



## Focus on humanitarian crisis as Turkey-Syria quake toll hits 35,000

KAHRAMANMARAS: Rescue teams began winding down the search for survivors on Monday as the focus switched to tackling a dire humanitarian disaster caused by the earthquake that has left more than 35,000 dead in Turkey and Syria. Syria, already wracked by 12 years of civil war, is of particular concern. The United Nations held an emergency meeting Monday on how to boost aid to rebel-held areas, as anger grows over a sluggish international response to the pariah nation. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, isolated and subject to Western sanctions, called for international assistance to help rebuild infrastructure in the country, where the UN estimates more than five million have been left homeless. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Assad has agreed to open two more border crossings -- Bab Al-Salam and Al Raee from Turkey to northwest Syria -- to allow in aid. Before the earthquake struck, almost all of the crucial humanitari-



an aid for the more than four million people living in rebel-controlled areas of northwestern Syria was being delivered from Turkey through one conduit -- the Bab al-Hawa crossing. "Opening these crossing points -- along with facilitating humanitarian access, accelerating visa approvals and easing travel between hubs -- will allow more aid to go in, faster," Guterres said. Seven days after the 7.8-magnitude tremor sent buildings crumbling across the re-

gion, stories continue to emerge of people found alive in the rubble, but experts warn that hopes of survival are dimming. In Turkey on Monday, siblings Harun, 8, and Eyuphan, 15, were rescued 181 hours after the fifth-deadliest earthquake of the 21st century, the Anadolu news agency reported. The confirmed death toll stands at 35,331 as officials and medics said 31,643 people had died in Turkey and at least 3,688 in Syria. (Agencies)

## Flights grounded, power cut as storm lashes N.Zealand



Wellington: Tens of thousands of homes in New Zealand were without power and hundreds of flights were cancelled Monday as a tropical storm lashed the north of the country. A state of emergency was declared in five regions on the North Island, covering almost one-third of New Zealand's entire population of 5.1 million. Although the storm was downgraded from a cyclone before it made landfall, high winds and torrential rains have already toppled trees, damaged roads and downed power lines. Wellington-based Prime Minister Chris Hipkins was among thousands stuck in the northern city of Auckland after the wild weather grounded flights. "Things will get worse before they get

better," Hipkins told New Zealanders in a press conference Monday, calling for them to "be prepared, stay inside if you can". He said the government had considered declaring a national state of emergency for only the third time in the country's history -- but it was not yet necessary. The government announced an aid package of 11.5 million New Zealand dollars (\$7.25 million) to help recovery efforts. Police said one person was missing aboard a boat, which issued a distress call early Monday near Great Barrier Island, north of Auckland. Winds of up to 140 kilometres (87 miles) per hour battered the Northland region, while Auckland's harbour bridge was rocked by gusts of 110 kph. (Agencies)

## Speculation grows as US shoots down new mystery object

WASHINGTON: A US warplane shot down a new flying object near the Canadian border on Sunday, the latest of three mysterious devices spotted since military radar settings were cranked up in the wake of the downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon. On Sunday the Pentagon said that it does not yet know what the other three objects -- one shot down Friday over Alaska, one Saturday over Canada's Yukon territory, and the most recent one Sunday over Lake Huron -- are. But it said that the object downed Sunday had been tracked for nearly a day and did not resemble the balloon that was destroyed off the Atlantic coast on February 4 after traversing the country. President Joe Biden ordered an F-16 fighter to shoot down the latest object "out of abundance of caution," a senior administration official said. The object was described by the official as an octagonal structure with strings hanging off it. Drifting at about 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) over Michigan, it could have posed a hazard to civil aviation, the official said. US Northern Command Commander General Glen VanHerck told reporters that after aircraft were sent up to inspect the newest object, they concluded that there was no indication of any threat, the same with the previous objects. (Agencies)

## Israeli air strike hits Hamas complex in Gaza: military

JERUSALEM: Israel hit Gaza with air strikes on Monday in response to a rocket fired from the Palestinian enclave at the weekend, the army said, as unrest persisted in the occupied West Bank. The Palestinian Red Crescent said one person was killed in a pre-dawn Israeli army raid in Nablus in the northern West Bank, the scene of near-relentless violence over the past year. The army did not immediately comment on the Nablus raid. But in Gaza, it said it had struck "an underground complex containing raw materials used for the manufacturing of rockets belonging to the Hamas terrorist organisation". The strikes were



launched were "in response to the Saturday rocket launch from Gaza into Israel," the army added in a statement. Following the Israeli strikes, air raid sirens sounded in communities in near the Gaza border, the military said, but there was no immediate confirmation of retaliatory Palestinian rocket fire on Monday. (Agencies)

## Opening session of road map on sustainable political, security, development of ES launches in Khartoum

KHARTOUM: The opening session of the Road Map on Sustainable Political, Security and Development of Eastern Sudan (ES) was launched in Khartoum on Sunday as part of Phase III of the Framework Arrangement. Members

of Sudan's Sovereignty Council, the parties who signed the Framework Arrangement and the joint Tripartite Mechanism attended the session. The workshop is scheduled to last on the 15th of February. (APP)

## Anti-Semitism rising in US -- survey

WASHINGTON: The number of Jews who say they feel less safe in the US rose by ten percentage points in a year, one of the oldest Jewish advocacy groups in the US said on Monday. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) is calling on the White House to do more against "Jew-hatred." According to AJC's annual anti-Semitism survey for 2022, 41% of American Jews feel less secure, compared to 31% in 2021. One in four reported being "personally targeted" by anti-Semitism, a number that has remained constant since 2019. "No Jew in the United States, especially the younger generation, should ever feel unsafe for expressing their Jewish identity. Yet rising antisemitism is having a deeply disturbing effect on American Jews and American society in general," AJC executive Ted Deutch said in a statement. "We look forward to working with the White House in



developing effective strategies for a whole-of-government approach to combat Jew-hatred once and for all." In December, President Joe Biden's administration announced a new inter-agency group that would develop a national strategy to combat anti-Semitism. The AJC survey was conducted between September and November, on a sample of 1,507 Jewish adults. A parallel survey in October polled a sample of 1,004 non-Jewish US adults. Among the findings was that 69% of American Jews had experienced anti-Semitism online over the past 12 months. (Agencies)

## Sweden discards 8.5 mln doses COVID-19 vaccines

STOCKHOLM: Sweden has discarded nearly 8.5 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19, local media reported on Sunday. The discarded doses equal to about 20 percent of vaccine doses Sweden has procured, according to Swedish Public Health Agency's statistics, Radio Sweden reported. Richard Bergstrom, Sweden's former national vaccine coordinator, told Radio Sweden that the total value of the discarded doses was 1.5 billion Swedish kronor (143 million U.S. dollars). The main reason for doses being

discarded was the fact that individuals had not had their booster doses as expected, Bergstrom explained. "The bulk is doses that people have chosen not to take, in other words, the third, fourth, or fifth (booster) dose. These were already purchased and now have to be destroyed," said Bergstrom. As of Thursday, 88.2 percent of all individuals aged 18 or over have received at least one dose, while 86.4 percent have received two doses or more, Swedish Public Health Agency's statistics show. (Agencies)

## Modi's curbs on press freedom undermining India's democracy: NY Times

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's actions to suppress press freedom are undermining India's status as "the world's largest democracy," resulting in "a shrill Hindu nationalism in news reports that echoes the government line," according to an influential American newspaper. "When populist leaders invoke emergency laws to block dissent, democracy is in peril," The New York Times Editorial Board said in its opinion piece on Monday. Noting that the misuse of their powers to intimidate, censor, silence or punish independent news media is an alarming hallmark of populist and authoritar-



ian leaders, the newspaper's Editorial Board said that Prime Minister Modi has fallen "squarely into this camp". "Since Mr. Modi took office in 2014, journalists have increasingly risked their careers, and their lives, to report

what the government doesn't want them to," the Times said. India ranks 11th in the "global impunity index" of the Committee to Protect Journalists, a tally of reporters whose deaths remain unsolved, and in the annual press freedom index published by the organization Reporters Without Borders, India fell to 150 in 2022, its lowest-ever rank out of 180 countries, it was pointed out. The United States is 42; Russia is just below India at 155. "As a result, self-censorship has spread, along with a shrill Hindu nationalism in news reports that echoes the government line," the Times added. (Agencies)

## Lack of hygienic facilities endangers survivors in quake-hit Türkiye

ANTAKYA: Six days after the deadly twin earthquakes that killed nearly 30,000 in Türkiye, the lack of hygienic facilities has started to endanger the survivors. With thousands of buildings destroyed across the 10 quake-hit provinces in southern Türkiye and many more unsafe to enter, the lack of lavatory facilities becomes one of the major issues. "The issue of hygiene is becoming more and more urgent," wrote Ihsan Cakir, deputy general secretary of Hatay Municipality on Friday. The Hatay province was one of the worst hit areas by Monday's earthquakes. "We need portable toilets," said Cakir, noting that volunteers and other personnel

are now forced to go to neighboring cities to meet their needs. Local media reported Sunday that 58 portable toilets and showers had been sent to the affected areas, while manufacturers around the country are gearing up to produce more. In addition to toilets, access to clean water was just as urgent. "Underwater sources might have been polluted, with the sewage system in ruins," warned Celalettin Kocaturk, a doctor in Istanbul, adding that now the tap water is not safe for drinking or ablutions. "There is an increased risk of an epidemic," he said. The latest official death toll in Türkiye as of Sunday evening was 29,605 people. (Agencies)

## China says US sent balloons into its airspace more than 10 times since beginning of January 2022

BEIJING: Washington flew balloons into China's airspace more than 10 times since January 2022, Beijing said on Monday, after an alleged Chinese surveillance craft was shot down over the United States. Relations between the US and China have soured in

recent weeks in the wake of Washington's decision to shoot down the alleged spy craft in early February, which Beijing has insisted was for civilian purposes. A number of other such devices have since been shot down over the United States and Can-

ada, though Beijing has only admitted that the first was one of its own. And on Monday China accused the US of sending over 10 balloons into its airspace since January 2022. "It's not uncommon as well for the US to illegally enter the airspace of other countries,"

foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during a briefing. "Since last year alone, US balloons have illegally flown above China more than 10 times without any approval from Chinese authorities," he added. Asked how China responded to those alleged

incursions, Wang said Beijing's "handling (of these incidents) was responsible and professional". "If you want to know more about US high-altitude balloons illegally entering China's airspace, I suggest you refer to the US side," he added. (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.

## Caretaker govt accelerates crackdown against drug mafia

PESHAWAR: Crackdown against drug peddlers and dealers has been accelerated on the directives of Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control, Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi and the intelligence network has also been streamlined across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said an official handout issued here on Sunday. The target actions are taken and raids made according to the prior tips of this intelligence network of the Narcotics Control Wing of the Excise Department. Meanwhile,

the jawans of Excise Police Station Mardan raided a drugs smuggling cell located in the Sherpao area of Charsadda. The action was taken on the basis of intelligence. A key member of the international drugs smuggling gang has been arrested during the raid. Important data used in international drug smuggling has also been recovered from the arrested accused. According to the initial investigation, the accused Altaf used to transport, buy and sell drugs at the inter-district and international level

for the said gang wherein he used his mobile phone for the purpose. Important evidence related to drug smuggling has also been recovered from the accused, which has been sent for forensic tests to concerned laboratories. During the investigation, the accused also revealed the Names of all his associates, while in the light of his initial statements and revelations, important progress has been made in many more drug cases and a number of drug smuggling cases have been helped in solving. (APP)

## Caretaker govt to ensure uninterrupted continuation of development projects: Minister

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Planning and Development Syed Hamid Shah has said that the caretaker provincial government would ensure continuation of all development projects especially in the merged and backward districts without any hurdle. Addressing an annual

Dastarbani ceremony at Mamsh Khel seminary in district Bannu, he said that all the relevant departments have been given strict instructions to complete development projects on time without compromising on quality and pace of work. He said the provincial government would take care

of the public exchequer honestly and would fulfil its responsibilities with dedication adding that public welfare was the top most priority of the government. He said timely completion of development projects would address a sense of deprivation among people of merged and backward districts. (APP)

## Feb 14, last date to submit papers for NA by-election: ECP

PESHAWAR: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday informed that February 14 was the last date for submission of nomination papers for the second phase of by-election on 16 National Assembly seats in Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa. Spokesman ECP KP, Suhail Ahmad said, submission of nomination papers continued on Monday for 16 National Assembly seats, scheduled to be held on 19TH March. He said scrutiny of the nomination papers would be completed by 18th February. Appeals against acceptance and rejection of the nomination papers could be filed till 22ND February while the Appellate Tribunal will dispose

of these appeals till 27th February. On February 28 reviewed lists of the candidates would be released while the candidates would be allowed to withdraw their nomination papers till 1st March. The Spokesman ECP KP further informed that final lists of the candidates would be issued on 2ND March and on the same day election symbols would be issued to the final candidates. (APP)

### GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs 197,400	Rs 180,949	Rs 172,725	Rs 148,050
Per 10 Gram	Rs 169,239	Rs 155,135	Rs 148,084	Rs 126,929
Per Gram Gold	Rs 16,924	Rs 15,513	Rs 14,808	Rs 12,693
Per Ounce	Rs 479,785	Rs 439,801	Rs 419,812	Rs 359,839

### FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	269.19	269.69
China Yuan	40.68	41.08
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Saudi Riyal	71.65	71.95
U.A.E Dirham	73.2	75.5
UK Pound	323.98	324.68
Euro	287.11	287.71
Australian Dollar	183	185
Canadian Dollar	206	208.2

### 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

## Bahrain-Kalam highway cleared for traffic after avalanche

SWAT: The district administration along with NHA on Monday removed an avalanche from Bahrain-Kalam highway and opened it for traffic, said Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Ishaq. He said the avalanche damaged one kilometre patch of the road at a point between Jagh and Gorait areas while suspending the road link between Bahrain and Kalam and leaving several tourists stranded. He said that

heavy machinery was immediately deployed to remove the ice and after several hours of nighttime operation despite heavy snowfall the highway was opened for traffic. He said on the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Junaid Khan the district administration carried out a rescue operation and provided all facilities to the stranded tourists to remain protected from severe weather conditions. (APP)

## PHC restrains appointment of CEO for KP Oil & Gas Company

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday restrained KP Oil and Gas Company and the interim government from making an appointment for the CEO vacancy. A division bench of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Shakeel Ahmad at the Peshawar High Court heard a writ petition filed by Dr. Ammer Khan Jadoon, the former CEO of KP Oil & Gas Company. The petition was filed against the revocation of his appointment as the CEO of the company. Advocate Nouman Muhib Kakakhel represented the petitioner and argued that the appointment was done through proper channels, including advertising the post, conducting interviews, and finally ap-

proving the appointment among three candidates by the then cabinet of KP headed by the Chief Minister. However, the offer of appointment was revoked and withdrawn a week later without a proper explanation. The counsel also argued that the basis for revocation was vague and that the petitioner was not given an opportunity to clarify the issue before the decision was made. The division bench, after hearing the arguments, has restrained the respondent company and the interim government from making an appointment for the CEO vacancy until a final decision is reached. The respondents have been ordered to submit their responses before the next date of hearing. (APP)

## UNDP supports capacity building training for P&D Staff in KP

PESHAWAR: The Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Directorate of the Planning & Development Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has received capacity-building training, with the support of the SDP team of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The training aimed to enhance the process of tracking resources and provide the staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve their planning, monitoring, and evaluation practices. The training emphasized the importance of effective M&E practices in ensuring that development programs and projects are carried out effectively and efficiently. The staff was taught about the latest tools and

techniques for monitoring and evaluating development initiatives, as well as the importance of reporting and sharing information on progress and outcomes. The UNDP has been working to support the development of capacities in various fields across KP, including in the planning and development sector. The recent capacity-building training is part of UNDP's ongoing efforts to support the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other regions in the country. The staff of the M&E Directorate expressed their gratitude to the UNDP for their support and emphasized the significance of such initiatives in enhancing the capabilities of government institutions. (APP)

## World Radio Day' observed

ABBOTTABAD: Like other parts of the country 'World Radio Day' was being celebrated here on Monday, to highlight the importance of radio as it is an important tool for promoting awareness, information and freedom of expression. This year the theme of the day is 'Radio and Peace'. Radio Pakistan convened a special dialogue between FMs, stream channels and OTT

sectors, to discuss the emerging digital broadcasting ecosystem. A comprehensive program has been organized which would help broadcasters and listeners to create new opportunities in relation to the important role and scope of the broadcasting industry. Director of Radio Pakistan, Abbotabad Muhammad Oun Usman while speaking on the occasion said, (APP)

## Police, local people foil terrorists' attack on police picket

PESHAWAR: The district police and a local tribe in the early hours of Monday morning foiled terrorists' attack on a police check post in Bakhmal area here and forced the terrorists to retreat without any loss or damage. According to the office of District Police Officer (DPO), a few terrorists attacked Bakhmal police check post with heavy ammunition, however the already alert police officials deployed at the picket and the Bakhmal Ahmed Zai tribe

jointly fought back and repelled the terrorists. The attackers managed to escape from the scene while taking advantage of the dark. The DPO along with a fresh police team reached the spot soon after the incident and started search operation in the area. The DPO appreciated the cooperation of the Bakhmal Ahmed Zai tribe. The elders of the tribe also expressed resolve to fight out terrorists along with the police and security forces. (APP)

## Security tightened in city to prevent street crimes

PESHAWAR: Capital City Police, Peshawar have tightened security measures and are carrying out special checking of vehicles and suspects to prevent street crimes and maintain law and order. On the special directives of the SSP (Operations), Kashif Aftab Abbasi, the city police further tightened security at check posts and strict action was being taken against tinted glass suspected vehicles and pillion riding at all exits and entry points to the city, said a press release issued here on Monday. Special checkpoints had been established under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) while Station House Officers (SHOs) concerned were also present along with the person-

nel of local police, Abbabeel Squad, and City Patrolling. The documents of suspects and illegally staying Afghan refugees have also been checked at the specially established checkpoints and a special camera mobile also remained on duty at such spots. The SSP (Operations) Peshawar said that the purpose of establishing of checkpoints was to ensure a peaceful environment in the provincial capital. He said that the checking of vehicles was also ongoing through the VVSP system. Indiscriminate crackdown was continuing against the violators of the law, he said, adding that action was also being taken against the installation of illegal searchlights and tinted glasses on vehicles. (APP)

## Cold, dry weather with cloudy condition predicted for KP

PESHAWAR: The Regional Meteorological Center Peshawar on Monday forecast cold and dry weather with partly cloudy condition for most districts of the province, while very cold in upper districts and hilly areas. It said that isolated light rain and drizzle with light snowfall over hills is likely to occur over Chitral, Upper Dir and Upper Swat districts. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather with isolated gusty winds occurred over most districts of the province, while very cold in the upper districts. The maximum

and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 20/05, Chitral 07/01, Timergara 17/04, Dir 12/05, Mirkhani 09/02, Kalam 06/16, Drosh 07/01, Saidu Sharif 17/01, Pattan 15/05, Malam Jabba 07/04, Takht Bhai 20/03, Kakul 12/01, Balakot 17/02, Parachinar 12/04, Bannu 21/05, Cherat 11/01, D.I. Khan 24/07. The minimum temperatures recorded in the province were, Kalam -16 C, Tirah -06 C and Dir-05 C. (APP)

## Anti-polio drive starts in NW; 142,359 children to be immunised

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner North Waziristan Rehan Gul Khat-tak on Monday kicked off the anti-polio vaccination campaign in the district by administering polio drops to children under the age of five at his office. He directed the polio teams to ensure vaccination of each and every child under the age of five and make the district free from the crippling disease. On the occasion, it was informed that 142,359 children below five years of age would be given polio drops during the campaign, for which 621 teams, includ-

ing 570 mobile, 32 fixed, and 9 transit have been constituted. The DC in his message requested the scholars, journalists, civil society and elders of North Waziristan to fully support the polio teams and make the campaign successful. He stressed it was the responsibility of parents to take special care of their children's health and protect them from permanent disability by ensuring their polio vaccination. He expressed the resolve of the government to utilise all available resources to make North Waziristan polio-free. (APP)

## FIA arrest key member of online counterfeiting gang

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing Abbottabad on Monday arrested a key member of the gang involved in online counterfeiting. The accused identified as Muhammad Ashraf, was the key player of posting fake job advertisements on social media for employment abroad. The gang on the pretext of providing employment opportunities in Turkey, has deprived the complainants of Rs 296,000. After receiving the money, the accused went into hiding but was eventually

caught by the FIA. A case was registered against him under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) in year 2022. The FIA is conducting raids to apprehend other members of the gang involved in the crime. A spokesperson for the FIA said, "This arrest is a testament to our commitment to combating cybercrime and protecting the citizens from online fraud. He said, "FIA is working tirelessly to bring all those involved in illegal activities in the court of justice. (APP)

## DC reviews security arrangements of district Jail

LAKKI MARWAT: Deputy Commissioner Fazal Akbar visited the district jail here and directed the officials concerned to remain vigilant in the wake of recent terrorists' attacks on police, to foil nefarious designs of the anti-state elements. He visited barracks and reviewed facilities for the inmates

including health and cleanliness. He directed the Jail Superintendent to provide all basic facilities to the prisoners and also keep the jail premises clean, said a press release issued here on Monday. The DC also met with the prisoners, asked about their problems, and issued on-spot directives. (APP)

## Muqam expresses grief on demise of Zia Mohyeddin

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday expressed his grief over the sad demise of the well-known actor, director and host Zia Mohyeddin. In a condolence message, Engineer Amir Muqam said that Zia Mohyeddin was known for

his excellent compare, broadcasting, poetry and prose, acting, and theater direction. Muqam said that he also remained as President of the National academy for Performing Arts under the National Heritage and Culture Division, adding that his services for the promotion of art and culture would always be remembered. (APP)



## Special prayer offered at Eidgah for quake-affected people of Türkiye, Syria

RAWALPINDI: A special ceremony was held here on Sunday to offer prayer for those who lost their lives and got injured in the massive earthquake that hit parts of Türkiye and Syria last week. The prayer ceremony, held at the Eidgah Shrine, was attended among others by Turkish ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Paçacı, envoys of Palestine and Morocco besides a large number of the Shrine devotees, a news release said. Speaking on the occasion, Custodian of Eidgah Shrine Pir Muhammad

Hassan Haseeb-ur-Rehman said the entire nation was standing by the quake-affected people of Türkiye and Syria by all means. He also highlighted the importance of exhibiting unity and extending assistance from Muslim countries to each other in testing times, quoting some sayings of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him.) He said Muslims were like a wall whose each brick gave strength to others, adding they were like a body, it felt pain if any part got hurt. Ambassador Meh-

met Paçacı said thousands of Turkish people had died and thousands were injured in the quake, expressing confidence that his country would soon overcome the difficult situation by the grace of Allah Almighty, prayers and assistance from brotherly countries like Pakistan. He said the rescue teams sent by Pakistan to Türkiye were operating in a highly professional manner and extending all possible assistance to evacuate the people stuck up under collapsed buildings by the powerful jolts. (APP)

## Mariyum grieved over demise of renowned actor, director, host Zia Mohyeddin

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aungzeb on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the death of well-known actor, director and host Zia Mohyeddin. In a statement, the minister expressed her heartfelt condolences to the family members of Zia Mohyeddin. She said that Zia Mohyeddin was a literary figure whose style of reading and speaking gained world fame. He made the name of Pakistan famous by working in theater and films even outside Pakistan, she maintained. He presented famous programs like 'Payal', 'Chacha Chhakan', 'Zia Ke Sath' and 'Jo Janey Whe Jeetey' from Pakistan Televi-



sion, Mariyum said. Zia Mohyeddin earned a good name by presenting works of Urdu literature in his beautiful voice. The services of the deceased for the show business industry will always be remembered, she remarked. She prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. (APP)

## Rana Sanaullah vows to ensure security of Pakistani, foreign nationals

QUETTA: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has directed to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Pakistani and foreign nationals in the country. He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting in Gwadar on Sunday regarding anti-terrorism measures and security of foreign nationals in the country. "There should be no negligence in the implementation of the foolproof security plan," he added Secretary Interior Yousaf Naseem Khokhar, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Aqili, IG Balochistan Police Abdul Khaliq

Shaikh and officials of the law enforcement agencies attended the meeting. The minister said foolproof security will be provided to Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. Rana Sanaullah said one percent amount of all projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been reserved for security arrangements. He said that vacancies in the security agencies should be filled on a priority basis and local people should be given priority in the recruitment process. (APP)

## Ayaz Palejo calls on Dr Qadir Magsi

HYDERABAD: Quami Awami Tehreek Chief Ayaz Latif Palejo called on Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party Chairman Dr Qadir Magsi at his residence here on Sunday and discussed the political and economic situation of the country. In the meeting, both leaders discussed the problems facing Sindh and agreed that joint efforts will be made to solve these problems. They said that in view of the deteriorating economic situation in the country, there was a sharp increase in inflation in Sindh, which severely affected labourers, farmers and ordinary citizens. They demanded of the government to take concrete measures to rising inflation and provide relief to the common men. They also discussed matters of mutual interests including upcoming general elections in the province. (APP)

## Admin foils 18 bids to smuggle 11,358 flour bags

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police have foiled 18 bids to smuggle 11,358 wheat flour, 200 fine flour (Maida) and 200 'chokar atta' bags, said a police spokesman here on Monday. He informed that the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad, Saddar Wah and Mandra police in Potohar Division conducted raids and rounded up accused namely Umar Akhtar, Arshad, Ismail, Nazir, Syed Zain, Syed Rahat, Muhammad Nabi, Ajmal Khan and others on recovery of 11,358 wheat flour, 200 fine flour and 200 'chokar atta' bags. He informed that the accused were trying to illegally ship wheat flour and wheat out of the Rawalpindi division. The spokesman said the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of the authorities concerned were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. (APP)

## ANF seize 237 kg hashish, 6020 litres prohibited chemicals

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in operations against the drug peddlers across the counter seized over 237 kilograms of hashish and 6020 litres of prohibited chemicals, said an ANF spokesman. In a joint operation, ANF and Motorway Police near Sheikhpura Motorway recovered 186 kg of hashish and 14 kg of opium from a vehicle. In another operation, the force near the Zero Line Torkham border seized 12 kg of hashish from plastic bags. In another operation at the Pak-Afghan border, the ANF and FC in Khyber seized 39 kg of hashish. The force also recovered about 6,020 litres of prohibited chemicals near Chaman in a raid. The cases registered under the Anti-Narcotics Act against the accused. (APP)

## DSP officers changed across the Distt

MUZAFFARGARH: The higher authority of police circles on Monday changed and replaced the DSP-rank officers across the district. According to police spokesman, DSP Circle Sanawan Riaz Hussain is replaced by Nasrullah Khan. DSP Sadar Circle Rizwan Khan is transferred while Riaz Hussain Hussain Bukhari has given charge of Sadar Circle Police. DSP Sadar Circle Kot Addu, Sana Khan is transferred and replaced by DSP Riaz Bukhari. (APP)

## KC-EU remembers Maqbool Butt, Afzal Guru for their heroic role in Kashmir freedom struggle

MIRPUR: Brussels-based Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) highly lauded the great Kashmiri martyrs Maqbool Butt and Dr Afzal Guru for their unmatched struggle for freedom. While addressing a gathering arranged by the council at its secretariat in Brussels on the occasion of martyrdom anniversaries of both of the prominent Kashmiri freedom figures, KC-EU's Chairman Ali Raza Syed said, "We cannot forget our martyrs," a message received here on Sunday said. Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the martyrdom anniversary of Afzal Guru on 9th February every year. He was hanged and buried at New Delhi's Tihar prison by the Indian Authorities on Feb 9, 2013. Maqbool Butt was also hanged and buried in Tihar Jail on the 11th of February in

1984 for his leading role in Kashmir's liberation struggle. Paying rich tribute to both of the Kashmiri figures, the KC-EU head said by sacrificing their lives, Butt and Guru had offered a matchless struggle for the liberation of the beloved homeland of Jammu and Kashmir. Ali Raza asked the Indian government to hand over the remains of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Butt to their families in Kashmir for a proper funeral and decent burial. He added the two great martyrs are lights for the struggle of the people of Kashmir for their right to self-determination. He said Indian authorities acted inhumanely by holding the bodies of the martyrs at jail premises for a long time. No human being and no one of the civilised societies in the world accepts such ruthless behaviour as India is doing with the Kashmiris. (APP)

## Senate: Four bills referred to relevant Committees for fine tuning

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday referred a total of four bills to relevant standing committees for vetting, perusal and fine-tuning. The House deferred one bill due to absence of mover. The Chairman referred the bill titled "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2023, (Amendment of Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution) to concerned Senate Standing Committee for perusal. The private bill was moved by Mehr Taj Roghani, A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator representing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Likewise, another bill titled "The Benazir Income Support (Amendment) Bill, 2022," was also deferred due to the absence of mover Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). The Chairman referred yet another bill ti-

tled "The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023," to the House's relevant committee for further discussion and fine-tuning. It was moved by Senator Afnan Ullah Khan of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Sharing salient points of the bill, Afnan Ullah said no data protection law exists in the country right now as comparing to other countries of the world. International companies were reluctant to come to Pakistan due to absence of data protection laws. The House referred another bill titled "The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2023," to relevant committee. It was moved by Senator Rubina Khalid. The Chairman referred another bill titled "The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2022." It was moved by Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad. (APP)

## Govt urged to benefit from global free trade bloc

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI)'s United business Group Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday said that against the backdrop of sluggish global economic growth, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) bloc, covering the largest population and the largest scale of economy and trade, has not only injected vigour into the development of the regional economy but also served as a model for common development among countries of different political systems and different cultures. Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Chaudhry Jawad Hafeez Arain here today he said January 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the entry into force of the world's largest trading bloc, the RCEP, consisting of the 10 members of the Association of South-

east Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. He said Pakistan should also take benefits from this free trade block to strengthen its fragile economy on sound footings. He called upon Pakistan's private sector to work out strategies for the promotion of multilateral trade with RCEP countries. He said as the world's second-largest economy, China accounts for 60 per cent of the RCEP's total economic volume, and its huge market, as well as the transformation of economic structure, provides an impetus for the growth of the regional economy. Shahzad Ali Malik (Sitara-I-Imtiaz) said the RCEP stimulates regional economic dynamism by reducing impediments to greater economic exchanges and the regional division of labour, such as tariffs and non-tariff measures. (APP)

## 14 new primary healthcare facilities being established in capital: Official

ISLAMABAD: Cognizant of the basic health needs of the rural population, the District Health Department is working on a comprehensive plan of extending all-possible services to the ailing humanity under which 14 new Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Basic Health Units (BHUs) would be made operational during the next year. "Around 11 new CHCs and three BHUs, having 515 indoor-bed capacity, are in the final phase of their construction that will be functional during the next year," Project Director of Health Department Islamabad Sardar Shabbir Ahmed told APP. Sharing details, he said the new initiatives having indoor facilities included 200-bed King Salman bin Abdulaziz Hospital at Tarlai, 30-bed CHC at Bari Imam, 40-bed CHC at G-13, 25-bed Mother & Neonatal Child Health Centre at I-14 (Badhana Kalan), 20-bed Mother & Child Health Centre at Gohra Shahan, 60-bed Mother & Neonatal Child Health Centre at

Bhara Kahu, 40-bed CHC at Bokra (Proposed to be built in I-12 sector), while four BHUs at Tarno, Kirpa, Shah Allah Ditta and Rawat were being upgraded to CHCs with 25-bed capacity each. Besides, the construction of three new BHUs, with outpatient department (OPD) facility only, are being constructed at Jhangi Syedan, Sara-e-Kharbooz and Golra Sharif. The project director said the existing BHU at Sohan had been reconstructed with added facilities for mother and child, adding the department also established eight "Well Baby Clinics" at its existing BHUs to facilitate the mother and child. Sardar Shabbir said the department had also moved a summary for creation of 359 additional posts of various cadres of health-care professionals. "The summary is in last stages of approval. With the joining of these professionals, the department will be able to operate all these facilities round the clock," he remarked. (APP)

## Pakistan int'l maritime exhibition, conference, and Aman Exercise held

KARACHI: The three days Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference (PIMEC) 23 culminated here. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Sabzwari was chief guest while Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was also present during the event, according to a communique here on Sunday. Addressing the audience, the minister highlighted that Pakistan Navy has been the driving force to spearhead the dynamic ini-

tiatives in Maritime domain and has rendered invaluable services for the socio-economic uplift of Coastal areas. He also underlined that the government is launching new projects for beneficial collaborations and successful maritime business partnerships. Faisal Sabzwari said that recommendations of the conference will provide guidelines to embark on profitable initiatives for accelerating development of maritime sector and conduct of next PIMEC in 2025. (APP)

## NA Speaker underscores women empowerment key to bright and prosperous future

ISLAMABAD: Honorable Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan has said that empowering women in leadership roles is not only a matter of fairness and justice, it is also a matter of urgency and necessity. Women bring unique perspectives and skills to the table, and their full participation in leadership positions is crucial for the progress and development of our country. He made these remarks, while, addressing the "National Convention of Women Parliamentarians" at the Pakistan National Council of Arts. The event was organized by the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly and was attended by esteemed parliamentarians, government dignitaries, and members of the civil society from all over the country. Mr. Pervez under-



scored that it is our responsibility to create a more inclusive and equitable society, where women have equal opportunities and the support they need to succeed in leadership positions. Let us continue to work together to make this vision a reality, for the benefit of all our citizens in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who was a true leader of people and epitome of: women empowerment; hope of the hopeless; and a motivation to continue moving forward despite all odds and hardships. (APP)

## Promotion of human rights impossible without giving equal rights to women: Bilawal

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that it is impossible to promote human rights without giving equal rights to women. According to a statement issued by Bilawal House Media Cell here on Sunday, the Chairman PPP, in his message on National Woman's Day, extended greetings to the entire nation, including all the mothers, sisters and daughters of Pakistan and said that this day is a symbol of Pakistani women's struggle for democracy and resistance to dictatorship. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Pa-

kistani women were a metaphor of unparalleled bravery, great talent and indomitable courage, adding that the Madar-e-Millat Ms Fatima Jinnah, Madar-e-Jamhooriyat Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto were role models for the world. "It is a matter of pride for me that Pakistan People's Party is the only party in the country which has been led by two women," he said. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the Constitution of 1973 guarantees equality, representation, protection and equal opportunities for development of women in Pakistan. (APP)

## Polio campaign kicks off in 39 districts after the Lahore virus detection

ISLAMABAD: A polio vaccination campaign has kicked off in 39 districts of the country to vaccinate more than six million children under the age of five, after sewage samples in Lahore tested positive for wild polio virus last month. Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel encouraged parents and caregivers to ensure that their children are vaccinated in this and every campaign to protect them from the disability-causing virus and to stop it from gaining a foothold in their communities. The polio drive will be held from February 13 to 17 in full in nine districts, including the seven endemic districts of Bannu, DI Khan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, North Waziristan, Upper South Waziristan and Lower South Waziristan in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and two districts of Punjab - Lahore and Faisalabad. Partial campaigns will be con-

ducted in 30 districts during which children will be vaccinated in select union councils of Sheikhupura, 57 UCs bordering Afghanistan, 58 UCs with Afghan refugee camps and 107 UCs of Multan with high-risk mobile populations. The drive is being conducted after two environmental samples collected from two separate sites in Lahore tested positive for wild poliovirus in January. The first positive sample of 2023 was detected on January 19 and was genetically linked to the poliovirus found in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan in November 2022, according to the national polio lab at the National Institute of Health. This was the first evidence of cross-border transmission in more than a year. The second positive sample was reported on January 27, which was genetically linked to a virus circulating in south KP. (APP)

## Islamabad police install advanced cameras at entry and exit points

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have installed around 200 artificial intelligence enabled cameras equipped with advanced technology at the entry and exit points of Islamabad to make the security of the city more effective. Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan, police source said that Islamabad capital police have completed the process of installing modern cameras equipped with artificial intelligence to make security and surveillance more effective in the Federal capital. He said that Safe City Islamabad is performing the surveillance duties in a fully operational manner

and playing an important role in the elimination of criminal elements from the city. Upon receiving the complaints at helpline of Islamabad police 'pucar-15' or any police station, he said that Safe City staff is intimidated and efforts start to trace the culprits of any crime with the help of cameras. He said that police is utilizing all resources to strengthen the security of the federal capital, adding that the Eagle Squads have been connected with 'pucar-15'. An integrated police unified communication and response system has been launched and Eagle Squads have been assigned to quickly respond all emergency calls. (APP)

## PAF'S IL-78 aircraft evacuates Pakistani families, students from Turkiye

ISLAMABAD: An IL-78 aircraft of Pakistan Air Force landed back on Monday at PAF Base, Nur Khan after a successful mission of providing humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-stricken people of Turkiye. According to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), owing to the efforts of PAF, a number of Pakistani students and families stuck in the area were evacuated through the Ilyushin-78 and were

brought back to the homeland safely. The Pakistani students and families expressed their gratitude for the overall efforts of Pakistan Air Force in bringing them back to Pakistan and rescuing their fellow countrymen stranded in the natural calamity abroad. Other such missions by PAF, in coordination with NDMA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are also in queue to help the earthquake affectees. (APP)

## "US needs to understand the complexities of the Middle East", experts agree

ISLAMABAD: Iran's emergence as the Islamic revolutionary state in 1979 was a hope for the Islamic revolutionaries in the Middle East that urged Tehran to extend its moral and financial support to them. Started off in 1979, Iran's relations with the likeminded groups in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Palestine, have grown over the period of time and become a source of 'great influence' in the region. However, Tehran's growing ties with likeminded groups have troubled its relations with the host countries. These were the views expressed by the panelist in an international event, organized by the Institute of Regional Studies on Iran's Middle East Relations. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Debbie, who was a Middle East Correspondent of a US-based news agency 'The Media Line', said that Iran was the first ever Islamic revolutionary state established in the region and was a hope for the revolutionaries throughout the world particularly in the Middle East. However, Iran's revolution was not well received by the regional countries particularly by those who were at odds ideologically. Yet, Tehran was able to consolidate its position through establishing links initially with

one group inside Lebanon where three religious communities were dominant; Muslims, Christians and Jews, that later formed Hezbollah, she added. Hezbollah was a multi-faceted party with a political and military wing which had its presence in the Lebanese parliament, she said. In Syria, Iran's support to the like-minded groups provided access to Palestine. Ms. Debbie also added that Iran also supported Popular Mobilization Forces, a unique party that had various military wings. In Yemen, reports suggested that Iran supported Houthis, she said. She lamented that Iran and Saudi Arabia tussle through proxies in Yemen led to a worst humanitarian crisis in the country. Another speaker, Ms. Silvia Boltuc, Managing Director at Special Euraisa, said that during the first decade after the revolution, Iran focused more on exporting the revolutionary ideology and protecting the government system from external threats. She was of the view that Iranian revolution was a matter of great concern for the US but initially Washington underestimated Iran's ties with the several groups in the region that could potentially enhance Tehran's influence. (APP)

## President, PM pay tribute to legend Zia Mohyeddin

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed deep grief over the death of legendary icon of art and literature Zia Mohyeddin, terming it a loss of a talented and towering personality. In their separate condolence messages, the president and the prime minister paid glowing tribute to Zia Mohyeddin for his contribution to the fields of art, literature, performing arts, acting, direction and production. President Alvi said Zia Mohyeddin



was an outstanding orator, who used to read prose and poetry in an excellent manner. Terming the death of Mohyeddin a personal loss, the president

said his talented personality would be long remembered. Prime Minister Sharif said Zia Mohyeddin had a distinctive oratory style, adding that his voice would continue to resonate in the minds. He said as a president of National Academy of Performing Arts, Mohyeddin played a significant role in training new artists. The president and the prime minister prayed for the departed soul of Zia Mohyeddin to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved family. (APP)

## Veteran actor Zia Mohyeddin passes away in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Renowned actor, broadcaster, producer and head of the National academy of Performing Arts Zia Mohyeddin passed away in Karachi at the age of 91 on Monday after a protracted illness. Born in Faisalabad, on June 20, 1931, he graduated from Government College, Lahore, a private news channel reported. Known for his excellent comparing, broadcasting, poetry and prose recitation, acting and theatre direction, Zia mentored hundreds of students. He was the recipient of the Hilal-i-Imtiaz award for excellent services in Art in 2012. His funeral prayers will be offered in Karachi today after the Zuhr prayer. (APP)

## Pandemonium in Senate leads to adjournment

ISLAMABAD: Pandemonium was witnessed in the Upper House of the Parliament as the legislators of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) continued lodging vociferous protest against the possible arrest of former Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin despite warnings of Senate Chairman to maintain order in the House. The Leader of the House in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem and others continued interrupting State Minister for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, who was replying the accusations of Leader of the Opposition Dr Shahzad Waseem, pertaining to the arrest of Shaukat Tarin. Reply to the leader of the opposition's accusations, Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan said Shaukat Tarin should be punished for conspiring against the country. Last day the interior minister announced apprehending former Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin. He also criticized the government for what he said was a campaign against the judiciary. (APP)

## Seven ACs assume charge

SARGODHA: Newly appointed seven Assistant Commissioners on Monday assumed charge of their posts at their respective tehsils. According to the spokesman of district administration her, Nabeel Ahmad took his charge as AC tehsil Sargodha, Farwa Batool assumed charge as AC tehsil Shahpur, Anum Babar in tehsil Sillanwali, Muhammad Nawaz in tehsil Sahiwal, Rabnawaz took charge as AC Kotmomin, Sufiyan Dilawar in tehsil Bhalwal and in tehsil Bhera Hakim Khan took charge of Assistant Commissioner. (APP)

## PCAA in process of removing bird-attracting waste sites in airports' surrounding

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) is in process of identifying the risky waste disposal sites located in close proximity to airports that could attract birds and lead to any untoward incident of bird-plane hit. "Accordingly, in line with the decisions of Environmental Control Committee (ECC), the members visited Malir Cantonment and Memon Goth areas of Karachi," a news release said here on Monday. The manager of Jinnah International Airport, Manager Air-side and members of Sindh Solid

Waste Management and Karachi Water & Sewerage Board besides authorities of Malir Cantonment Board accompanied the inspection teams. The committee members directed the officials concerned to play their due role in reducing the risk factor by ensuring proper disposal of waster to ensure smooth flight operations. The airport manager arranged a detailed meeting of the ECC at the Air-side Office that deliberated on different strategies to effectively overcome the confronted issue. (APP)

## SMEDA to organize training on product development & branding techniques

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to organize a one-day training programme on "Product Development & Branding Techniques for SMEs" on February 14. Product Development & Branding Techniques will help SMEs to establish and strengthen their organization system to achieve future profitable growth, according to an official source. The session is being offered by SMEDA under National Business Development Programme (NBDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small

and medium businesses. The training programme aims to equip participants with product development strategy, process and stages of product development, brand and branding concepts, brand resonance model (CBBE), and online branding. The programme benefits includes capacity building, training material and certificate of participation. Women participants and women-owned SMEs are encouraged to apply. The training session will be attended by small business owners and their relevant staff, existing and emerging entrepreneurs. (APP)

## PM asks provinces to submit strategy on subsidized essential items during Ramazan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asked the provinces and administrative units to submit a comprehensive strategy to the Federal government on the provision of food items at subsidized rates during the holy month of Ramazan. Chairing a meeting on the availability of essential commodities and food items, he stressed using technology to control the rates in Ramazan bazars. He also emphasized putting in place effective measures for security. The prime minister directed to increase the number of Ramazan bazars in big cities to accommodate the maximum population.

He said ensuring the supply of essential items to citizens was the basic responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. In this regard, he called for improving liaison between centre and provinces and directed strict action against the hoarders. He stressed removing hurdles in import of necessary items on a priority basis. He said special committees would be set up to improve the supply chain of commodities and maintain their prices. The meeting was told that necessary steps were being taken to ensure the supply of commodities including wheat, pulses and edible oil, and other items. (APP)

## Grant announced for scientists of 'Green Chemistry' research programme

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Commission (PNC) for UNESCO with the collaboration of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and PhosAgro-the largest producer of phosphate-based fertilizer in Europe, on Monday announced the research grant of US\$30,000 for the young talented scientists under the 'Green Chemistry' research programme. According to the

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), the intended young scientists and researchers are required to submit research projects in the field of 'Green Chemistry' to acquire grant. The programme offers research grant of up to US\$30,000 to each scientists aged 39 or under, for innovative research projects that respect the 12 principles of green chemistry, to assist them in implementing their work. (APP)

## PIMEC 2023: Senator Mushahid proposes '5-point action plan to promote Blue Economy', calls for course correction on economic development



ISLAMABAD: While chairing two sessions of the Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) 2023, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, proposed a 5-point Action Plan to promote Blue Economy. He said apart from Blue Economy, marine and mineral resources plus CPEC and building on a strategic partnership between Pakistan, China, and Saudi Arabia would be a catalyst for an alternative development approach that can help 'bid goodbye to IMF'. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, Vice Chief of

Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi, and other senior officers of the Pakistan Navy plus representatives of 50 countries, participating in PIMEC, were also present. Outlining his presentation, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that 'it's now clear that Pakistan is on the wrong development path, abdicating its autonomy of action and only increasing permanent dependency on the IMF since economic independence is the material basis of political independence'. He added 'what kind of economic strategy is this that we seek loans to return loans while burdening our own peo-

ple with more taxes and grinding inflation'. He emphasized that a 'course correction on the economic development strategy of Pakistan' is urgently needed for the sake of the people of Pakistan. He said the answer is to focus on exploring and exploiting marine resources by a strategy for Blue Economy, which, according to the World Bank, has resources worth at least \$ 100 billion. He added that 50,000 square kilometers were added to Pakistan's continental shelf as an exclusive economic zone in 2015, a huge mass of water, almost like a 5th province. (APP)

## Hong Kong land sales now come with national security clause

BEIJING: Hong Kong's government, which owns virtually all the land in the city, has inserted a national security clause into land sales. An official tender document for a site on sale in Kowloon says a buyer can be disqualified if they or their parent firms engage in activities that endanger national security or affect public order. The government updated its internal guidelines for procurement in August to include security law requirements, the Hong Kong Eco-



nomics Times reported Monday, citing a government spokesperson. The clause was first included in its tender for a Kai Tak site in November, the newspaper reported. The move un-

derscores the risks for the tycoons who control Hong Kong's biggest developers, although it's not seen as changing the way they do business. "The potential impact of this clause may be limited," said Patrick Wong, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst. "It has been added in the land tenders for a few months and major developers like Sun Hung Kai, CK Asset and Henderson Land have also submitted their bids on recent tenders." (Agencies)

## Bangladesh's mobile phone market nosedives as sales plummet

DHAKA: Bangladesh's once booming mobile phone market has hit the skids as manufacturers including Samsung Electronics, Xiaomi and Vivo reduce or calibrate local handset assembly as economic and financial pressures batter the country and force consumers to tighten their belts. The populous South Asian nation had seen appetite for the devices increase in recent years, with purchases driven by first-time buyers as well as those wanting to upgrade



models. But demand and manufacturing are falling due to myriad issues including inflation, a weak local currency, dwindling foreign currency reserves, more taxes, high-

er phone costs, and a profusion of illegal handsets. Handset assembly in Bangladesh developed as manufacturers, including other global names such as Nokia, Oppo and Realme, set up production to escape high import tariffs. While some phones have been exported, most are sold domestically in a nation with a population approaching 170 million people - the world's eighth largest. Most manufacturing is done through ventures with local companies. (Agencies)

## Europe's spend on energy crisis nears €800bil

BRUSSELS: European countries' bill to shield households and companies from soaring energy costs has climbed to nearly €800 billion, researchers said on Monday, urging countries to be more targeted in their spending to tackle the energy crisis. European Union countries have now earmarked or allocated €681 billion

in energy crisis spending, while Britain allocated €103 billion and Norway €8.1 billion since September 2021, according to the analysis by think-tank Bruegel. The €792 billion total compares with €706 billion in Bruegel's last assessment in November, as countries continue through winter to face the fallout from Russia

cutting off most of its gas deliveries to Europe in 2022. Germany topped the spending chart, allocating nearly €270 billion - a sum that eclipsed all other countries. Britain, Italy and France were the next highest, although each spent less than €150 billion. Most EU states spent a fraction of that. (Agencies)

## Food will cost more this year - survey

Shoppers around the world will have to pay even more for groceries this year than they did in 2022, Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing retailers, consumer goods firms and investors. The report indicated that tough price negotiations have been unfolding between retailers and consumer goods producers for more than a year now, "with friction beginning in 2021 over

Covid-related supply chain logjams." The situation worsened in 2022 as the skyrocketing prices of basic foodstuffs have exacerbated a cost-of-living crisis in the EU and the UK. Data by research firm Kantar shows that Britons paid a record 16.7% more for food in the four weeks up to January 22 this year, compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, the US food index,

which includes meals eaten at home and in cafes and restaurants, jumped 10.4% for the year ending in December. Food giant Nestle's CEO Mark Schneider told media outlets last week that the company would have to hike the prices of its food products further this year to offset higher production costs that it has yet to fully pass on to consumers. (Agencies)

## Big Oil rakes in record profits

Oil giants Shell, BP, Exxon Mobil, Chevron and TotalEnergies posted a combined profit of \$196.3 billion last year, according to the companies' earnings reports. A record-high result for the oil industry, the sum tops the economic output of most countries. French oil giant TotalEnergies was the last to report on its earnings, announcing on Wednesday that its full-year profit in 2022 was \$36.2 billion, double its total for 2021. US oil major Chevron and British giants BP and Shell also reported record-high results ear-



lier this month, while Exxon's \$56 billion-profit marked a historic high for the entire Western oil industry. The record-setting earnings came as a result of a spike in fossil fuel prices last year. However, criticism of the industry for

hoarding money while consumers are struggling to pay soaring energy bills has intensified. "Given that we're entering a global recession and that most of us know people who are struggling, we must all call out profiteering like this," Alice Harrison from advocacy group Global Witness, told CNBC, calling for "an increased windfall tax to help those struggling to pay their bills." Human rights group Amnesty International said the oil majors' profits are "patently unjustifiable" and "an unmitigated disaster." (Agencies)

## Poultry prices increase by 30 percent in twin cities

ISLAMABAD: The prices of poultry items have increased by 30 percent in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi during the last one week, which creates huge volatility in the market. According to the market survey conducted by APP here Monday, during last week in the twin cities, a 40 percent increase was witnessed in the price of chicken in the last couple of months,

while as same as 30 percent increase in the price of poultry eggs. According to the survey, the price of live chicken in the twin cities was between Rs 415 and 420 per kg from the last three days of this month of February. Similarly, chicken meat is sold at Rs 690 to 700 per kg in the market of both cities. During this time, it was also found that poultry eggs used to be sold at Rs. 282 to Rs.

290 per dozen in the market of both cities. Meanwhile, talking to APP, Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA), Chaudhry Ashraf said the increase in the current prices of poultry is due to demand and supply issues. He said that the increase in poultry business inputs and cost of doing business was seen across the country due to which the market was in crisis. (Agencies)

## Singapore eyes chip investments amid US-China tension

SINGAPORE: Singapore will be looking to win its "fair share" of investments in semiconductor assembly and integrated circuit design, a top official said, amid a growing geopolitical divide between the US and China over trade and technology. The city-state will be focusing on the semiconductor value chain of activities, Beh Swan Gin, chairman of Singapore's Economic Development Board, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin on Monday, as he dis-



cussed the fallout of the US's so-called CHIPS Act aimed at wooing investments back to America and stemming China's economic influence. The move by President Joe Biden's ad-

ministration is a "muscular industrial policy to bring back manufacturing and technology development to the US", Beh said. "It has definitely made competition for investments more intensive and certainly for the type of investments that today Singapore is also aiming for." "We will have to take it as it is and we will do our best to secure our fair share," he said, noting separately that Singapore currently accounts for about 5% of the global wafer fabs output. (Agencies)

## Dollar hangs near 5-week high as inflation data looms

TOKYO: The dollar hovered near a five-week high against major peers on Monday on rising bets for prolonged Federal Reserve policy tightening ahead of a crucial consumer price report the following day. The yen slipped with the government set to nominate a candidate who backs the current policy settings as the new Bank of Japan governor on Tuesday. The risk-sensitive Australian and New Zealand dol-



lars eased with Asian equities on worries that higher US rates will choke growth. Sterling also retreated. "The

dollar has been well supported since the much-stronger-than-expected US jobs data earlier this month, and Fed comments have leaned more to the hawkish side, but of course, the focus is tomorrow's CPI," said Shinichiro Kadota, senior FX strategist at Barclays in Tokyo. "I think the market is more worried about upside risks to inflation, rather than downside risks." (Agencies)

## Economists see slower growth for Malaysia in 2023 amid weak external demand

KUALA LUMPUR: Economists said on Monday that Malaysia's growth is to moderate in 2023 amid weak external demand after the country registered an economic growth of 8.7 percent in 2022. Hong Leong Investment Bank Research said in a note that in view of the external headwinds and diminishing base effect, it maintained its expectation for Malaysia to grow at a more moderate pace of 4 percent this year. Nonetheless, it said China's recent reopening is anticipated

to help push the recovery in tourist arrivals and lend some support to export growth. Domestic demand is also expected to continue to support growth, albeit at a more moderate pace, amid the continued gradual recovery in the labor market. As for the Maybank Investment Bank, Malaysia's economic growth is expected to moderate to 4 percent this year after the 8.7 percent surge last year which reflected the positive impact of full economic opening. (Agencies)

## S.Korea logs trade deficit for 1st 10 days of February

SEOUL: South Korea logged trade deficit for the first 10 days of February due to a faster increase in import than export, customs office data showed Monday. Trade deficit amounted to 4.97 billion U.S. Dollars during the Feb. 1-10 period, up from a deficit of 3.57 billion dollars tallied in the same period of last year, according to Korea Customs Service. The trade balance stayed in red for the 11th consecutive month through January when the trade deficit hit a record monthly high of 12.69 billion

dollars. Export grew 11.9 percent to 17.62 billion dollars in the 10-day period, while import expanded 16.9 percent to 22.59 billion dollars. The daily average export tumbled 14.5 percent in the cited period. The outbound shipment kept a downward trend for the fourth successive month through January. Semiconductor export dropped 40.7 percent, and those for mobile devices and home appliances shrank 8.3 percent and 32.9 percent respectively. (Agencies)

## U.S stock market opens Saturday lower

ISTANBUL: The US stock market opened lower on Saturday. The Dow Jones fell 8 points, or 0.02%, to open at 33,690 at 9.51 a.m. EDT (1451GMT). The S&P 500 lost 5 points, or 0.12%, to 4,076. The tech-heavy Nasdaq decreased 71 points, or 0.6%, to begin the last trading day of the week at 11,720. The VIX volatility index, also known as the fear index, was up 3.2% at 21.37, while the 10-year US Treasury yield rose 0.14% to 3.688%. The

Dollar index added 0.2% to 103.42, while the euro shed 0.3% to \$1.0702 against the greenback. Precious metals were on the rise, with gold adding 0.1% to \$1,863 per ounce and silver increasing 0.7% to \$22.13. Amid reports that Russia will lower oil output, crude prices were up more than 1.4% with global benchmark Brent crude at \$85.84 and US benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude at \$79.12 per barrel. (Agencies)

## Asian markets take fresh hit on rate hike worries

HONG KONG: Asian equities fell again Monday on growing expectations that US interest rates will go much higher and for longer than previously thought. While inflation has been trending down for several months, data showing the jobs market remained very tight in January indicated the world's top economy was still robust. The employment reading led a number of Federal Reserve officials to insist that there was still plenty of work to do before they were happy they had prices under control. The release Tuesday of the January US consumer price index is in focus, with a stronger-than-forecast reading likely to further weigh on sentiment. "An upside surprise can move through risk assets like a wrecking ball after a slowdown in recent inflation readings has sparked a fresh

about of optimism among investors for a potential 'soft landing'," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes. Asian markets struggled after Wall Street endured its worst week in two months. Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei and Wellington were all in the red, although Shanghai eked out small gains. "An inverted (government bond) yield curve, declining PMI surveys, and a rash of highly publicised corporate layoffs -- all traditional warning signs of a potential recession," Innes said. "And when taken together, perhaps, even more than a warning signal suggesting it would not take much for the US economy and hence the market to fall off the cliff." Fears that rates will go even higher -- with some even predicting six percent from the current 4. (Agencies)

## Philippine investment board registers 7.55 bln USD in January

MANILA: Investments registered with the Philippines' board of Investments (BOI) in January this year have reached 414 billion pesos (roughly 7.55 billion U.S. Dollars), according to data from the Department of Trade and Industry. "It means the government investment body already hit more than 40 percent of the 1 trillion pesos (roughly 18.2 billion dollars) target for 2023," Trade Undersecretary

Ceferino Rodolfo told a forum over the weekend. He said that the BOI-registered investments have already reached close to 60 percent of the 2022 record, referring to the 729 billion pesos (roughly 13.29 billion dollars) investments approved by the BOI in 2022. Rodolfo expressed optimism that the BOI could hit its 1 trillion pesos investment target this year. (Agencies)

## China's Geely raises US\$750mil for Zeekr EV brand

SHANGHAI: The EV brand of Chinese automaker Geely on Monday said it has raised US\$750 million in a new funding round that boosts its value to US\$13 billion, with the world's biggest lithium-ion battery maker among the investors. Zeekr, a rival to Tesla and Nio, currently has two models, the Zeekr 001 and Zeekr 009, with a third, the Zeekr X, set for launch later this year. The premium automaker sold nearly 72,000 cars last year and aims to double that in 2023 with a global expansion, one that seeks to tap the European market, funded by its latest cash injection. "The Series-A fundraising is a vote of confidence in the growth prospects and strong future of Zeekr, which becomes the latest brand in the Geely Holding portfolio to secure a strong valuation," said Daniel Donghui Li, chief executive of Geely Holding Group. The latest investors in Hangzhou-based Zeekr include CATL, or Contemporary



Amperex Technology, the biggest supplier of EV batteries globally. Also invested was Amnon Shashua, head of Israeli autonomous driving technology company Mobileye; the Yuexiu Industrial Fund, the Guangzhou municipal government's investment arm; the Tongshang Fund and the Xin'an Intelligent Manufacturing Fund. "This is a huge bet and a stamp of approval," said Xing Lei, co-host of the China EVs and More Podcast. "Given that Intel Capital has also invested in Zeekr before, I think together with Mobileye they provide a 'cover fire' for Zeekr's forthcoming US initial public offering." (Agencies)

## Pioli hoping for Milan revival on return to Champions League knockouts

MILAN: Stefano Pioli is hoping that AC Milan have broken out of their damaging downward spiral as his team prepare for their first Champions League knockout tie Milan host Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday night having snapped a seven-match winless streak in all competitions which left their Serie A title defence in tatters and threatened to completely derail their season. The San Siro breathed a heavy sigh of relief on Friday night when Olivier Giroud headed Milan to a 1-0 win over Torino and Pioli wants that tight victory



to be the turning point after two Milan derby defeats and heavy league losses to Lazio and Sassuolo in just over a fortnight. Pioli said that Friday's win should be looked at as a "rebirth" as it ended a run which had left fifth-placed

Milan not only miles behind runaway league leaders Napoli but also in a real fight for a place in next season's Champions League. "We need to keep going, playing the Champions League next season would be a good finish at this point, but we need to be more consistent," he told DAZN. The 57-year-old knows a lot about unexpected renaissances as after his arrival in October 2019 he went from almost being replaced by Ralf Rangnick to stewarding Milan's rise from the doldrums to the top of the Italian game. (Agencies)

## Man City continue to pursue Premier League leaders Arsenal by beating Aston Villa 3-1

ANKARA: Manchester City continued to pursue English Premier League leaders Arsenal by beating Aston Villa 3-1 in a week 23 match Sunday. The hosts enjoyed a good start with a goal by Rodri in the fourth minute at Etihad Stadium in Manchester. German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan scored Man City's second goal in the 39th minute and his teammate Riyad Mahrez made it 3-0 with a penalty goal in the 46th minute just before the end of the first



half. Aston Villa's only goal came from Ollie Watkins in the 61st minute. Following the match, Gundogan, who is of Turkish origin, shared his thoughts on

his official Twitter account. He admitted that the win was important but said his thoughts are still with all the people affected by the horrible earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria and with all those trying to save those trapped under the ruins, adding that he is heartbroken. Man City, the reigning Premier League champions, reduced their point difference with the Gunners, which have 51 points, to 3 and are ready to face them in the next match. (Agencies)

## Can Haaland and Odegaard take Norway back to international prominence?

PARIS: As Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard prepare to face each other when Arsenal take on Manchester City in a huge game in the Premier League title race on Wednesday, back in their native Norway there is optimism that the star duo are about to make the country a footballing force again. Not since Euro 2000 have Norway qualified for a major tournament, when Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Tore Andre Flo were leading their attack. Odegaard was 18 months old and Haaland had not yet been born



as Norway defeated Spain but failed to make it beyond their group. That was the end of the country's footballing heyday, after Norway had reached successive World Cups, defeating Brazil en route to the last 16 at France 98. But

things appear to be changing, with the national team reaching the play-offs for Euro 2020 and falling just short in their attempt to make last year's World Cup. Qualifying for Euro 2024 begins next month and Norway appear slight favourites ahead of Scotland to come through their group alongside Spain. Haaland, 22, has dominated headlines in the Premier League where he is the top scorer by a distance, averaging over a goal a game for City since signing from Borussia Dortmund. (Agencies)

## Harshitha half-century leads Sri Lanka to second victory at T20 World Cup

CAPE TOWN: Harshitha Samarawickrama made a composed half-century to guide Sri Lanka to a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh at Newlands in Cape Town on Sunday for their second successive victory at the Women's T20 World Cup. Left-handed opening batter Harshitha made 69 not out and shared an unbeaten 105-run partnership with Nilakshi de Silva (41 not out). They enabled Sri Lanka to survive an early scare in pursuit of a modest Bangladesh total of 126 for



eight. "I'm very happy about our performance," said Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu who made 68 in the opening win over South Africa but fell for 15 on Sunday. "We don't de-

pend on one or batters. We have been working on our batting the last couple of months." Sri Lanka, who beat the hosts on the same Newlands pitch on Friday, were rattled when 18-year-old medium-pace bowler Marufa Akter took three wickets without conceding a run to reduce them to 25 for three in the sixth over. Akter, whose previous five international matches had yielded only three wickets, struck with her third delivery when she had Athapaththu caught at midwicket. (Agencies)

## Wu makes history as first Chinese ATP Tour winner with Dallas victory

LOS ANGELES: Wu Yibing overcame a ferocious bombardment from John Isner to become the first Chinese man to win an ATP Tour title at the Dallas Open on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Hangzhou saved four match points before claiming a 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (14/12) victory in just under three hours to clinch his maiden ATP victory. Wu, who has surged up the global rankings in the past year from 1,869th last



March to 97th in the world, collapsed on court in delight following his victory. It came after a pulsating battle with the big-serving Isner, who had threatened

to overwhelm the Chinese player with a barrage of 44 aces during the contest. Isner's eye-popping ace tally was just one short of the all-time record for aces in a three-set ATP Tour match of 45 set by Ivo Karlovic in 2015. "I made history here for my country. I'm very proud of myself," Wu said in on-court remarks following his win. "It was a very tough match today. I'm facing, I don't know, 100 aces." (Agencies)

## Challenged at home, Bayern Munich's season faces true test in Paris

BERLIN: Bayern Munich travel to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday knowing defeat in the tie will represent a failed season regardless of domestic triumphs. After Saturday's home defeat of Bochum, Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann cut a frustrated figure and looked anything but a coach who had just masterminded another week atop the Bundesliga table with a comfortable 3-0 home win.

"There was too little movement" the 35-year-old said, promising "if we play like that on Tuesday, we won't go any further (in the Champions League)." Nagelsmann even threw a little warning to his starting XI on Saturday, saying his team "only got better after the 60th minute (when) the substitutions brought fresh momentum." "That's when we earned the result, not before. We have to improve before Tuesday." - Battle of

superclubs. The reality of the superclub era is that domestic success will matter little for Nagelsmann - just like his PSG counterpart Christophe Galtier. Other managers have been shown the door at Bayern for less. Niko Kovac was fired the year after winning the league-cup double with the side still in Champions League contention - Bayern eventually lifted the trophy later that season under Hansi Flick. (Agencies)

## UAE kickboxing champ Habibali wins unanimous decision at UAM Fight Night

ABU DHABI: UAE champion Ilyas Habibali lit up the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi after claiming a unanimous decision over three-time world champion Michael Wakeling in front of a packed-out crowd on Saturday night at the UAM Fight Night K1 Pro Kickboxing Championship. The winners were crowned by Abdullah Saeed Al-Neyadi, chairman of the UAE Muaythai and Kickboxing Federation, president of the Arab Muay Thai Federation and



vice president of the Asian Federation. Al-Neyadi said: "We would first want to express our gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Mansour

bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, deputy prime minister and minister of the presidential court, for his benevolent support of the revival of kickboxing and muay thai, and for his trailblazing work that resulted in a quantum leap in the field of accomplishments and successes in terms of the participation of the world's best athletes and performance by the national athletes." "Congratulations to all the athletes, especially Ilyas and the other winners," he said. (Agencies)

## IOC not on wrong side of history over Russia, says Bach

PARIS: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said his organisation is not on the wrong side of history after opening the door for Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in next year's Summer Games in Paris. The IOC received a backlash after setting out a path last month for

athletes of both countries to earn slots for the Olympics through Asian qualifying and to compete as neutrals, with no flags or anthems. Athletes from Russia and its neighbour Belarus have been banned from many international competitions in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine a year ago. In a letter to

Bach last week, Ukrainian athletes said the IOC was "on the wrong side of history" after Bach had urged Ukraine to drop threats of a boycott. When asked if the IOC was on the wrong side of history, Bach told reporters on Sunday: "No, history will show who is doing more for peace. (Agencies)

## NFL urges Super Bowl fans to donate to Türkiye, Syria relief efforts

WASHINGTON: The National Football League (NFL) encouraged American football fans on Sunday to contribute to ongoing earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye and Syria ahead of the most heavily-viewed sports event in the US. "While we're here getting ready for an incredible Super Bowl between the Chiefs and the Eagles, we also acknowledge the devastation in Turkey and Syria as those countries experience the aftermath of earthquakes that have claimed thousands of lives," an on-field anchor said in the final minutes before the Super Bowl's kickoff. "We offer our continued prayers and encourage fans to visit [www.redcross.org/nfl](http://www.redcross.org/nfl) to support those relief efforts," she added as players warmed up on the field ahead of the big game. The message



was echoed by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who asked fans to "please take a moment to listen to the appeal to help those in need in Türkiye and Syria. The U.S. government and everyday Americans are stepping up. Learn how you can help," he wrote, including a link to the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Center for International Disaster Information. (Agencies)

## Napoli solidify their Serie A top spot by beating Cremonese 3-0



ANKARA: Napoli solidified their Italian Serie A top spot by beating Cremonese 3-0 in a week 22 match Sunday. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scored the

Blues' first goal in the 21st minute and the first half ended 1-0 at Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples. Victor Osimhen made it 2-0 in the 65th minute, then Eljif Elmas netted another one for Napoli in the 79th minute. With this result, Napoli have extended their winning run to six matches in the Italian top league and reached 59 points. Inter Milan are the runners-up with 43 points, while Atalanta, Roma and AC Milan are all behind the Nerazzurri with 41 points each. (Agencies)

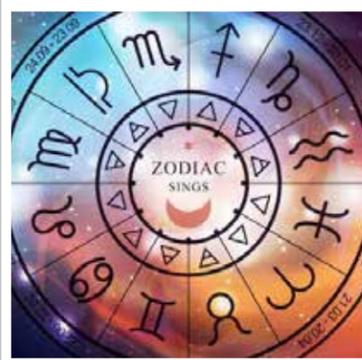
## Scheffler wins PGA Phoenix Open to reclaim World No.1 spot

PHOENIX: Scottie Scheffler outduelled Canada's Nick Taylor down the back nine Sunday to repeat as PGA Phoenix Open champion and overtake Rory McIlroy for the world number one ranking. It was the 26-year-old American's first title since capturing last year's Masters and returned him to the rankings summit he surrendered to Northern Ireland's McIlroy last October. "It feels pretty good," Scheffler said. Scheffler fired a six-under-par 65 in Sunday's final round to complete 72 holes at TPC Scottsdale on 19-under 265 and defeat Taylor by two strokes for the \$3.6 million top prize and his fifth career PGA title. "I'm just proud of how I fought," Scheffler said. "I didn't have my best stuff. I grinded it out today. "I wasn't hitting it good off the tee. My irons didn't feel as sharp. But I played a great round of golf." Spain's third-



ranked Jon Rahm, who also had a chance to become world number one with a victory, settled for third on 270 after a closing 68 with two-time PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas fourth on 271 and Australian Jason Day, the 2015 PGA Championship winner, fifth on 272. Scheffler became the seventh back-to-back Phoenix Open winner and the first repeat champion since Japan's Hideki Matsuyama in 2017. (Agencies)

## DAILY HOROSCOPE: FEBRUARY 14, 2023



- It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.  
- **ARIES:** Your thinking is moving in all sorts of different directions today, and that might make some folks kind of nervous. Make sure to let them know that you're still on their side!  
- **TAURUS:** There's a lot more going on than you can see on the surface, but some of it should be easy to spot if you look hard enough! Try to stay skeptical of the most outrageous claims, but keep an open mind.  
- **GEMINI:** You've got a lot on your mind, far more than usual, but you need to keep from pressuring friends and family as a result. That won't get you anywhere, and most of this stuff can be dealt with later.  
- **CANCER:** Someone needs your time or energy today, and that could mean that you've got to step away from older projects in order to give them your best. Helping others brings its own reward on days like this!  
- **LEO:** You are feeling generous today, much more so than usual, and so much so that it might draw at-

tention (and praise) from an unexpected source. Keep it up and you'll develop an even greater reputation!

- **VIRGO:** That tense situation at work or home isn't going to get any better until you do something about it, so break the ice and see what happens next. You can make amazing progress right away!

- **LIBRA:** Your mind is ranging far and wide today, and you might be spiritually minded as long as you have someone to share it with. You do have some great ideas, so be sure to hash them out a bit more.

- **SCORPIO:** Your gut is telling you which way to go today, so listen up and do what it says! Even if it seems crazy, it's better than just going along with those around you. They each have their own agenda.

- **SAGITTARIUS:** All of that good energy coursing through you needs an outlet, so make sure that you're engaged and active in the world today! It won't be that hard, because the odds are that you're in demand.

- **CAPRICORN:** Let your deepest ideals be your guide right now. They are quite active and should be much more powerful a force than they usually are. Someone needs to know how you really feel about things.

- **ACQUARIUS:** You could find that disparate people are coming together in new ways, and you might end up quite surprised by the results. You should enjoy it all, though, and everyone should be happy in the end.

- **PISCES:** You're on the move today, and so is your mouth! If you've got any deep, dark secrets, you should probably keep your own company. Otherwise, you might tell the wrong person at the wrong time!

## Türkiye's national flag carrier resumes flights from quake-hit Hatay Airport

ANKARA: Türkiye's national flag carrier Turkish Airlines has resumed flights from Hatay Airport in the country's earthquake-hit southern region. "Our flights from Hatay Airport have resumed," Yahya Ustun, Turkish Airlines' senior vice president for media relations, said on Twitter. Flights made between Feb. 13-19 will require advance reservation to facilitate the evacuation process, Ustun added. Passengers without reservations will also be accepted in the case of vacant



seats, he noted. Hatay Airport, whose runway was damaged because of the earthquakes that struck the region last Monday, had been closed to flights. At

least 29,605 people were killed by the two massive earthquakes, the country's disaster agency said Sunday. The magnitude 7.7 and 7.6 quakes affected more than 13 million people across 10 provinces, including Hatay, Gaziantep, Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Sanliurfa. Several countries in the region, including Syria and Lebanon, felt the strong tremors that struck Türkiye in the space of less than 10 hours. (Agencies)

## Cuba's Harley-Davidsons a labor of love for island's superfans

VARADERO: Cuban Carlos Pupo Sablon spared no effort to join up with his fellow Harley-Davidson enthusiasts. He got up at 4:00am to drive his electric blue Harley 660 kilometers (410 miles) over 13 hours -- despite fuel shortages -- to be there. Cuba's Harley-Davidsons are not as well known as the island nation's collection of vintage American cars, but they also contribute to a palpable feeling of stepping back in time. There are only around 200 on the island -- compared to 60,000 classic cars -- but their owners tenderly care for and repair them to keep the hum of their engines audible on the island. For the past 12 years, Harley enthusiasts have met up annually in Varadero -- the seaside resort 145-kilometers (90 miles) east of Havana to "share the passion" over a long weekend, explained Raul Brito,



60. He is one of the event's founders and the proud owner of a 1960s Harley, "the last model to enter the island" after the 1959 communist revolution. Until then, there were several thousands of the iconic motorcycles in Cuba, with even police riding them. But they lost popularity following the communist revolution that created a stigma against anything associated with the capitalist United States. Antonio Ramirez, 60, is a former taxi driver who has reinvented himself as a bike mechanic. (Agencies)

## Beijing to boost museum, park construction in 2023



BEIJING: A batch of museums and parks will be built or opened in Beijing this year, the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau said Sunday. The construction of a branch of the Capital Museum, featuring the ancient Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, is scheduled to be completed in Tongzhou District, Beijing's sub-center, and will open to the public by the end of this year. A demonstration area for the protection and utilization of the national historical and cultural heritage sites of the "Three Hills and Five Gardens," will also be completed. The sites include many historical cultural sites, including royal gardens from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). A museum reconstruction project will be implemented at the Dabaotai tomb site, dating to the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC-AD 25), while the construction of the Liulih national archaeological park will be launched this year. Chen Mingjie, director of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau, said that the capital has 215 registered museums, with nearly 500 exhibitions and activities held throughout last year. (Agencies)

## Former Cyprus top diplomat Christodoulides elected youngest president

NICOSIA: Former foreign minister Nikos Christodoulides was on Sunday elected president of the Republic of Cyprus, becoming at 49 the youngest leader of the divided Mediterranean island nation. The seasoned politician gained 51.92 percent of the vote in a run-off Sunday, closely beating out communist-backed career diplomat Andreas Mavroyiannis who took 48.08 percent of ballots. Widely tapped as a favourite even before last Sunday's first round of voting, he is seen as an independent backed by centrist parties that take a hard line on moribund UN-backed talks on ending the island's decades-old division. His candidature sparked a schism within the conservative ruling DISY party, whose candidate Averof Neofytou was booted out of the race after coming in third place in the first round -- a first in the party's his-



tory. It is the first time a president has been elected without the support of the two largest parties, DISY and the communist AKEL, and after his victory was announced, Christodoulides said he wanted to meet with the leaders of both. "The need to form a government of broad social acceptance was not a pre-election slogan, it was something that we will implement in practice", Christodoulides said. He will take up his post on March 1. (Agencies)

## Assad thanks UAE for 'huge' aid after quake: Syrian presidency

DAMASCUS: Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday thanked the United Arab Emirates for its emergency response and tens of millions pledged in aid to the quake-hit country, the presidency said. "The UAE was among the first countries that stood with Syria and sent huge relief and humanitarian aid and search and rescue teams," Assad said during a meeting in Damascus with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Nahyan arrived in Syria on Sunday, six days after a devastating earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, killing more than 33,000 people in total, including over 3,500 in Syria. The minister also toured quake-hit areas in western Syria, according to UAE's official news agency WAM. A Syrian pro-regime newspaper shared images of the Emirati minister in the coastal city of Jableh, among the worst hit by the quake and where Emirati search and rescue team have



been based since Friday. His visit is the first by a senior Gulf official since the 7.8-magnitude quake hit. Nahyan said the UAE remains "committed to standing by the brotherly people of Syria and providing the required support and assistance," according to WAM. The UAE minister last visited Damascus in January, when he also met Assad, on a trip that signalled warming ties with war-torn Syria after years of strained relations. The UAE pledged some \$13.6 million to Syria after the disaster before announcing another \$50 million in assistance. (Agencies)

## BoK Raast Islamic banking and ICA (Pvt) Ltd Signs MoU to Expand Financial Services for the Residents of Newly Merged Districts



PESHAWAR: Bank of Khyber Raast Islamic banking and International Consulting associates (Pvt) Ltd. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand access to financial services to the residents of South Waziristan, North Waziristan and Khyber Districts. This partnership will help improve the financial well-being of individuals and communities in these regions. The partnership will bring together the expertise of both organizations to host a series of financial literacy trainings on State Bank of Pakistan approved training curriculum. These sessions will cover a wide array of topics, including budgeting, saving, investing, credit management, and will target low-income families, students, women and unbanked MS-MEs. As part of MOU iConsult will also facilitate and mobilize communities to open bank accounts and avail financial services. Furthermore, under the MOU women belonging to South Waziristan, North Waziristan and Khyber districts will be trained and provided internship at BOK. "We are excited to partner with International Consulting Associates (pvt) Ltd to

expand access to financial services in Merged Districts," said Ali Khan Arbab, Group Head Islamic Banking (A). "We believe that everyone deserves access to financial services that can help them achieve their goals, regardless of where they live. This partnership will help us bring these services to communities that need them the most." "We are proud to join forces with Bank of Khyber to improve financial well-being in Merged Areas," said Kashif Maqbool Sehgal Regional Head KP iConsult "We understand the challenges that come with limited access to financial services, and we are committed to providing solutions that support individuals and communities in these regions." This activity is part of USAID funded project, "FATA Economic Revitalization Programme" (FERP). The project is implemented by UNDP and contributing to long term economic growth of Merged Areas by supporting Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by creating an enabling environment for businesses, engaging entrepreneurs, and working with private sector to build capacities for inclusive economic growth. (Agencies)

## 17 People die in boat accident in democratic republic of Congo



KAMPALA: At least 17 people died when two boats collided and capsized in Lake Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said Sunday. According to a security officer in South Kivu, Lt. Pecos Mulunga, one of the boats was moving from the Silimu landing site in Lake Kivu to Idjwi island Saturday when it collided with another boat coming from there. "So far, 17 people have been confirmed dead after their bodies were recovered," said Mulunga. He said information they received from the naval security force indicated that both boats had dozens of passengers and goods on board and that some passengers were rescued by fishermen. Some survivors were taken to the provincial general hospital in the city of Bukavu for treatment, he added. Boat accidents are common in Congo's lakes and rivers due to overloading. Last October, 27 people died when a boat capsized in the Congo River. (Agencies)

## Trugoy of De La Soul dies at 54: US media



New York: David Jolicoeur, member of the De La Soul trio who went by "Trugoy the Dove," has died, US media reported Sunday. He was 54 years old. The music outlet AllHipHop first reported the news, which was confirmed by trade publications Rolling Stone and Pitchfork. No cause of death was reported. Trugoy had spoken publicly in recent years about his struggles with congestive heart failure, and said his health problems had prevented him from performing and touring with his fellow De La Soul members. The pioneering hip-hop group -- which also includes Posdnuos and Maseo -- formed in 1988 in Amityville in New York's Long Island. They gained a following for their eclectic sampling, lighthearted wordplay and influence in alternative hip hop, including jazz rap. The group exuded a positive spirit in contrast to the image of gangsta rap on the West Coast. The New York trio recently began releasing their classic early hits on streaming platforms, following a decades-long battle over their samples. The New York trio's first six albums, dating from 1989 to 2001, had previously not appeared on streaming platforms because their label, Tommy Boy, never tackled the huge legal task of clearing all the samples (there are some 60 to 70 on "3 Feet..." alone). News of Trugoy's death prompted quick reaction from industry peers, including the influential MC Big Daddy Kane: "It was an honour to share so many stages with you." (Agencies)

## Peru mudslides leave villagers with 'nothing left'



AREQUIPA: Carmen Manchego looks down at the remnants of homes sticking out of the quagmire of mud that engulfed the Peruvian mining town of Pampaylima. "I have nothing left, nothing at all," she moans. Torrential rain late last week in Mariano Valcárcel district of the southwestern Arequipa region provoked a mudslide on the San Martín mountain. Several communes were buried under mud and rocks, leaving 18 dead and around 20 others missing. "My home is there," Manchego, a home maker, tells AFP. "Everything was taken away by the water, it buried everything." She is one of more than 4,300 people affected by the disaster. Some Pampaylima residents attempt to recover belongings that were spared the widespread destruction amongst the rubble from prefabricated homes demolished by the mud. The ground floors of several two-storey houses have effectively disappeared from view. (Agencies)

## New plan to improve clean water access for indigenous Australians

CANBERRA: The Australian government has announced a new national plan to address Indigenous disadvantage, describing previous attempts as an "enormous failure." Linda Burney, minister for Indigenous Australians, on Monday released the new plan to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across areas including access to clean drinking water, housing, food and education. The new plan comes with additional funding and was revealed on the 15th anniversary of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's historic national apology to the Stolen Generations. The landmark 2008 speech acknowledged that successive governments had failed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and committed to improvement. However, Burney on Monday conceded the promise had not been honored. (Agencies)

## CLASSIFIED

### COMMANDER ESTATES

Property Consultants

Lt Cdr (R)

**Asmat Ullah Tariq**  
CEO

Authorized Dealer for

**- DHA Peshawar**  
**- New Peshawar Valley**

0345-8282666

0336-8282666



UG-356 Deans Trade Center, Peshawar Cantt.



commanderestates@gmail.com

ESTB: 2020



## MILK

- 100% Pure and Farm Fresh Whole Milk
- Freshly packed pollution and dust free
- No preservatives and no harmful medications

Also provide:



0336-9036364

This Newspaper has been digitally printed at



## Khyber Prints

- Instant Digital Printing Solutions -  
First Floor, Town Heights, Old Bara Road, University Town - Peshawar  
Cell/Whatsapp: 0309-0055000  
E-mail: khyberprints@gmail.com

