



Ukraine's defeat may lead to WWII – EU state's PM

KIYA: Ukraine's defeat may lead to a Third World War, meaning Germany and other NATO countries must step up and send Kiev more weapons, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki claimed on Monday. Speaking in Berlin at a celebration of German politician Wolfgang Schauble's 50-year career, Morawiecki insisted that Germany must allow the delivery of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. Poland and Finland have promised Kiev the tanks, but need formal German permission to actually hand them over. "Today Ukrainians are fighting not only for their freedom, but also in defense of Europe," Morawiecki insisted. "I call on the German government to act decisively and deliver all types of weapons to Ukraine." "The defeat of Ukraine may become a prelude to World War III, so today there is no reason to block support for Kiev and postpone matters in-



definitely," he added. The Polish PM also spoke of "Ukrainian blood being shed" to prevent what he claimed could be a Russian attack on other EU countries. Last week, Ukrainian Defense Minister Aleksey Reznikov said in an interview that Ukraine was shedding blood to carry out "NATO's mission," so the US-led bloc ought to supply it with weapons. Germany has about 110 Leopard tanks that it could potentially hand over to Ukraine – 88 of which are the old Leopard 1s – but actually making them fit for service would

cost hundreds of millions of euros and take about a year, Rheinmetall CEO Armin Papperger claimed in an interview over the weekend. Moscow has repeatedly warned the West that sending weapons to Kiev prolongs the conflict but will not change its outcome. German tanks "will burn like the rest" of Western weapons, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday. Morawiecki's visit came on the same day German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht confirmed she was stepping down. Germany has pledged to begin the deployment of a Bundeswehr-operated Patriot air defense battery to Poland. That move was arranged after a Ukrainian missile struck a Polish village in November, killing two civilians. Warsaw ended up having to debunk Kiev's claims that the missile had been Russian. (Agencies)

Italy's most-wanted mafia boss arrested

ROME: Italian police have apprehended the country's most-wanted mafia boss, Matteo Messina Denaro. The authorities believe the leader of Sicily's Cosa Nostra was involved in a series of high-profile murders in the early 1990s. Denaro, who officials say is suffering with cancer, was arrested while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Palermo on Monday. Police said the 60-year-old had an operation last year, and subsequently attended several appointments under a false name. Footage released by the police shows Denaro being led away from the hospital by two carabinieri officers to a black minivan, where a detail of special forces operatives awaited him. The mafia boss has then whisked away, with several police cars in tow. Denaro had been sentenced in absentia to life behind bars for his involvement in the 1992 murders of anti-mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. The crimes caused a public outcry at the time and saw Italian authorities double down on their crackdown against Cosa Nostra. The criminal also stands accused of being behind deadly bomb attacks in Florence, Rome, and Milan in 1993, which



claimed ten lives. The authorities also believe the mafia boss played a role in the kidnapping of a 12-year-old boy, Giuseppe Di Matteo, that same year. Cosa Nostra hoped to dissuade his father from testifying against the mafia. The boy spent two years in captivity before being strangled, and his body was subsequently dissolved in acid. As recently as September 2022, Italian police revealed that Denaro was still able to issue orders and influence the way the criminal organization was run in the area around the city of Trapani. Commenting on the news of the high-profile mafioso's arrest, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said his capture represents a "great victory for the state." Maria Falcone, the sister of the judge slain in 1992, claimed the arrest was further proof that the mafia is "ultimately doomed to defeat in the conflict with the democratic state" despite its "delusions of omnipotence." (Agencies)

Russia, Belarus launch joint air force drills

MOSCOW: Belarus said Monday that joint air force drills with Russia began on its territory, amid concerns Minsk was being dragged into the Ukraine conflict to fight alongside Moscow. Minsk's defense ministry said "joint tactical flight drills of aviation units" from Belarus and Russia had started. The drills will last until February 1, the ministry said earlier. "The main goal of the exercise is to increase operational compatibility in the joint performance of combat training missions," the ministry said in a statement. All military airfields in Belarus will be involved in the drills, Minsk has said. The ministry added that the exercises will involve



training in aerial reconnaissance, joint patrolling of the state border, tactical air assault landing, the delivery of goods and evacuation of wounded. Officials have described the drills as defensive. "The exercise is purely defensive in nature," Pavel Muravevko, first deputy state secretary of Belarus's Security Coun-

cil, said in remarks carried Sunday by the defense ministry's Telegram channel. He added that the situation on Belarus's border with Ukraine was "not very calm" but Minsk is ready for "any provocative actions" from Kyiv. President Alexander Lukashenko has insisted that he will not send Belarusian troops into Ukraine. Belarus allowed Russia – its main political ally and chief creditor – to use Belarusian territory as a launching pad for its Ukraine offensive. In October, Minsk said it was establishing a joint regional force with Moscow with several thousand Russian servicemen arriving to the country. (Agencies)

China's population shrinks for the first time in over 60 years

BEIJING: China's population shrank last year for the first time in more than six decades, official data showed Tuesday, as the world's most populous country faces a looming demographic crisis. The nation of 1.4 billion has seen birth rates plunge to record lows as its workforce ages, in a rapid decline that analysts warn could stymie economic growth and pile pressure on strained public coffers. The mainland Chinese population stood at around 1,411,750,000 at the end of 2022, Beijing's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported a decrease of 850,000 from the end of the previous year. The number of births was 9.56 million, the NBS said,

while the number of deaths stood at 10.41 million. The last time China's population declined was in the early 1960s, as the country battled the worst famine in its modern history, a result of the disastrous Mao Zedong agricultural policy known as the Great Leap Forward. China ended its strict one-child policy – imposed in the 1980s owing to fears of overpopulation – in 2016 and began allowing couples to have three children in 2021. But that has failed to reverse the demographic decline for a country that has long relied on its vast workforce as a driver of economic growth. "The population will likely trend down from here in coming years," Zhiwei Zhang of

Pinpoint Asset Management said. "China cannot rely on the demographic dividend as a structural driver for economic growth," he added. "Economic growth will have to depend more on productivity growth, which is driven by government policies." News of the population decline quickly trended on China's heavily censored Internet, with some expressing fears for the country's future. "Without children, the state and the nation have no future," one comment on the Twitter-like Weibo service read. "Having children is also a social responsibility," another comment from a well-known "patriotic" influencer read. (Agencies)

Thailand's First Drone Delivery Service Launched in Phuket

PHUKET: The first drone delivery service in Thailand was launched in Phuket to support the 'Smart City' project by using technology in international tourism cities. The Grand Opening – 1st Drone Delivery Service was led by the Boat Pattana Co., Ltd., together with the Villa Market JP Co., Ltd. and the Avilon Robotics



Co., Ltd. which is under the slogan 'We Carry The Future'. Ms. Sophit Phusanakhom, the executive of Villa Market JP Co., Ltd., told The Phuket Express "This service is to expand Villa Market's delivery in order to provide better and more convenient service for customers." (Agencies)

West Japan high school to introduce 'gender-neutral' rules

OKAYAMA: A public high school in this west Japan city will introduce new "gender-neutral" school rules in the 2023 academic year starting in April, with restrictions on hairstyles – usually distinguished between boys and girls – drastically relaxed. The new regulations were spearheaded by the student council at Okayama Prefectural Koyo High School. Under gender-neutral rules, boys will be allowed to grow out their hair to make a ponytail, for example. Koyo High School had banned hairstyles popular among

young people, including undercuts for boys and ponytails for girls. Once the new school rules come into effect, those hairstyles will be permitted, regardless of the student's gender, within certain standards. Amid complaints from the student body that restrictions on hairstyles were outdated, student council secretary Shunosuke Oshita pushed hard for gender-neutral rules on hair. The second-year student views their own gender as "not male or female, but myself." Oshita had long hair below ear level in junior high school

but had no choice but to cut it short after entering high school to comply with boys' hairstyle regulations. "I've struggled due to gender and endured some hard times. I'm proud of myself for taking action," Oshita said, adding that growing long hair was something to look forward to. When the student council decided to consult with the school about revising the school regulations in April 2022, the issue of unreasonable rules in Tokyo Metropolitan Government-run high schools was making headlines. (Agencies)

China urges Israel to avoid provocations

BEIJING: China's new foreign minister, Qin Gang, has wrapped up his first overseas trip by calling for Israel to avoid further provocations that could escalate heightened tensions with Palestinians. "Israel should stop all incitement and provocation and avoid any unilateral actions that might lead to aggravation of the situation," Qin said at a press briefing on Sunday in Cairo, where he met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry at the end of a five-nation Africa tour. He added that "China is deeply worried" about deteriorating Israeli-Palestinian relations. Qin made his comments at a time when Israel's newly elected government is punishing the occupied territories for seeking a legal ruling from the UN's International Court of Justice on their plight. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government reportedly banned public displays of Palestinian flags, revoked the travel pass of the Palestinian foreign minister and announced that it would withhold funds that would normally be transferred to the Palestinian

Authority. Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also stirred outrage by visiting the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Qin, who was promoted last month from his role as Beijing's ambassador to the US, called for "maintaining the status quo" at the Temple Mount, which includes the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-most holy shrine. China has advocated a two-state solution with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestine. "The international community should increase its sense of urgency, put the Palestine issue at the top of the international agenda, and promote the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Palestine," Qin said. The Chinese envoy also had meetings on Sunday with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit. Qin said leaders in the region have agreed to work with Chinese officials to implement the Riyadh Declaration, which was issued at the end of the Arab-China Summit last month in Saudi Arabia. (Agencies)

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

KP cabinet approves upgradation of 0.13 million teachers

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in a meeting held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved upgradation of the posts of Secondary School Teachers (SST) and Primary School Teachers (PST) from BPS-16 to BPS-17 and from BPS-12 to BPS-14 respectively with effect from the next financial year. The upgradation of these posts, which was a long-standing demand of the teachers community, will benefit as many as 21,800 SSTs and 51,000 PSTs the province over. Likewise, the posts of CT, DM, AT and PET have also been upgraded from BPS-15 to BPS-16 to fulfill their demand for upgraded scales. Similarly, a four-tier formula was also approved for the teachers to pave the way for promotion of 13,888 teachers working in various scales ranging from BPS-17 to BPS-20. The chief minister while addressing the meeting said that he was grateful to all the cabinet members as well as the bureaucracy and masses for extending him all out support during his tenure as chief minister of the province. "It was the team work and best planning that ensured speedy development of the province", he remarked. Upgradation of the teachers, he hoped, will enable the teachers to work with further commitment



and devotion contributing towards promoting quality education in the province. He expressed the hope that PTI will emerge victorious in the next elections too by getting two third majority on the basis of its good performance and continue serving the masses selflessly. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various government departments. Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai and Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at IT-LA Cell informed that promotion of education sector was at the top of the PTI government's priorities and the provincial government had taken various revolutionary steps in this regard which included the recruitment of thousands of teachers purely on merit, launching of double shift in schools, making the teaching of Quran compulsory as well as allocation of record funds for the education sector in the budget. They further informed that the cabinet also approved one time cash grant of Rs. 50 million, and Rs. 20 million for Peshawar Press Club and Swat Press Club respectively. Similarly, a grant of Rs 5 million was approved for the Nowshera Press Club, they further told. The cabinet, they said, also approved the establishment of District Committees on the Status of Women (DCSW) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The

District Committees, which will be headed by a female chairperson and comprising of two elected female councilors as members besides others, will work for the wellbeing of the females as well as addressing their problems. The cabinet, they said, also approved policy on Urban Forestry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They further said that the cabinet also approved a grant of Rs 5 million as Annual Sustenance Fund for Umeed Special Education School during the FY 2022-23. They further informed that the cabinet also approved the transfer of 3 kanal land for the establishment of Rescue 1122 station at Mouza Kakki -1, Tehsil Kakki, District Bannu. The establishment of the station will contribute towards providing prompt relief to the people of this far flung area in Bannu during natural calamities and emergency situations. The cabinet, they said, also approved the grant of age relaxation to as many as 77 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs) in Police Department, selected through Public Service Commission four years back. The provision of Rs 180 million as supplementary budget was also approved by the cabinet for bullet proofing of 20 number vehicles for 20 sensitive districts of the province, they further said. The cabinet, they said, also approved the Diseases Control Act 2022 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animals Welfare Act 2022 to provide protection to the livestock from falling prey to diseases. Similarly the cabinet also approved annual budget of Rs. 194.1 million of the Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority for the construction of highways. (APP)

Former Afghan Ambassador condemns Latif Afridi assassination

PESHAWAR: Former Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Omar Zakhilwal has strongly condemned assassination of senior lawyer Abdul Latif Afridi here on Tuesday. Dr Omar Zakhilwal in a post on his twitter handle account said that it was shocking to hear about the assassination of good friend Latif Afridi.

"I strongly condemn this heinous crime", he tweeted. He said, "Latif Afridi was great leader, lawyer, fearless human rights' defender and a scholar. His demise is an irreparable loss to all. May Allah grant him Janna and give patience to his bereaved family and friends to overcome this immense loss and grief." (APP)

Court approves two-day physical remand of Latif Afridi's murder suspect

PESHAWAR: The accused involved in the killing of senior lawyer and former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Abdul Latif Afridi was handed over in police custody on a two-day physical remand. The police produced the arrested accused, Adnan Sami Afridi, to the court of Judicial Magistrate, Badar Munir in tight security here on Tuesday and

requested the court to grant two-day physical remand of the accused for interrogation. The police informed that during the initial interrogation, the accused Adnan Sami Afridi had confessed to killing Abdul Latif Afridi over personal enmity. The senior lawyer, Abdul Latif Afridi was shot dead inside the Peshawar High Court Bar Room the other day. (APP)

Funeral prayer of Latif Afridi offered

PESHAWAR: The Namaz e Janaza (funeral prayer) of senior lawyer and former president Supreme Court Bar Association, Abdul Latif Afridi was offered here at Bagh e Naran in Hayatabad on Tuesday. High-rank political and social personalities, judges, lawyers and high-ups of civil and police officers including a large number of people attended the funeral

prayer of the renowned lawyer. On the occasion, a joint Fateha was offered for the departed soul and tributes were paid for his professional services. Abdul Latif Afridi was shot dead in the Bar Room of the PHC the other day. The police arrested the killer red-handed who later confessed to killing Afridi over a family feud. (APP)

KP cabinet approves upgradation of teachers pay scale

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet on Tuesday approved upgradation of teachers in various scales. Education Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai, while congratulating the teachers said that 51 thousand Primary school teachers (PST) have been upgraded from Basic Pay Scale (BPS) 12 to 14 as promised by the provincial government. He said that the long-standing demand of teachers regarding their upgradation has

been fulfilled today. He said that the cabinet has decided to upgrade SPST teachers from BPS 14 to 15 and PSST teachers from BPS 15 to scale 16. He said that upgradation of 21 thousand Subject Specialist Teachers SST from BPS 16 to 17 is also approved. He said that the cabinet approved four-tier formula under which 13800 teachers working in 17 grade to 20 will be promoted. (APP)

Administration holds Khuli Katchehri in Cantonment area

PESHAWAR: The district administration here on Tuesday organised Khuli Katchehri (Open Forum) to address the grievances of people living in the limits of the cantonment area. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Shafiullah Khan, the Katchehri was held at Shaheed Saqib Ghani High school No. Cantt. Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Imran Khan, accompanied by concerned staff of attached departments, listened to the problems of people especially power load-shedding and low pressure of sui-gas. It was requested in the open court that the drains in the area should be cleaned, and the

cleaning staff should be directed in this regard. People also lodged their complaints regarding encroachment by the traders which caused hurdles for pedestrians. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Imran ensured the removal of encroachments from the bazaars and said that the cleanliness problem would be resolved on priority basis. He said that due to maintenance work on grid stations and power distribution lines, PESCO was announcing shutdown notices; however, the concerned authorities asked to minimize the duration of load-shedding in the cantonment area. (APP)

PESCO issues power shutdown schedule

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) here on Tuesday announced power shutdown schedule for Mardan, Daggar, DIKhan, Haripur, Kurram and Miramshah, due to maintenance work on power distribution lines. In a press statement, power supply will remain suspended from 132KV Mardan-II Grid Station on January 18 from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 11KV Shah Dhandh, Bala Ghari, Dolat Zai, Dang Baba, Zaindo, Toru, Shankar, Tawas, and Gaju Khan feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132KV Dhoobian-Hussai Controlling Breaker on January 18 from 10:00 AM to 01:00PM, resultantly consumers of 132 KV Hussai and Daggar grid con-

nected 11KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KVD.I.Khan Grid Station on January 18 from 08:30 AM to 04:30PM, resultantly consumers of 132KV D.I.Khan and 66KV Bandh Kurai grid connected 11KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132KV Khalian Bala-Haripur Transmission Line on January 18 from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 66KV Haripur and Havelian grid connected 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 66 KV Kurram Ghari Grid Station on January 18 from 09:30 AM to 01:30 PM, resultantly consumers of 11KV Airport and Nourar feeders will face inconvenience. (APP)

Radio Pakistan signs MoU with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Radio Pakistan Peshawar has signed a memorandum of understanding with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar to increase cooperation between the two institutions. Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar Dr. Safia Ahmed and Station Director Radio Pakistan Peshawar Syeda Iffat Jabbar signed the MoU. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali was also present on the occasion. Under the agreement, Radio Pakistan Peshawar



will provide technical assistance to the University while the University will broadcast its advertisements and announcements in Radio Pakistan Peshawar. (APP)

UET Peshawar honors the winners of the DBFC-16, Team Zarrar



PESHAWAR: University of Engineering Technology (UET) Peshawar Student Team "Zarrar" grabbed first position at the national level competition, "Design Build Fly Competition (DBFC)-16", held earlier at GIKI Swabi. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Society GIKI Chapter holds the Design Build Fly Competition every year that challenges the young talent from universities across Pakistan to design, build the planes through different maneuvers. As many as twenty teams from different universities had participated in the DBFC-16 at GIKI Swabi in which UET Peshawar took first place, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The award distribution ceremony was held here today to honor the team Zarrar. Muhammad Fasih Shahzad, Team Lead gave a formal presentation and played the fly-off demonstration video held at GIKI Swabi including three flight tests on vertical loop, circuit loop and mimic of a real-world situation such as, inverted flight carrying a payload of 300 kg right in the marked circuit from 20 feet height. "Our plane has multiple prospects for the industry if assistance is provided such as, it can restore connectivity of hilly areas on solar cell towers; it can enter the hostile territory and gather desired information without getting caught

by a radar; for firefighting using payload and aerial delivery system during natural calamities" he added. The plane was designed by Muhammad Fasih Shahzad, Muhammad Kashif, Muhammad Shahzad, Hashir Naeem and Ahmad Obaid Ullah. Prof. Dr. Sahar Noor Dean, Faculty of Mechanical, Chemical and Industrial Engineering UET Peshawar appreciated the team for showcasing their hard work and demonstrating their abilities at national level. He urged the students to follow the same practices and continue the legacy of their senior students. Prof. Dr. Rizwan M. Gul, Chairman, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UET Peshawar said the DBFC remains one of the Institution's flagship student competition that provides a platform for students to learn and develop essential skills for their future careers. He said, "Team Zarrar" showed an excellence at the national level that shows their competence in engineering as well as leadership skills. He assured his full support to the student team for transforming their ideas into reality. Later, Dr. Arshad Mehmood and Engr. Nadeem-ur-Rehman, supervisors of "Team Zarrar" gave away the cash award of Rs. 80,000 to the team while Prof. Dr. Sahar Noor and Prof. Dr. Rizwan M. Gul distributed the certificates to the team.

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs. 164100	Rs. 150424	Rs. 143588	Rs. 123075
Per 10 Gram	Rs. 140700	Rs. 128974	Rs. 123113	Rs. 105525
Per Gram Gold	Rs. 14070	Rs. 12897	Rs. 12311	Rs. 10553
Per Ounce	Rs. 398900	Rs. 365656	Rs. 349038	Rs. 299175

FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	236.5	238.75
China Yuan	34	34.25
Japanese Yen	2.43	2.47
Saudi Riyal	66.1	66.8
U.A.E Dirham	68.1	68.65
UK Pound	303	306
Euro	269.5	271.25
Australian Dollar	171.75	173
Canadian Dollar	184.8	186.15

Emergency Numbers

Organization	Phone No
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666
Police Emergency	091-9212222
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8
Irnam Hospital	091-9216115
Mission Hospital	091-2212371
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041
PIA, Peshawar	091-9213351
Airport Inquiry	114
Railway Inquiry	117



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Copter use

Imran Khan's use of the government helicopter has come under fire again during the Senate session held on Friday. During this session, the Minister of State brought up the ex-premier's excessive and expensive helicopter use. Reportedly, the commute cost Rs 432.94 million and a detailed account of expenses was presented in the session as well. In rebuttal to this, it was pointed out that the money received at the Geneva conference was further loan repayments that Pakistan will have to pay soon. This adds to the already precarious debt crisis. Likewise, the issue of local elections and flour shortage was brought up as well as the state of the economy remains worrisome. In this regard, it is true that public expenses must be questioned but Khan's helicopter issue is not new. It made rounds a few weeks ago when the PDM chief insinuated that the KP assembly passed legislation to save Imran Khan from a spending scandal. Similarly, it came under criticism several times during his tenure and the noconfidence motion as well. While this is just one example, it is true that such extra expenses by heads of government must be kept in check. Especially in the volatile global and national economy, every expense using taxpayer money should be accounted for. However, this extra expense cannot be cited in relation to the ex-premier only. Approximately forty-eight political figures have used helicopters and owe money, according to a letter by the NAB in September of last year. Of the total Rs 90.68 million, Imran owed 60.39 million. Wasteful public spending by government officials is a serious economic issue. Just a few days ago, Pakistan's GDP growth forecast was cut in half by the World Bank. There is also the age-old debtrepayment problem due to which Pakistan will remain in a vicious cycle of foreign debt. This is a tragic outlook for Pakistan and while not much can be done about previous expenses, transparent and accountable usage of public funds is the need of the time.



Good days give happiness
Bad days give experience
Worst days give lessons
The best days give memories

CNICs and security

— By Abdul Basit Muhammad Hasni

Something seems wrong at the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) as computerised national identity cards (CNICs) are being issued to Afghan immigrants. Recently, I went to a Nadra Registration Centre in Quetta to get my CNIC renewed, and was shocked to know that an Afghan refugee had been registered as my second mother. The woman had been issued her CNIC as my father's second wife. After informing the NADRA officials that the woman had nothing to do at all with our family, I was asked to visit the NADRA verification cell and lodge a complaint, which I duly did. After waiting for about 15 days, owing to numerous similar cases pending, I was informed how illegally and smartly the Afghan woman was registered as a member of our family. At the verification cell, I met complainants from various parts of Balochistan who had come with strange cases. One complainant told me his father had died years ago, and he recently came to know that an Afghan had been registered as his father in the NADRA database. The Afghan had also been issued a CNIC on the basis of the fake family data. Another man was there with the complaint that an Afghan had been registered as his brother. In such cases, the Afghan refugees in future may claim share in family property and much more. And, come to think of it, even Pakistanis may concoct a fake family history to claim inheritance in targeted families. NADRA, which was once considered one of the most transparent and corruption-free institutions, stands to lose credibility if Afghans continue to get Pakistani

nationality and becoming members of Pakistani families. If the immigrants can get Pakistani citizenship so easily, will the Indian agencies not exploit such opportunities? The Afghans being given Pakistani citizenship are known to have been involved in several crimes in the host country, and they have surely contributed much to the worsening law and order situation over the years. The presence of illegal Afghans has also had a negative impact on the national economy, too, contributing to unemployment and cross-border smuggling. And, indeed, they have done great damage to Pakistan's image internationally. To check Afghan refugees' fraudulent membership in Pakistani families, everyone, especially in Balochistan, should get the Family Registration Certificate (FRC) from NADRA. They should lodge complaint against both the refugees and NADRA if they ever find an Afghan registered as a family member and holding a CNIC illegally. Besides, to revive its transparency and credibility, NADRA should have an enquiry commission to ascertain how these Afghan refugees were and are being registered as members of Pakistani families. Also, it should find out the loopholes in the system. NADRA should begin an intensive anti-corruption drive against its employees and bring the culprits to book. Moreover, NADRA should come up with better policies to prevent the registration of any Afghan refugee as a Pakistani, cancel the CNICs of Afghan nationals, and ensure that no such illegal acts are repeated anymore. More importantly, no Afghan should ever be recruited in NADRA.

Human emotions and health: Physical and mental

— By Dr Rajkumar Singh

THERE is a strong connection between emotions and human health. Emotions can affect a person's physical health by causing physiological changes in the body. For example, feeling stressed or anxious can raise blood pressure, while feeling relaxed can lower it. Emotions can also affect a person's mental health, with negative emotions such as sadness, hopelessness and anger being linked to an increased risk of developing mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. On the other hand, positive emotions such as joy, gratitude and love have been linked to improved mental health and overall well-being. It is important for individuals to manage their emotions and seek support when needed in order to maintain their physical and mental health. At present it is difficult to provide specific research findings on human emotions as there have been many studies conducted on this topic, and the findings can vary depending on the specific focus of the research. Some common themes that have emerged from research on human emotions include: Emotions are a normal and necessary part of human experience. It serves as an adaptive function and can help us to navigate and respond to different situations in our environment. Emotions can be influenced by a range of factors, including genetics, life experiences, hormones, physical health, social support, environmental factors and cognitive processes. Emotions can have a significant impact on a person's physical, mental and social well-being. It is important for individuals to manage their emotions and seek support when needed in order to maintain their well-being. There are many different approaches to understanding and studying emotions, including psychological, neurological and cultural perspectives. Relation between emotions and health: There is a strong connection between emotions and physical health. Emotions can have a significant impact on the body, as they can cause physiological changes that can affect a person's physical health. For example, feelings of

stress and anxiety can increase the production of stress hormones such as cortisol which can raise blood pressure and increase the risk of heart disease. Negative emotions such as anger, sadness, and hopelessness can also weaken the immune system and increase the risk of developing physical health problems. On the other hand, positive emotions such as joy, gratitude, and love have been linked to improved physical health and overall well-being. They can reduce stress and boost the immune system, leading to a lower risk of developing physical health problems. It is important for individuals to manage their emotions and seek support when needed in order to maintain their physical health. There is a strong connection between emotions and mental health. Emotions play a significant role in a person's mental well-being and can affect their risk of developing mental health problems. Negative emotions such as sadness, anger, and hopelessness can increase the risk of developing mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. On the other hand, positive emotions such as joy, gratitude, and love have been linked to improved mental health and overall well-being. It is important for individuals to manage their emotions and seek support when needed in order to maintain their mental health. This can involve a variety of strategies, such as practicing relaxation techniques, seeking social support, and engaging in activities that bring joy and fulfilment. In some cases, it may also be necessary to seek professional help, such as through therapy or medication. Factors behind emotions: There are many factors that can affect human emotions. Some of the most common factors include: Life experiences or past experiences, particularly negative ones, can have a strong impact on a person's emotions. In line, some studies suggest that emotions may be partly influenced by genetics, while hormones produced by the body can affect a person's emotions. For example, changes in hormone levels during pregnancy,

menopause, and other times can affect a person's emotional state. In the whole system overall, physical health can have a significant impact on emotions. For example, someone who is experiencing chronic pain or fatigue may be more prone to negative emotions. Having a strong network of supportive friends, social support, and family members can help to buffer the negative effects of stress and promote positive emotions. It is also affected by the environment factors when a person is in it, can affect their emotions. For example, being in a cluttered or chaotic environment can increase stress and negative emotions, while being in a peaceful and organised space can promote positive emotions. The next one is cognitive processes and a person's thoughts and beliefs can influence their emotions. For example, someone who has a negative outlook may be more prone to negative emotions, while someone who has a more positive outlook may be more resilient in the face of stress and more prone to positive emotions. Adjustment with emotions is the process of coping with and adapting to changes or challenges in one's life while also managing and expressing one's emotions effectively. This can be a complex and multifaceted process, as emotions can often be intense and can have a strong impact on how we think and behave. To adjust with emotions effectively, it can be helpful to develop strategies for managing and regulating one's emotions, such as through mindfulness, relaxation techniques, or seeking support from others. It can also be helpful to practice effective communication skills, such as expressing emotions in a healthy and constructive way and seeking to understand and validate the emotions of others. Adjusting to changes or challenges in life can be difficult, and it is natural to experience a range of emotions. It is important to allow ourselves to experience and express our emotions, but also to find healthy ways to cope with them and move forward.

Courtesy: Pakistan Observer

Digital natives

— By Sara Danial

GEN Z is an enigma. From AI to Zoom meetings to blockchain, the generation born between 1997 and 2012 has brought about an incredible transformation in the way corporates will work in the near future. Digitisation colluded with Covid-19 and completely altered the rules of working. While we witness chaos every day, a more drastic change is possibly here to stay for good, birthing a novel generation that intends to leave a mark on the workplace environment and culture. According to a 2021 Consumer Culture Report by 5W Public Relations, Gen Z has prioritised electronics, technology, health, and wellness. This is the generation that has never known a world without the internet. They are not familiar with analogue camera film, a CD player, a paper map or a floppy disk. Their buying and selling is different. Their mode of working is

different. Their decision-making process is quick and calculated, with information available in the blink of an eye and at the click of a finger. They are dependent on mobiles, social media, laptops, and the internet for most of their work. Their income-earning methods are entirely online, with investments made virtually while integrating virtual and offline experiences. If this trajectory continues, it will carve a path for them to pioneer nomadic careers, developing alternative ways to make money online. True digital natives, this generation is the future of any progressive company. But the commercial giants must take a deep dive into understanding and meeting their expectations, which are entirely different from other generations. It is essential for the corporate world to provide purpose-driven employee experiences, progress and career growth.

Only when companies are prepared to accommodate them will they be able to attract the right talent. Gone are the days of employees slaving away. Gone are the days of juicing the best from the all-rounders. Gone are the days of milking them to the last breath. Gen Z will not put up with this. They grew up during the recession spawned by the global financial crisis in 2008; they prioritise working for and buying from companies that believe in the importance of sustainable choices, and they have recently lived through another major crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic. One would think that Gen Z would be a practical, cautious and non-entrepreneurial lot driven solely by handsome remuneration and immense job security. And that they would be too cautious to engage in job hopping. But they're not. Courtesy: DAWN

Letters to the Editor

Be yourself
I want women to flourish in every walk of life. Think of it yourself: how many times have you allowed your sister or mother to go to public office for any official matter? How can she know what are official formalities? Have you ever allowed her to even go for her own domicile? Have you ever allowed her to go to school/ college alone? How can you blame her for not remembering locations? How can you say the woman in service is always lazy or incompetent when she is not allowed to talk even frankly with any male colleague? The sick mentality of this male-dominated society is the major barrier in our society and then we talk about Islam. Even religious clerics forget to mention women's place in religion.

Women can't even have social contacts. Having a female colleague's contact number is just like having a token of entertainment. She will start receiving unsolicited messages and in the end, she has to block that contact out of social pressure. Many married working women have to face the allegations of being characterless just because of their official contacts with coworkers. And married women, are the source of comments like how she walks how she talks, etc. Whenever you ask for any favor from any male colleague, he will be nice to you only for personal gain. Here harassment doesn't mean just touching or teasing. It's also about those mental traumas women have to go through because of men. She overthinks not because she

is psycho, but because of her over-caring, over-loving, and sacrificing nature. She is mentally the strongest of all creatures. This society suffocates women in every walk. I advise women to please stop taking care of what they (men) will think. Just focus on your betterment. Break the chains, break the myths, and don't indulge in arguments. Come forward and show them that the beauty of your inner soul is more important than your outer self. Show them that you are strong enough to break the chains of this gutter mentality. Fly high, rise higher, enjoy your life, be yourself and forget about what they think. Just live as you wish to.
— Sidra Maqbool
— Nankana Sahib

Bahawalpur police arrest 32 suspects, recover narcotics, weapons

BAHAWALPUR: The district police of Bahawalpur have taken 32 suspects into custody during last two days and recovered drugs, liquor and weapons from their possession. A spokesman for Bahawalpur police said here that the district police launched crackdown against the criminals and arrested 32 suspects during last two days. He said that the police of PS Sama Satta and PS Uch Sharif arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 560 grams hashish and over 24 kilograms cannabis from their possession. The police teams of several police stations including PS Cantt, PS Civil Lines, PS Ahmadpur East, PS Dhor Kot and PS Hasilpur apprehended seven drug pushers and recovered 632 local made liquor and three liquor

factories from their possession. The police parties of the police stations among them were PS Yazman, PS Musafir Khana, PS Sadar and PS Ahmadpur East launched actions against the criminals and took five suspects into custody besides recovering weapons from their possession including two pistols, one repeater and two revolvers. Meanwhile, two separate teams of PS Chani Goth and PS Uch Sharif arrested 13 alleged gamblers and recovered gambling money from their possession, respectively. Qaampur police have taken a suspect into custody for violation of Punjab Sound Act. The police have registered separate cases against the accused. Further probe was in process. (APP)

PCRWR declares 20 brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 20 brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption due to microbial, chemical, or both types of contamination for the fourth quarter (October-December) of the year 2022. The PCRWR collected 168 samples of mineral/bottled water brands from 22 cities during the said period and found 20 brands unsafe, said a press release. As many as 12 brands (Best Natural, Excellent Natural, Klear, Pinar, Neno, Ice Drop, Premium Safa, Orwell, Indus, Minwa Kashaf, Barsay, Nayab Pure Life) were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, two brands (Excellent Natural, Aqua One) due to the presence of high level of Potassium

than the permissible limit, one brand (Nayab Pure Life) due to presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit. Similarly, eight brands (Alfa Premium, Isberg, Aqua pack, Sip up, Ever pure, Noble, Neno, Asha) were found microbiologically contaminated and thus were unsafe for drinking purposes. The general public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of the water quality of bottled water brands they consume. The detailed report is available on the PCRWR website www.pcrwr.gov.pk. It is pertinent to mention here that the government has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicizing the results for awareness of public health. (APP)

PTA conducts 72 QoS surveys to measure quality of CMOs services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in collaboration with Cellular mobile Operators (CMOs) has carried out 72 independent Quality of Service (QoS) surveys and network optimization exercises in different cities of Pakistan to measure the performance and quality of the operators. According to an annual report of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the authority conducted a nationwide CMOs' QoS benchmarking campaign in January-February 2022 to resolve user complaints and determine the qual-

ity of CMOs. Using the Network Performance Score (NPS) methodology, testing was carried out on approximately 4,522 kilometers covering five cities, four towns, and four motorways and highways. During the campaign, 15,427 voice calls, 17,608 fixed-size downloads, 16,670 fixed-size uploads, 5,651 capacity downloads, 5,668 capacity uploads, 15,300 SM Apps, 10,230 video streaming, 499,638 latencies, 82,192 web browsing tests were simultaneously performed while testing the networks with devices operating in 4g mode. (APP)

Authorities monitoring exit points to control wheat smuggling

RAWALPINDI: The authorities concerned of Food Department Rawalpindi and police are strictly monitoring district exit points to control wheat smuggling and managed to foil five bids and recovered 1415 flour bags on Tuesday. According to a district administration spokesman, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi had directed the Food Department to strictly monitor the movement of wheat and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. He informed that Commissioner Rawalpindi Division had also instructed the authorities concerned to take all possible steps to control wheat smuggling. He said that all the exit points of Rawalpindi division were being monitored round the clock to control wheat smuggling as the administration had set up 14 check posts at exit points of the four districts of the division to check wheat smuggling. The admin-

istration in collaboration with police and special branch, was carrying out operations and a special monitoring system had also been developed particularly at exit points of Rawalpindi division to check wheat smuggling. He informed that five wheat flour smuggling bids were foiled on Tuesday and the administration and police managed to net five accused namely Abdul Rashid, Azaz, Zameen Khan, Sagheer and Ijaz on recovery of 1415 flour bags. The check posts were set up at exit points of Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts, the spokesman said and informed, the district administration in collaboration with the police and the food department managed to control wheat smuggling and impounded several trucks during last month besides recovering huge quantity of wheat and flour being illegally shipped out of the division. (APP)

Govt committed to achieve universal health coverage targets: Patel

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel on Tuesday said that the government was striving to utilize all available resources for ensuring Primary health care and achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in the country. The minister said in a statement on the occasion of a national event jointly organized by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and Agha Khan University (AKU), which was held to share the experience of developing the national Universal Health

Coverage-Benefit Package (UHC-BP) in Pakistan, its provincial localization and to review future challenges and opportunities. The minister said that Universal Health Coverage was the only way to guarantee the socio-economic well-being of our communities in the context of health. He added that maintaining progress toward UHC was challenging and was first and foremost a political choice. He appreciated the provincial and federating area health departments and health development partners for their extensive support and contribution towards UHC. (APP)

People access PM Office through citizens' portal to resolve their issues: Murtaza



ISLAMABAD: For dispensing speedy justice to the citizens, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Tuesday said the public can access the Prime Minister's office through the for the resolution of their complaints. Replying to a question in the Senate Session, he said that by using the forum of Pakistan Citizen Portal (PCP) PCP, people can submit their complaints to the Prime Minis-

ter's Office and the line departments/offices for early resolution of their grievances. He said that the Pakistan Citizen Portal had a total of 4,044,499

registered users who have lodged 5,004,647 complaints, out of which 4,921,478 (98%) had been processed and closed as per relevant laws and regulations. The Pakistan Citizen Portal has an overall 48% positive feedback from the citizen, he added. To another query, he said that a representative is nominated by the prime minister in the citizen portal to resolve public complaints. (Agencies)

Wheat flour being sold at Rs 648 per 10 kg bag in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR: Under the supervision of the district management of Bahawalpur, a wheat flour bag weighing 10 kilograms was being sold at Rs 648 at sale points in the city. Assistant Commissioner (City), Dr Anam Fatima told media persons that the district management had established sale points in different areas of the district including Bahawalpur city where wheat flour was being sold out at a subsidized rate to facilitate citizens. "A wheat flour bag weighing 10 kilograms is being sold out at Rs 648 at sale points set up in the city," she said. She added that Revenue Department field staff had been ensuring the provision of wheat to flour mills and later, wheat flour bags at sale points in the city. (APP)

Youth killed

SARGODHA: A mentally-challenged young man was killed after being hit by train near Kacha phatak in Factory area police limits here on Tuesday. Police said that the victim, Abid (25) r/o factory area, was crossing the rail track on foot, when Millat train crushed him to death. Rescue 1122 team and Railway police reached the spot, shifted the body to hospital for necessary legal formalities. (APP)

IRSA releases 25,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 25,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 43,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1498.40 feet and was 100.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 16,500 cusecs while outflow was 8,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1123.35 feet, which was 73.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,700 cusecs and 100 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 15,700, 18,200, 4,000 and 4,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 6,500 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. (APP)

National anti-polio drive continues

ISLAMABAD: The first nationwide anti-polio campaign of the year continued on Tuesday to vaccinate over 44.2 million children under the age of five against the crippling disease of polio. According to official sources, to provide maximum protection and boost a child's immunity, polio teams are also giving a dose of Vitamin-A to children aged six to 59 months in addition to polio drops during the drive. The campaign will continue till January 20 across the country, involving districts of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Islamabad. The government had fixed the target to vaccinate over 10 million children in Sindh, over 421,000 children in Islamabad, 2,599,000 children in Balochistan, over 7,458,000 children in Balochistan, and over 278,000 children in Gilgit Baltistan, they added. The sources said that over 350,000 trained and dedicated 'Sehat muhafiz' members had been engaged in the vaccination drive to inoculate the targeted children at their doorstep. (APP)

Rabbani for declaring 2023 as Golden Jubilee Year of 1973 Constitution

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation Mian Raza Rabbani on Tuesday urged the government to declare 2023 as the Golden Jubilee Year of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. "The Constitution, passed on April 10, 1973, was authenticated on April 10 and promulgated on August 14 (of the same year.) So, this is the Golden Jubilee Year," he said while speaking on the floor of the Upper House of the Parliament. In that re-

gard, the Senator said he had written a letter to the prime minister requesting to dedicate the whole current year to 'the Constitution of 1973,' besides arranging seminars and events across the country to create awareness about the Constitution. Raza Rabbani said the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) had already accepted 2023 as 'the Constitution Year,' and hoped that the government would also consider it in the same way. (APP)

One more test positive for Coronavirus in RWP

RAWALPINDI: One more person has been confirmed with coronavirus, taking the number of confirmed cases in the district to 47747, during the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi district. According to the latest data released by the district health authority here on Tuesday, the number of infected cases registered from Rawalpindi was 44,114 and 3,633 from other districts. The report added that the new case has been confirmed from

the Potohar Town area while two confirmed patients have been quarantined at home. The report further updated that 7,006,011 people including 44,790 health workers across the district have taken vaccinated against the deadly Corona Virus (COVID-19). The district health authority says that 488 samples were taken during the last 24 hours, of which 487 were declared negative while the positive rate was recorded at 0.21 per cent. (APP)

Rare collections make old book shops popular among readers

ISLAMABAD: Old books becoming increasingly popular among book readers due to a number of factors including cheap prices, the desire for authenticity, and the perceived value of older editions. Secondhand bookstores are specialized in selling rare books which carry a wide range of old books, first editions, limited editions, and other rare or hard-to-find titles. Talking to APP on Tuesday, a customer Saeed Ahmed said that old book shops can be a great place for book collectors to find rare or hard-to-find titles, as well as for people who are looking for an affordable way to build their personal library. He said many old bookshops also

carry other types of antique items, such as maps, prints, and other collectibles which make them a destination for collectors of all kinds. A student, Sara Aftab said that many old bookshops buy books from the public and that becomes a good way for people to sell the old books that they no longer want and make some extra money to trade for other books. She said old bookshops are a great resource for anyone interested in collecting or reading old books. She said old bookshops offer a wide range of titles at affordable prices and provide a unique shopping experience for book lovers and collectors. (APP)

Senate refers three bills, passed by NA, to Standing Committees

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Tuesday referred three bills, passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the Upper House of the Parliament, to the its Standing Committees for further deliberation on the proposed legislative amendments. Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, on behalf of Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, moved a bill further to amend the Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997 (The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2022). He moved another bill, on behalf of Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor, to amend the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973 to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory (The Publication

of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Bill, 2022). Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira on behalf of Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah moved a bill, further to amend the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources Act, 2007 (The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (Amendment) Bill, 2022). Whereas, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani deferred a bill that was meant to amend the Trade Organizations Act, 2013 (The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2022) after the Minister of State for Law and Justice, conveyed the request of Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar about its deferment for the time being. (APP)

Around 41 projects approved for funding under CRP during 2021-22

ISLAMABAD: A total of 770 concept proposals were received by the researchers and students under the Competitive Research Programme (CRP) of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) during the year 2021-22. According to an official source, these concept proposals were received under the two calls including Fourth Call and Smog Call by the PSF under CRP. A total of 41 projects worth Rs. 259.65 million were approved for funding after completion of 4 peer review and technical evaluation through different Execution Committees. Out of these approved projects, first installment of 16 projects amounting Rs 75.832 million was released. An amount

of Rs 11.7 Million were release to 53 ongoing projects on account of due installments. CRP projects are mostly of applied nature and result in development of new products, technologies, processes or techniques. Some short-term projects resulted in development of prototypes like, indigenous Ventilator machine, Diagnostic catheter and automatic Syringe Pump for Intravenous Infusion of COVID-19 Patients in ICU. The CRP is the PSDP awarded to PSF to finance research projects under four streams including Individual Research, Consortium Research, Triple Helix Model and International Linkages. (APP)

Govt allocate Rs 362 mln to NDMA for FY 2022-23 as a regular budget: Awan

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan said on Tuesday that Rs. 362.6 Million have been allocated to NDMA as a regular budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, whereas, an amount of Rs. 8 billion has been allocated to NDMA for procurement in view of monsoon flood 2022. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, during question hour, he said that NDMA Annual Reports for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 are already available on NDMA Website. Furthermore, he said, NDMA Annual Report 2022 will be prepared and published after the conclusion of the year 2022. Sharing the details of the objectives achieved by NDMA

during the last 05 years, he said that from 2018 to 2021, NDMA has been managing multiple manmade and climate-induced disasters including heavy rains/snowfall, flash floods, hill torrents, glacial lake outburst floods, urban flooding, tropical cyclones and earthquakes in AJ&K, Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan. In addition, NDMA was intimately involved in responding to two major national/international emergencies, locusts and COVID-19. Based on the PMD forecast, the Minister of State said, monsoon contingency plans were prepared at the national, provincial and district levels. Monsoon Seasons from 2018 to 2021 saw climate

change-induced impacts ranging from flash floods, hill torrents, cloud bursts, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) to urban flooding with the latter being the most recurrent theme in recent years. Highlighting the steps that were taken to tackle the hazards of monsoon he said that National Monsoon preparedness meetings were held before the onset of the season and contingency plans were issued to all stakeholders, and added, National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and Army Flood Control Centre (AFCC) were activated for round the clock monitoring of developing situation in the country. (Agencies)

PIMS staffers' non-professional attitude causing nuisance in patients: Mandokhail

ISLAMABAD: Special Committee on Affected Employees Chairman Qadir Khan Mandokhail on Tuesday raised the issue of the non-professional behavior of staffers of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)'s Pathology Department with patients causing grave concerns among the people. Talking on a Calling Attention Notice, he said there was a dire need to polish the professional etiquette of medical practitioners working particularly in the government hospitals in the domain of Federal capital. On this, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani asked the respective member for sending the matter to the privilege committee if the issue of

misconduct pertains to a particular official. Replying to the query, Mandokhail said he was also a social worker beside a legislator and he had no personal grudge against anyone but he was worried about the rest of the hospitals of the country where patients were not being treated as per qualified standards. He urged the chair to refer the matter to the committee for its redressal on a long-term basis. Parliamentary Secretary Agha Rafiullah informed the house that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination had taken immediate action on the concerns expressed by the respective member Mandokhail. (APP)

Police arrest seven kite sellers with 700 kites

RAWALPINDI: Police arrested seven kite sellers and confiscated 700 kites and 30 kite flying string rolls from their possession in the jurisdiction of Dhamial, Waris Khan, R.A.Bazaar, and Morgah police stations here on Tuesday. According to a police spokesman, police arrested seven kite sellers namely Sajid, Shan, Tamoor, Asif, Jaffar, Zulfiqar and Shahbaz and recovered 600

kites and 30 kite flying string rolls from their possession. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police teams to accelerate operations against kite sellers and flyers. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi said that strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the rules violators and they would be sent behind the bars. (APP)

Rain-snowfall over hills predicted in Balochistan on Jan 18-19

ISLAMABAD: A westerly wave is likely to enter North Balochistan on January 18 (Wednesday) and produce rain with snowfall over the hills in parts of Balochistan till January 19 (Thursday), according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Under the influence of this weather system, rain-snowfall with isolated heavy fall is expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Harnai, Qilla Saifullah, Qilla Abdullah, Muslim Bagh, Kalat, Khuzdar, Turbat, Panjgur and Makran coast on January 18 and 19. Partly cloudy to cloudy weather conditions are expected in other parts of the country during the

period. About the possible impacts, the met office informed that moderate with isolated heavy fall/snowfall may disrupt and cause the closure of roads in parts of North Balochistan. Tourists are advised to remain extra cautious during the spell. Rain will be beneficial for the crops and orchards in Balochistan while temperatures are likely to fall significantly during and after the spell. All authorities concerned are advised to remain alert for avoiding any untoward situation during the forecast period. The met office has also indicated the onset of another weather system that would approach the upper parts of the country from January 21. (APP)

Irfan Siddique calls for Special Senate body to probe current economic crisis

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddique on Tuesday urged the Senate Chairman to constitute a special Senate committee to extensively probe anomalies during the last 10 years, and point out culprits who pushed the country to an economic quagmire. Speaking on a point of order in the Upper House, he said there should be a fixation of the responsibility for current state of affairs adding "We should think about Pakistan, irrespective of political affiliation." He said the Senate would observe its golden jubilee (50-year) in March, at a time when country was enduring an economic crisis. The committee should thoroughly investigate current state of affairs, in

addition to probing reasons of current economic woes. He said former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was handed down death sentence by a member of Hamood-ur-Rehman Commission Anwaar-ul-Haq while former President Pervez Musharraf was not questioned about his unconstitutional acts. He said the government had a smooth running in 2017, when former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was disqualified. Earlier, Irfan Siddique pointed out the issue of his moved bill - Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2021 already passed by Senate and the National Assembly and the Senate Chairman directed Senate Secretary to look into the matter. (APP)

AIOU announces schedule for MS/Mphil, PhD programs

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Tuesday announced the schedule of entry tests for applying in Ph.D., MS, and Mphil programs. Entry tests for these programs will be held in the academic complex, main campus, AIOU Islamabad from February 17 to February 22. Admissions in BS, MS/Mphil and Ph.D. programs for Semester Spring

2023 will continue till February 15. Admission forms and prospectuses for these programs are available on the University's website, said a press release here on Tuesday. Students can apply through online portal only. Admission in BS programs will be given on merit basis. It is necessary to pass the entry test to get admission in MS/M. phil and PhD programs. (APP)

Woman killed in road mishap

SARGODHA: A woman was killed in a road accident near Ali town here in Bhagtwala police limits on Tuesday. Police said that Shehnaz r/o Ali town was on foot, when Waheed riding a motorcycle hit and ran over her. She suffered serious injuries and died on the spot. Police concerned and Rescue 1122 team reached the spot, shifted the body to hospital for necessary legal formalities. Further investigation was under way. (APP)

Six critically injured as car fell in Panjkora River

DIR LOWER: Six people were seriously injured when a station wagon fell into the Panjkora river near Terai in Dir Lower on Tuesday. Rescue 1122 informed that its staff, including the diving team, reached the accident site in time and recovered the injured and the vehicle from the river. The six seriously injured people were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Timergara. The injured included Muhammad Ali (47), Rehman Umar (40), Tahir Umar (22), Mutabar Umar (40), Nasir Umar (35) and Nizam Umar (20). Hospital staff said that all the injured belonged to the Arang area of Bajaur district and the best possible treatment was being provided to them. (APP)

Five drug peddlers held, drugs recovered

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting various operations, arrested five drug peddlers and seized over 37 kilograms of narcotics from their possession, here on Tuesday. According to an ANF spokesman, the team recovered 47 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Sharjah-bound passenger who was a resident of Charsadda at Islamabad International Airport. In another operation, ANF and ASF recovered 62 grams of hashish at Islamabad International Airport from the possession of a Bishkek-bound passenger, a resident of Haripur, was going on flight number KA-4506. The ANF conducted a raid near CMH Chowk Attock and recovered 7.2 kg hashish from a car and rounded up two accused. The spokesman informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle six kg of hashish from Peshawar to Taxila and arrested a drug smuggler resident of Rawalpindi intercepted near Motorway Park Peshawar. ANF and FC in a joint operation in Khyber seized 23.5 kg of hashish. (APP)

Notorious motorcycle lifter held, bikes recovered

MULTAN: New Multan police have arrested a notorious motorcycle lifter and recovered stolen motorcycles from his possession during a special operation launched on Tuesday. In line with special directives of the City Police Officer (CPO) Shakir Hussain Dawar, the New Multan police under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) Aon Abbas launched a special operation against the criminals involved in motorcycle theft. The police team arrested the notorious Muhammad Pervez and recovered eight stolen motorcycles worth Rs 800,000 from his possession by tracing eight cases. (APP)

People of Sindh reject PTI's fake popularity: Saad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique Tuesday said that the people of Sindh had rejected the fake popularity of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in local government elections in the province. In a tweet, the minister congratulated the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), especially Hafiz Naeem for their victory in local government

polls in Sindh. Saad Rafique said that the absence of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) in local government elections in Karachi was not positive for the political and democratic process. The minister said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) should go for self-accountability for not participating in the local government elections in Sindh province. (APP)

'Sevak: The Confessions' comes to an end, leaving fans baffled

ISLAMABAD: An original thriller web series based on true stories, 'Sevak: The Confessions', released by the OTT platform Vidly.tv has finally come to end, leaving many of its fans baffled. The last episode of the series was aired last week, with many flooding the comment section of the streaming platform's social media channels. The views and reviews were tremendous, proving that true event-based action-suspense, espionage thrillers are of interest to audiences across the sub-continent. The season's finale culminated with a mind-boggling wrap-up, which opened more questions in the minds of people, leaving them hankering for the next season. Mannu leaves his handicapped child at Guru's ashram before going to murder Jeet Singh, and Singh is

killed in a car crash. After accomplishing the mission, Mannu returns to the Guru and finds out that his daughter was sexually molested, assaulted, and eventually murdered by Guru's men. Vidya then realizes that this whole episode of Mannu's child's murder has shaken his belief in RSS and its ideology. In a shocking turn of events, Vidya takes an unexpected decision. The series ends with a question about Vidya's affiliation what was her motive? What is her affiliation? The audience will have to wait for Season 2 for the answers. The last episode took the series to a new height of suspense and thrill each second to be watched carefully as the threads of multiple storylines weave together to reveal the reality of Vidya and RSS. (APP)

Walk regarding 'Hepatitis' disease held at UoS

SARGODHA: University of Sargodha Medical Complex and Research Center organized a walk as part of the Hepatitis Control Awareness Campaign here on Tuesday. The event aimed to provide awareness regarding hepatitis disease, preventive measures and treatment. The walk was led by Vice Chancellor Sargodha University Professor Dr Qaiser Abbas, while Director University Medical Complex and Research Center Professor Dr. Ilyas Tariq, Professor Dr. Ghulam Yasin, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Professor Dr Athar Nadeem, Principal College of Pharmacy Dr. Usman

Minhas, Principal Law College Dr. Atika Lohani, Resident Officer Faheem Arshad, presidents of various departments, teachers, staff members and students were present in large numbers. The walk was started from Wazir Agha library and culminated at University Fountain chowk. Addressing the participants, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas said that creating awareness about all types of hepatitis was the most important need of the hour. "We could prevent from the disease by adopting preventive measures and paying attention to treatment", he added. (APP)

Govt bans new connections due to gas shortage, says Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday said that currently, the government has imposed a ban on expansion in the domestic network due to the shortage of gas. Speaking in the Senate session during question hour, he said the same shall be reviewed upon improvement in gas supplies and removal of pricing distortion. The minister said that new policies regarding gas production would be brought in the next two weeks, adding, the results of these policies could be seen in the next four years. Replying to a question,

he said that the total indigenous production of natural gas and volume with a percentage share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three years was 11.09 MMCF in 2019-20, 12.27 MMCF in 2020-21 and 12.00 MMCF in 2021-22. Furthermore, he said that this ban was imposed by the previous government and added it even changed the OGRA rules. He said that as per the rules, gas was provided to those provinces where it is being produced. It is in the "deep interest of the country" to continue the ban on gas connections till the end of its shortage, he added. (APP)

Action urged for routine profiteering at motorway tuck shops

ISLAMABAD: Travelers have urged the authorities to take strict action against the tuck shop owners who are engaged in profiteering on motorways and taking advantage of the high volume of travelers passing through the area. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, a passenger traveling from Islamabad to Lahore, Saad Zaheer said that business owners at motorways have unfairly increased the prices and making excessive profits. He said that various items at the tuck shops do not come under the essential commodities but tuck shops along the motorway are sell-

ing products at significantly higher prices than the printed prices. He said that it is not appropriate for businesses to engage in profiteering, which is the act of unfairly taking advantage of a location and situation to make excessive profits. Another traveler at Motorway M2, Masood Shah raised the concern over the substandard and unhygienic food items being sold at the various tuck shops on the motorways. He said that food items are stored in unsanitary conditions, have low quality, and with no expiry date. (APP)

PR Multan division earns Rs. 1023.278 million through land property

MULTAN: Pakistan Railways (PR) Multan division generated Rs. 1023.278 million through land installations in the past two years, much below the target fixed as Rs. 1275.18 during the same period. According to official data about income generation in the years 2020-2021 and 2021-22, most of the income came from agricultural land resources. It's calculated as Rs. 256.979 in both of the said years. Moreover, Rs. 32.45 million was collected from shops situated at Rail-

ways property in 2022-23. While the same sort of income generation was calculated as Rs. 47.32 million in 2020-21, far higher than that of the last year, 2022-23. Similarly, a total sum of Rs. 146.841 income was received from Railways commercial buildings, bifurcated as Rs. 46.613 million in 2020-21 and Rs. 42.98 million in 2021-22. Earning from other departments including tuck shops along with multiple sorts of auctions was counted as Rs. 301.257 million. (APP)

Tesla, BYD finalising deals to invest in Indonesian EV space

JAKARTA: Tesla Inc as well as Chinese automaker BYD and South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co are finalising deals to invest in Indonesia's electric-vehicle industry, said a senior minister. "All the top global car-makers are coming to us," said Luhut Panjaitan, coordinating minister for maritime affairs and investment, in a meeting with local government leaders on Tuesday. "BYD, Tesla, Hyundai and others are all finalising deals with Indonesia." President Joko Widodo has set out a vision of building out an end-to-end electric-vehicle supply chain onshore by



offering potential investors access to Indonesia's reserves of key battery metals as well as its more than 270 million consumers. That plan is starting to take shape as global EV and battery producers plan billions of dollars of investment, from Contemporary Amperex Technology Co

Ltd's US\$6 billion mining-to-batteries complex to Hyundai's new EV plant. Bloomberg previously reported that Tesla was closing in on a preliminary deal to set up a factory in Indonesia. Southeast Asia's largest economy expects US\$30 billion of investments through 2026 to develop its EV battery ecosystem, according to a Tuesday presentation by Panjaitan. The government is also planning to give as much as 80 million rupiah (US\$5,271) of subsidy for each EV purchase to boost adoption, although the details are still under discussion (Agencies)

Siemens wins contract to build India's electric freight trains

ZURICH: Siemens has signed a €3 billion (US\$3.25 billion) contract to supply and service freight trains in India, the German engineering company said on Monday, the biggest locomotive deal in its history. Siemens will deliver 1,200 electric locomotives and provide servicing for 35 years under the agreement, also its biggest ever in India. The Siemens-designed, 9,000-horsepower trains with a top speed of 120km per hour will



be assembled in India over the next 11 years, with deliveries starting in 24 months. "These new locomotives ... can replace between 500,000 to 800,000 trucks over their lifecycle,"

said Siemens Mobility CEO Michael Peter. The order was a big step for Siemens in India, Peter told Reuters, saying the company had previously mainly provided components and infrastructure there. "India is looking for technology, better efficiency and a longer lifespan for its trains," he said in an interview. "In the past, India built their own trains, but they want to increase reliability and average speeds." (Agencies)

S'pore's top taxi company buys into Israeli self-driving startup

SINGAPORE: ComfortDelGro, Singapore's largest taxi operator, is investing US\$4 million in Israeli self-driving software startup Otopia, tapping more outside technology in its push toward autonomous transportation. The investment announced last week leverages ComfortDelGro's US\$100 million venture capital fund focused on the field. Otopia offers a system that

lets people monitor self-driving vehicles remotely. The move fits ComfortDelGro's strategy of acquiring autonomous-driving technologies through investment or tie-ups rather than developing them on its own. It also has partnered with Israeli automotive chip company Mobileye, aiming to roll out self-driving taxis in Singapore. ComfortDelGro has brought self-driving technolo-

gy closer to commercialisation, including operating an autonomous shuttle bus on the campus of the National University of Singapore for over a year. The company hopes to bring the technology to other markets as well. It has a fleet of 34,000 taxis, buses and rental vehicles across seven countries including Australia, the UK and China. (Agencies)

Saudi Arabia's crown prince launches Events Investment Fund set to be worth billions

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has announced the launch of the Events Investment Fund (EIF), a fund that aims to develop a sustainable infrastructure for the culture, tourism, entertainment, and sports sectors across the Kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The EIF aims to create strategic partnerships to boost the local industry and increase foreign investment. It will conceptualize, finance, and oversee the development of more



than 35 venues by 2030, the state news agency reported. The fund will focus on developing and increasing direct foreign investment opportunities for a contribution of SR28 billion (\$7.45 billion) to the Kingdom's

gross domestic product by 2045. The creation of EIF aims at positioning the Kingdom as the global hub of cultural, tourism, entertainment, and sports activities. It seeks to develop a world-class sustainable infrastructure including indoor arenas, art galleries, theaters, conference centers, horse-racing tracks, auto racing tracks, and other facilities across the Kingdom. The SPA reported that the fund aims to deliver its first asset by 2023. (Agencies)

Davos 2023: DP World forecasts further freight rate fall as demand slows

DAVOS: DP World expects freight rates to drop by a further 15 percent to 20 percent in 2023, with the worst still to come as demand slows, the Dubai-based global logistics company's deputy chief executive and chief financial officer Yuvraj Narayan told Reuters. Narayan said the first signs of a significant drop in demand were visible and freight rates on the shipping side had declined quite significantly on certain routes as agencies including the International Monetary Fund lowered growth forecasts.

Freight rates are the prices at which cargoes are delivered by container from one point of the globe to another. "It is clear that there is a massive drop in demand, inventories are not clearing up the orders are not coming through," he said on Monday. "We have not seen the worst of it yet." The biggest problems were in China, Europe and the US, as the world's largest producing and consuming economies, DP World's Narayan said in an interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Narayan said that across shipping freight rates there had been a significant decline in freight rates of anywhere between 20 percent and 50 percent from their peaks last year. There were three overriding factors driving this, Narayan said, notably disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation in Europe due to the energy price spike and severe disruptions to global supply chains. These disruptions were persisting as a result of the war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia, he added. (Agencies)

Saudi Arabia slashes Umrah insurance cost by 63% for overseas pilgrims

RIYADH: In a bid to facilitate more pilgrims to perform Umrah, the Saudi government has reduced the cost of comprehensive insurance by 63 percent for overseas Umrah performers. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has cut the cost from SR235 (\$62) to SR87 with effect from Jan. 10. Saudi Arabia's unified insurance policy for Umrah is meant to cover all the pilgrims coming from outside of the Kingdom for the Islamic pilgrimage. As part of a visa procedure, pilgrims



are required to take Umrah insurance that covers emergency cases such as treatment, admission, hospitalization, pregnancy, emergency childbirth, emergency dental cases, traffic ac-

cident injuries, dialysis cases, and internal and external medical evacuation. It also covers general cases such as accidental permanent total disability, cases of death and death due to natural disasters. The insurance also covers returning the body of the deceased to his country in the case of death, and blood money issued by a court ruling. It also includes covers for flight delay compensation and flight cancellation compensation. (Agencies)

EU facing diesel crisis with Russian ban looming – Bloomberg

The EU will have a difficult time replacing Russian diesel when a ban on the country's seaborne oil products and an accompanying price cap come into force on February 5, Bloomberg reported on Friday. According to the outlet, citing ship tracking data from Vortexa, the EU imported about 220 million barrels of diesel-type product from Russia in 2022. By December, some 40% of the fuel came to the bloc from the sanctioned country. While the region's reliance on Russian petroleum products was reduced last year, in 2021 more than half of all seaborne shipments into the EU and UK were Russian, further illustrating the dif-



ficulty of replacing the barrels which will fall under the ban in less than three weeks. "There's a total re-jigging in terms of diesel trade flows from the start of February," Mark Williams of Wood Mackenzie consultancy told the news outlet. Data showed that the EU has already started to boost diesel shipments from Saudi Arabia and India.

Analysts say that these shipments may be further increased this year, through a number of new oil refineries that are soon to come online. Experts also point to the US as having the potential to deliver more diesel to the bloc. Furthermore, China may indirectly aid the region in acquiring diesel supplies. The country's diesel-type fuel exports are forecast to be similar in volume to what the EU and UK used to receive from Russia prior to sanctions. While those shipments do not usually end up in Europe, they could replace volumes from other producers, which would then be free to supply their fuel to the region. (Agencies)

UK wages rising at record pace add to pressure on rates

LONDON: UK wages are rising at a near unprecedented pace, heaping pressure on the Bank of England to deliver a 10th consecutive interest-rate increase next month. Average earnings excluding bonuses were 6.4% higher in the three months through November than a year earlier, the Office for National Statistics said Tuesday. That's the biggest increase since records began in 2001, excluding the height of the coronavirus pandemic. The figures suggest the labour market remains too tight for comfort at the central bank, where officials fear double-digit inflation will be harder to tame if pay keeps growing at its current pace. In an effort to avert a wage-price spi-



ral, the central bank has raised rates from 0.1% to 3.5% and is expected to announce a further 50 basis-point hike in February. "Together with last week's stronger than expected GDP data, we anticipate this will provide enough evidence for the Bank of England to clinch another interest rate increase at its February meeting," said Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG UK. (Agencies)

World witnessing biggest energy crisis in history: IEA chief tells WEF

DAVOS: The world is witnessing the biggest energy crisis ever recorded in history, especially after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 17, Birol said the unprecedented upheaval has given a big boost to clean energy development, and added that security concerns are driving the advancements which are happening in the renewables sector. "We are entering the first global energy crisis. Our world has never ever seen a crisis of this depth. Russia until Feb. 24 was the number one energy exporter of the world, the number one



oil exporter of the world and a major player in the coal market," said Birol. "In the past, clean energy was renewables, electric cars etc. They were growing. But the main driver was environmental reasons. And now, the biggest driver of renewable energy growth is energy security. Renewables are pushed very stronger for energy security reasons," he added. (Agencies)

Thyssenkrupp, ADNOC sign MoU to cooperate on ammonium cracking plant

FRANKFURT: Thyssenkrupp and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. have signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on technology that allows the extraction of hydrogen from ammonia on an industrial scale. Under the agreement, Thyssenkrupp's Uhde unit, which designs and builds fertilizer, petrochemicals and coking plants, will provide ammonia cracking technology that is already in use in over 130 chemicals plants globally. "The partnership with ADNOC is of great importance. There currently does not exist a cracker of this size,"

ThyssenKrupp Uhde Chief Executive Cord Landsmann told Reuters. As part of the cooperation, the companies will also explore options for the supply and shipment of ammonia produced via renewable sources from the UAE to large ammonia cracking sites worldwide. "We are committed to strengthening our position as a reliable supplier of lower carbon-intensive energy, creating new revenue streams and growing the global market for hydrogen," ADNOC executive Musabbeh Al Kaabi said in a statement. (Agencies)

Oil Updates — Crude mixed; UK oil, gas licensing round attracts 115 bids

RIYADH: Oil prices were mixed on Tuesday after China posted its weakest annual economic growth in nearly half a century, with its late-2022 u-turn in COVID-19 policy underpinning hopes of a recovery in the country's fuel demand this year. Brent crude futures edged up by 15 cents, or 0.19 percent, to \$85.08 at 12.35 p.m. Saudi time, recouping some of the 1 percent loss in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures slid 73 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$79.71 from Friday's close. There was no settlement on Monday because of the US public holiday for Martin Luther King Day. China's gross domestic product expanded 3 percent in 2022, badly missing the official target of



"around 5.5 percent" and marking the second-worst performance since 1976, as the last quarter was hit hard by stringent COVID-19 curbs and a property market slump. China's oil refinery throughput in 2022 fell 3.4 percent from a year earlier, its first annual decline since 2001, as the Asian giant's rigid COVID-19 controls took a toll on the economy and fuel consumption. (Agencies)

Argentine grain harvests threatened by persistent drought

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina lost half of its seasonal soybean harvest in its main production area — the rich and normally humid center of the country — due to drought, the Rosario Stock Exchange said Monday. Three successive years of drought have raised fears in Argentina that this year's harvest, particularly of soybeans, will be significantly reduced, striking a blow to the South American country's exports and its domestic supplies. Argentina is the world's largest producer of soybean oil and flour. A new report by the institute that tracks drought said that 54 percent of the country was suffering from some lack of moisture, with 14 percent hit by severe drought and nine percent by extreme or exceptional drought. The central regions of Cordoba, Buenos Aires and Santa Fe have been worst affected. Authorities were expecting a harvest

of 19.7 million tons of soybeans in the country's fertile central plains, but for now, "10.7 million tons are expected, and that number is falling every week," the Rosario Stock Exchange said in a statement. "While it was known that it would be a difficult season due to drought, what has been seen has surpassed the producers' worst nightmares," it said. And grain exports, which were worth \$43 billion in 2021-22, "should drop by 21 percent in the best-case scenario and 33 percent in the worst," the Rosario Grain Exchange said. Daniel Costamagna, the production minister for Santa Fe, said that "at least 3,000 head of cattle" have died due to drought, in a province the size of England. Argentina's total soybean harvest was predicted at 48 million tons for the coming season but is now expected to yield 35.5 million to 41 million tons. (Agencies)

Iraq and Oman edge past Qatar and Bahrain to claim places in Arabian Gulf Cup final

BASRA: Hosts Iraq will meet Oman in the final of the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup in Basra on Thursday, after both teams recorded narrow victories in Monday's semi-finals. Iraq, who last appeared in the final of the biennial tournament in 2013 and last lifted the trophy in 1988, thrilled more than 60,000 fans at Basra International Stadium with a hard-fought 2-1 win over the 2022 World Cup hosts, Qatar. Ibrahim Bayesh has been one of the standouts of the tournament, and the 22-year-old Iraqi midfielder was the



one to open the scoring after 19 minutes when he swept home the rebound from close range after goalkeeper Meshaal Barsham could only parry a header from a free-kick. Nine minutes later, however, Qatar were back on level terms. Iraqi goalkeeper Jalan Has-

san tried to punch clear a back-heel that had gone wrong but the ball fell to Amro Surag to volley home through a crowd of players. Iraq regained the lead just before the break. Qatar gave the ball away and Aymen Hussein's shot from the edge of the area took a deflection and looped over Barsham into the net. Both teams had chances in the second half and Barsham made more than one fine save to keep Qatar's hopes alive. Meanwhile, the Iraqi defense managed to repel some fierce attacks. (Agencies)

'Calm' Sabalenka breezes into Australian Open second round

MELBOURNE: Fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka breezed into the second round of the Australian Open Tuesday, needing only 69 minutes to beat the Czech Republic's Tereza Martincova 6-1, 6-4. "It wasn't that easy, I'm super-happy to start with the win," said Sabalenka, who has been known to suffer from nerves in the past. At her two season-opening tournaments in Australia last year she was reduced to tears as her serve collapsed. "I have to work on my mindset and stay calm



and not get too upset when I make mistakes," she said. "I really believe this is the only thing missing in my game." Sabalenka, who reached the semifinals at the US open last year,

continued her good form in Australia this year after winning the recent Adelaide International without dropping a set. She hit 29 winners and saved all five break points faced and was rarely troubled as she looks to get past the last 16 in the Australian Open for the first time, having reached that stage in each of the last two seasons. The Belarusian world No 5 will play Shelby Rogers next, after the American beat Dutch qualifier Arianne Hartono 6-4, 6-3. (Agencies)

Hafizh, Adam hoping for WSBK to be hosted in Sepang

PETALING JAYA: Two Malaysian superbike riders have made the country proud by making it to the World Superbike Championship (WSBK) but unfortunately Malaysia is not among the host countries in the WSBK calendar since 2016. The two riders, Hafizh Syahrin Abdullah and Muhammad Adam Norrodin, who admitted that they miss the opportunity of riding in front of the home fans, hoped there will be efforts to bring the race back to Sepang. Hafizh Syahrin representing MIE Racing Honda Team in the 2023 Premier Class, said his



most positive expectation was to see the WSBK race hosted at the Sepang International Circuit (SIC). "Naturally as riders from Malaysia, we want to experience a 'home race' but we are not in a position to know whether it can happen or not...we are also

not sure who has the jurisdiction to bring back the race to Malaysia. "A home race in Sepang will be a positive vibe for me and I will be happy if the expectation becomes a reality. We can also proudly claim that we have a 'home race'," he told reporters after an agreement signing ceremony with RCB (Racing Boy) in Puchong, here today. Meanwhile, Muhammad Adam who will be riding in the 600cc class with MIE Racing Honda Team this season feels there will be good support and response from the fans if the race is held in the country. (Agencies)

French football president Le Graet under investigation for sexual harassment

PARIS: The president of the French Football Federation, Noel Le Graet, has been placed under investigation for sexual harassment, prosecutors told AFP on Tuesday. The probe was opened on Monday after football agent Sonia Souid made accusations against Le Graet in an affair that has rocked French football just weeks after France were beaten by Argentina in the World Cup final. "He very clearly said to me in his apartment that if I wanted him to help me, I had to let him have his way with me," said Souid, who gave interviews to sports daily L'Equipe and radio station RMC. Le Graet, 81, has been



president of the FFF since 2011 but was forced to step down last week pending the outcome of an audit of the federation performed by France's Sports Ministry. He had faced calls to resign after what he admitted were "clumsy remarks" about Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the French national team. Le Graet said in an in-

terview with RMC last week that he "wouldn't even have taken his call" when asked whether Zidane, a World Cup winner as a player and an all-time France great, had rung him to express an interest in taking over as coach from Didier Deschamps. Deschamps, who led France to World Cup glory in 2018 and oversaw their run to last month's final which they lost on penalties to Argentina, recently signed a new contract to stay as France coach until 2026. Le Graet, whose mandate runs until 2024, has been replaced on an interim basis by Philippe Diallo, a vice-president of the organisation. (Agencies)

8th Kings and Princes Cups Festival comes to a close in Janadriyah

RIYADH: The 8th Kings and Princes Cups Festival concluded on Saturday at King Abdulaziz Racetrack in Janadriyah. The horse racing event, organized by the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia in honor of the Kingdom's former kings and princes, included five main rounds of racing over a range of distances in



a number of categories, which are named after King Saud bin Abdulaziz,

King Faisal bin Abdulaziz, King Khalid bin Abdulaziz and King Fahd bin Abdulaziz. Each round carried prize money of SR800,000 (\$213,000). The second edition of the Imam Turki bin Abdullah Sword round also took place on Saturday, which had a prize of SR900,000. (Agencies)

West Indies recall Gabriel for test series in Zimbabwe

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: West Indies on Tuesday recalled fast bowler Shannon Gabriel for next month's two-Test series in Zimbabwe with Jayden Seales sidelined after undergoing knee surgery. Gabriel, 34, played the last of his 56 Test matches for the West Indies against Sri Lanka in November 2021. He has taken 161 wickets at an average of 31.84. Left-arm spinners Gudakesh Motie and Jomel Warrican were also named in a 15-man squad, while seamer Anderson

Phillip was ruled out because of injury. "We looked at the conditions we anticipate playing in, and have included two left-arm spinners who didn't go to Australia in Motie and Warrican," said lead selector Desmond Haynes. "With our fast bowlers, Seales has done extremely well for us since he started back in 2021, but with him unavailable we have decided that Gabriel would be best able to fill that role." West Indies, who were beaten 2-0 in a two-Test series in Australia last month, play

Zimbabwe in the opening Test from February 4-8 at Queens sports Club in Bulawayo. The second Test is at the same venue and starts on February 12. Squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, Tagerine Chandernaul, Roston Chase, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, Devon Thomas, Jomel Warrican. (Agencies)

Bucs receiver Gage in hospital after scary hit

MIAMI: Tampa Bay Buccaneers receiver Russell Gage was being treated in hospital on Monday after a scary hit near the end of his team's playoff loss to the Dallas Cowboys. Two weeks after Damar Hamlin's cardiac arrest forced the abandonment of a prime-time game between the Buffalo Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals, another high-profile NFL game was interrupted by injury. A hush descended upon Tampa's Raymond James Stadium as Gage lay on the floor after a collision



with the Cowboys' Donovan Wilson late in the fourth quarter. Gage attempted and failed to get up after the hit, with his arms clearly twitching. (Agencies)

LPGA stars face potential \$25k fine for skipping TOC

PARIS: Minjee Lee of Australia and Jin Young Ko of South Korea, the Nos. 3 and No. 5 golfers in the world per the Rolex Rankings, face the prospect of a \$25,000 fine if they do not compete in the season-opening Tournament of Champions. The tournament is this week in Orlando, Fla. After that, the 2023 season won't resume until Feb. 23-26 in Thailand. Lee and Ko have not competed in the TOC in recent years and would need to play it this year to avoid being penalized under the LPGA's 1-in-4 requirement, which says players in the top 80 of the Race to the CME Globe points list must compete in each domestic event once



every four years. Ko had signed up for the TOC but withdrew, according to Golfweek. The former World No. 1 missed time at the end of the 2022 season to rest a wrist injury. The TOC is only open to players who won an event on tour the previous year. The PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions have similar events to open their respective seasons. (Agencies)

Small stadiums, high temperatures: what Ronaldo can expect in Saudi

RIYADH: After lighting up football's biggest stages, Cristiano Ronaldo faces a very different reality in Saudi Arabia with smaller stadiums and less exalted teams – and some very high temperatures. Ronaldo, 37, says he's embracing the "challenge" of the Saudi Pro League, a step into the unknown for a player who is more used to Real Madrid's heaving Santiago Bernabeu stadium or the "Theatre of Dreams", Manchester United's Old Trafford. The transition has been eased by the combined 400 million euros he'll receive in wages from his new team, Al Nassr, and a separate payment to act as an ambassador for an expected Saudi World Cup bid, according to sources close to the club. But it will be a big adjustment for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who will soon be running out at



modest venues including the 6,000-seat Al Batin Stadium. After an exhibition appearance against his great rival Lionel Messi's Paris Saint-Germain in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Thursday, Ronaldo will make his Saudi Pro League debut for Al Nassr on Sunday. The 16-team league will take Ronaldo from Dammam on the Gulf coast to Jeddah on the Red Sea, as well as desert-bound provincial cities such as Majma'ah and Hofuf, a hub for Saudi Arabia's date industry. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JANUARY 18, 2023



no law that says they must. – **VIRGO**: It is important that you spell out precisely what it is you expect of other people today, because misunderstandings will occur if your instructions are vague. What seems so obvious to you may seem confusing to those whose minds move at a slower pace.

– **LIBRA**: The next few days will see you having to deal with people you may not much like on a personal level but whose support you are going to need on a professional level. Be careful what you say and do – their fragile egos are easily damaged.

– **SCORPIO**: You must think before you act today, especially in situations that may not look threatening on the surface but which you know from past experience could get out of hand if you approach them the wrong way. You really don't need another confrontation.

– **SAGITTARIUS**: Resist the urge to splash out on things you don't need to buy. Once you start spending your cash you may find it hard to stop and before you know it you'll be in debt again. Yes, it's only money, but it's smart to keep some in reserve.

– **CAPRICORN**: You are in the mood to make some bold decisions, but will they be good decisions? Today's Mars-Mercury link warns if you get carried away and start believing you cannot possibly lose you could be setting yourself up for a fall, so be careful.

– **ACQUARIUS**: Everyone takes a wrong turning now and again, even an Aquarius, so don't be too hard on yourself if you find you have no option but to retrace your footsteps and choose a different route. Time is not a factor though, so don't rush it.

– **PISCES**: You are well aware that if your next big move on the work front goes wrong it will reflect badly on your judgement and damage your reputation, so make sure you have taken every possible outcome into consideration. You can never plan in too much detail.

Hosting commonwealth games in 2022 contributed \$1.07bln to UK economy - sports department

MOSCOW: Hosting the Commonwealth Games in the city of Birmingham in 2022 contributed at least 870 million Pounds (\$1.07 billion) to the UK economy, the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said on Tuesday. "Last year's Commonwealth Games has already contributed 870.7 million to the UK economy," the statement said. A record 1.5 million tickets were sold for the games, which brought together 6,600 athletes and team representatives from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories. The statement



added that the competition has become the largest multi-sport event held in the United Kingdom over the past 10 years. "Birmingham 2022 was tremendously successful in boosting the local economy and bringing people together. This

report shows that new jobs and investments are just the beginning of the story, with the Games paving the way for future events in the region," sports Minister Stuart Andrew said. In 2026, Birmingham will host the European Athletics Championships. The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth of Nations, which is held every four years. The first Games were held in 1930. In 2022, the Games took place in Birmingham between July 28 and August 8. (Agencies)

President for realizing the full potential of Bilateral Trade Between Pakistan and China



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed enhancing bilateral trade with China, which currently stands at US\$ 27.8 billion, and said the strengthening of business could prove mutually rewarding. Talking to the outgoing Chinese ambassador Nong Rong here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president noted that under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), 19 projects were completed, 28 were under construction while 41 were in the pipeline. President Alvi said the CPEC was a transformational flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, which had the potential to act as the pivot of regional peace

and connectivity. The expeditious completion of four broad clusters of cooperation — Gwadar Port and its auxiliary features, energy projects, transport infrastructure and industrial cooperation including the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) — will change trade, business and investment outlook of the country, he said. The president observed that with shifts underway on the world stage, there was a need to further expedite the progress on CPEC so that the goods should start moving from South China to Gwadar port and upward in a regular manner. The second phase of CPEC should be pursued expeditiously to

promote agriculture; innovation and IT sector; industrial cooperation; livelihood generation and poverty alleviation; automobiles, textiles and leather manufacturing; and shifting of Chinese industries to Pakistan wherever possible, he added. The president noted that the signing of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in January 2020 had further liberalized the trade resulting in a significant expansion in trade volumes adding that as per data for the first 11 months of 2021, bilateral trade reached a record high at US\$ 27.8 billion registering an increase of 60 percent with the corresponding period of 2020. (Agencies)

CPEC; manifestation of all-weather strategic cooperation between Pakistan and China, na speaker



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an epic manifestation of ironclad friendship & all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. He also said that the project was mutually beneficial for both countries rather than the whole region could reap benefits from the project owing to its viability. He also said that sustainable economic development had always remained a top objective for Pakistan despite challenges. CPEC had played a massive role in the attainment of the above objective through enhanced connectivity and socio-economic development. He made these remarks at the launch of "APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022" I, an event jointly organized by the SDGs Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan in collaboration with the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services. SDGs Secretariat in collaboration with APCEA organized the launch of a report titled "APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022". The report provides a comprehensive overview of the CPEC projects in Pakistan while highlighting the contribution of the CPEC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one significant strategic imperative that has received attention both in Pakistan and around the world. The project's continuing second phase has shifted its emphasis to the Pakistani education industry, economics, infrastructure, and sustainability including the opening of technical education institutions and the initiation and expansion of student exchange programs.

Mr. Wang Jie, Executive Vice Chairman APCEA and CEO of Bank of China Limited Pakistan Operations, in his welcome address, elucidated the vital need for realizing the importance of sustainable development and taking all possible corrective actions. APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022 briefly summarizes the sustainable development achievements of Chinese enterprises in the year 2022. He expressed APCEA's beliefs about the

technical and vocational training facilities, and higher education institutions while also renovating the existing ones". She further highlighted the role of CPEC towards the sustainable development goals especially SDGs 7 (Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Protect the Planet), and 17 (Partnership for Goals). Miss Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Federal Minister of State for Finance &



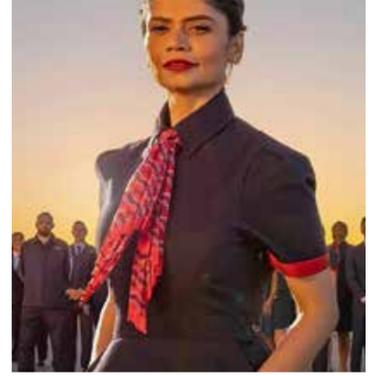
terms "sustainability" and "sustainable development" which go beyond generating renewable energy. He stated that Chinese enterprises practice sustainable development in all aspects, to support Pak-China relations. Consequently, their guiding principle is the fulfillment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), including reliability, technological advancement, the welfare of the local community, and the development of their talents. Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, while highlighting the key takeaways from the report she stated that with "Pakistan's youth bulge in mind and the Phase II of the CPEC, there is a need to prioritize the construction of new schools,

Revenue, stated that CPEC will supplement Pakistan's socio-economic development as the tremendous human capital of the region is its biggest asset. She further stated that CPEC projects have unleashed opportunities for socio-economic development for the people of Pakistan. It was remarked that in CPEC Phase II, investment possibilities worth several billions of dollars are available in Pakistan in industries that directly support the SDGs. Transportation and logistics, renewable and alternative energy, healthcare, education, technology and communication, and finance are just a few of the industries covered. CPEC also provides huge prospects for talent development and the creation of regional value chains with China. Ms. Chen Yen, CEO of Challenge Fashion Private Limited, also presented her views on the occasion. She remarked that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor ("CPEC") is an economic marvel of its time. The actual benefits of CPEC are innumerable for the region and are not only related to the economy but shall also help Pakistan in achieving economic growth propelled by green development. With consistent and dedicated efforts of both countries, Pakistan's economic growth is bound to achieve greater heights. (Agencies)



British Airways unveils new uniforms

LONDON: British Airways has unveiled a collection of new uniforms. The collection features a tailored three-piece suit for men with regular and slim fit style trousers, while women are offered dress, skirt, and trouser options. A tunic and hijab option have also been created, as has perhaps the most surprising option — a jumpsuit for women, an airline first. Created by British fashion designer and tailor Oswald Boateng OBE, the uniforms will be worn by the airline's 30,000+ employees from spring 2023. Sean Doyle, British Airways' Chairman and CEO, said, "Our uniform is an iconic representation of our brand, something that will carry us into our future, representing the very best of modern Britain and helping us deliver a great British original service for our customers. From the very start this has been about our people. We wanted to create a uniform collection that our people are proud to wear and with the help of over 1,500 colleagues, we are confident that we have delivered this." Boateng has been developing the collection since 2018 and even shadowed a number of airport roles to understand how the uniform needed to perform for each job. More



than 1,500 employees across the airline took part in 50 workshops to help ensure the garments suitability, from design workshops to prototype feedback and garment trials. The air-wave pattern that features across the entire uniform collection — including jackets, t-shirts, buttons and ties — was inspired by the movement of air over an aircraft wing, while the jacquard fabric across all of the tailored garments features a variation of the airline's iconic speedmarque. More than 90% of the garments are being produced using sustainable fabric from blends of recycled polyester. (Agencies)

Half of the world's glaciers expected to vanish by 2100: study

WASHINGTON: Half of the Earth's glaciers, notably smaller ones, are destined to disappear by the end of the century because of climate change, but limiting global warming could save others, according to a new study. The findings, published in the journal Science, provide the most comprehensive look so far at the future of the world's 215,000 glaciers. The authors emphasized the importance of restricting greenhouse gas emissions to limit the consequences of glacier melt such as sea level rise and depletion of water resources. To help orient policymakers, the study looked at the impact of four scenarios on glaciers, where global mean temperature change is 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), 2.0C, 3.0C and 4.0C. "Every degree increase produces more melt and loss," said Regine Hock of the University of Oslo and University of Alaska Fairbanks, a co-author of the study. "But that also means if you reduce the temperature increase, you can also reduce that mass loss. So in that sense, there is also a little bit of hope." Even if global temperature rise is limited to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels — the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement — the researchers estimated that 49 percent of the world's glaciers would vanish by the year 2100. That would represent about 26 percent of the world's glacier mass because the smallest glaciers would be those first impacted. Global mean temperature is currently estimated to be increasing by 2.7C which would result in a near-complete loss of glaciers in Central Europe, Western Canada and the continental United States and New Zealand. "Regions with relatively little ice like the European Alps, the Caucasus, the Andes, or the western US, they lose almost all the ice by the end of the century almost no matter what the emission scenario is," Hock said. "So those glaciers, they're more or less doomed." Under the worst-case scenario — global temperature rise of 4.0C — giant glaciers such as those in Alaska would be more affected and 83 percent of glaciers would disappear by the end of the century. Glacier loss would also exacerbate sea level rise. "The glaciers that we are studying are only one percent of all ice on Earth," said Hock, "much less than the Greenland ice sheet and the Antarctic ice sheet. But they have contributed to sea level rise almost just as much as the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheet together in the last three decades." Warming of 1.5C would lead to an increase in average sea levels of nine centimeters while temperatures 4.0C higher would cause 15 centimeters of sea level rise. "It doesn't sound very much, nine centimeters up to 15 centimeters," Hock said, "but it's not global sea level that is that much of a concern. It's mostly associated storm surges, which have the potential to cause a lot more damage." (Agencies)

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