiopia and Pakistan was also under consideration to improve people to people contacts and trade relations.

The Ethiopian State Minister said that his country was importing 80% of pharmaceutical products and Pakistani pharma sector investors should set up JVs in Ethiopia to meet the needs of its market and export to African countries. He said that Ethiopia was providing a 10-year tax holiday to investors in its SEZs and Pakistani investors should capitalize on these opportunities. He highlighted pharma, garments, textiles, cement, ICT as major areas of potential cooperation between Ethiopia and Pakistan. He also underlined that both countries should consider setting up trade delegations to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation.

Sherry Rehman demands PTI govt to ensure safety of Pakistanis stranded in Ukraine

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sherry Rehman on Friday has demanded of the government of Pakistan 'Threes-in-One' (PTI) to ensure safety of Pakistani students and investors stranded in Ukraine following Russian invasion.

The PPP has also urged to provide all the facilities to them.

On the other hand, Pakistan Ambassador to Ukraine Dr. Noor Ishtiaq Khokhar said that the government has taken all the safe evacuation of all Pakistani nationals stranded in Ukraine.

In a statement, the ambassador confirmed that over 1,500 Pakistanis, including 500 students are present in Ukraine who have been advised to move to safe locations.

Ukraine's Embassy in Islamabad in a recent said the airspace of Ukraine is closed while the Embassy is in touch with the Pakistani students, who could not leave earlier according to the advice given to them INP.

USF striving to improve broadband connectivity in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Universal Service Fund (USF) is striving to improve broadband connectivity across the breadth and width of Pakistan, WealthPK reported on Friday.

"Big firms, small and medium-size enterprises are increasingly connected to each other and the rest of the world through the Internet. Internet connectivity transforms poor economies by generating employment opportunities for citizens," said Harris Muhammad Chaudhry, the Chief Executive Officer of USF.

Talking to WealthPK, he said the fund is empowering communities with high-speed broadband connectivity to accelerate digitization, especially in the unserved and underserved areas of Pakistan.

"Since its inception, USF has launched 116 projects worth \$1.98 billion, serving approximately 25 million people across the length and breadths of the country," he said INP.

USF striving to improve broadband connectivity in Pakistan

WASHINGTON, DC: Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC hosted the fourth episode of its Webcast Series on tourism in Pakistan titled "A Journey through Pakistan's Heritage - A virtual event" in collaboration with International Friendship Club, Washington DC.

Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Ahsan ul-Rehman Khan, and renowned experts in archeology, history and architecture including Professor Jean Gardner, Dr. Asim Ibrahim, Mr. Zameer Mustafa and President International Friendship Club, Ms. Shabista Mahmood spoke on the occasion. The speakers highlighted Pakistan's rich historical heritage and cultural diversity which has the potential to attract the country a tourism heaven.

The event was attended by a large number of representatives from the U.S. tourism sector including tour operators, travel agents, influencers and travel journalists as well as members of the Pakistani Diaspora.

Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan said that the event was part of the Embassy's efforts to provide an opportunity to people in the U.S. to discover Pakistan's tourism potential. He said that in recent years, many international magazines and organizations including British Backpacker Society, Condé Nast and Forbes have declared Pakistan as one of the top tourist destinations. He said that while during the pandemic virtual opportunities were helpful in introducing Pakistan as a hitherto undiscovered tourism gem, the real beauty of Pakistan could only be experienced by visiting the country and enjoying its serene landscapes as well as the exemplary warmth and hospitality of the people of Pakistan. He hoped that with improving pandemic situation and vastly improved security situation, more tourists INP.

Matiari-Lahore LTC won 14th Annual NFEH's CSR Award-2022

ISLAMABAD: Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company Pvt Limited (PMLTC) won the 14th Annual NFEH's CSR Award-2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The award was presented on Friday at the 14th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Summit and Awards-2022, organized by National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH). PMLTC is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by the Federal Government and Technology (CET), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Grid Corporation of China. The construction and implementation of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) project from Matiari to Baluchistan was undertaken by PMLTC. The project was developed by PMLTC in collaboration with the Government of Baluchistan. The facility will be handed over to Pakistan in 25 years @ 60% Matiari-Lahore HV Transmission Project is the only power transmission project under CPEC and the first HVDC project in Pakistan with the highest voltage level and capacity and lowest loss in the country. The transmission line stretches 186 km from Matiari to Nankana in Sahi district near Lahore, Punjab, of which 317.6 km is in Punjab and 368.4 km in Sindh.

To facilitate the Government of Pakistan in making the environment clean and green and in compliance with the Billion Tree Tsunami Project, PMLTC has planted 50,000 trees in all the seven districts of Punjab in the previous year 2021.

For plantation, PMLTC contacted Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab to identify the places, species of trees along the number of trees to be planted.

It was decided to plant 5,000 trees each in the districts Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan reaching a total of 35,000 trees and the remaining 20,000 trees in District Nankana Sahib, Lahore Converter Station. In the hard times of COVID-19 pandemic and situation of lockdown, PMLTC's Project Management of CET decided to extend the much-needed support to the poor and underprivileged persons and families of the local community around its two major installations, of Balloki and Mattan Converter Station, located in Punjab and Sindh respectively, under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR). INP



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Sved Ali Haider Zaidi talking to media persons about Sinrh Rights March at toll plaza Karachi.