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February 22, 2021: National / International [Current Affairs](#)

1. Govt to lay Senate vote ordinance in NA today

- Following the directive of Speaker Asad Qaiser, the government is set to lay the controversial Senate open vote ordinance before the National Assembly on February 21, 2021 (today) when the lower house will go into session after a two day recess.
 - The agenda issued for Monday's sitting by the National Assembly Secretariat shows that the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2021, which the government had tabled in the assembly earlier this month for the same purpose, but could not get it passed due to strong resistance by the opposition parties, is also part of the agenda
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2. Tourist train launched between Golra and Attock

- The Safari Tourist Train of Pakistan Railways, which has been launched to promote culture and beauty of Potohar region, rolled out from Golra station to Attock Khurd on February 21, 2021.
 - Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani accompanied by Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati inaugurated the tourist train at the Golra railway station.
 - The train will ferry tourists from Golra to Hassanabdal, Attock Khurd and Attock city and surrounding areas every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
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3. Corona vaccine management committees formed in Punjab

- The Punjab government has constituted vaccine management committees in the province to make the vaccination drive a success. This was disclosed by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Capt (retired), M Usman Younis in a letter issued to the local administration on February 21, 2021.
 - He said that a comprehensive strategy had been devised to activate the vaccination drive more efficiently and effectively.
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4. India, China `complete disengagement` of troops from border

- India said on February 21, 2021 that its troops, along with their Chinese counterparts, had completed a pullback from a disputed part of their Himalayan border after months of heightened tensions.
 - Thousands of soldiers have been facing off since April on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), or the de facto border, including at the glacial Pangong Tso lake.
 - The nuclear-armed neighbours fought a border war in 1962 and have long accused each other of seeking to cross their frontier which has never been properly agreed in India`s Ladakh region, just opposite Tibet
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5. IAEA says Tehran to grant `less access`, but will allow it to monitor N-programme

- The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on February 21, 2021 that Iran would begin offering its inspectors less access, but would still allow the agency to monitor its atomic programme.
 - Rafael Grossi made the comments on arrival in Vienna from Tehran. He was careful to say that there still would be the same number of inspectors, but there would be `things we lose`.
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6. Israel buys vaccines for Syria in secret deal with Russia

- Israel paid Russia \$1.2 million to provide the Syrian government with coronavirus

vaccines as part of a deal that secured the release of an Israeli woman held captive in Damascus, according to Israeli media reports on February 21, 2021.

- The terms of the clandestine trade-off orchestrated by Moscow between the two nations remained murky. But the fact Israel is providing vaccines to Syria, an enemy country hosting hostile Iranian forces, drew criticism at home, and stands in contrast to Israel's refusal to provide significant quantities of vaccines to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

7. India distributes \$500m among global terrorist outfits

- India has launched a proxy war against Pakistan by baking global terrorist outfits, deploying a sufficient military in Afghanistan, thousands of paramilitary soldiers and launching a largish aid programme to count benefits for its people.
- Furthermore, the Modi regime had provided helicopter gunships to the Afghan National Army, the first shipment of lethal weaponry to Kabul, had further changed the nature of India's engagement with Afghanistan

8. Shaheen-inspired Qalandars win opener against Zalmi

- Inspired by Shaheen Shah Afridi's incisive bowling and Rashid Khan's cameo, Lahore Qalandars opened their HBL Pakistan Super League 6 season on a successful note when they nailed Peshawar Zalmi by four wickets at the National Stadium on February 21, 2021.
- Faltering as they were in the chase, Lahore Qalandars almost gave way until Rashid soothed their nerves by blasting 27 of the 34 runs he and the self-assured Mohammad Hafeez scored in tandem from 19 balls to take last season's runners up over the line at 143-6 with nine balls to spare

9. Islamabad beat Multan in thriller

- Lewis Gregory came to the rescue of Islamabad United as the two-time former Pakistan Super League winners edged past Multan Sultans by three wickets at the National Stadium on February 21, 2021 night.
- The game three of HBL PSL 6 went to the wire with neither team out of the contest until

the penultimate over, which began with 20 runs still required by Islamabad to overhaul Multan`s 150-8. Man-of-the-match Gregory killed off Multan`s challenge then and there as the England international crunched one six and three fours in that over from ex-Pakistan seamer Sohail Tanvir

10. Djokovic mauls Medvedev to win record-extending ninth Australian Open

- Maybe, just maybe, the thinking went, Novak Djokovic would be just a tad more susceptible to trouble this time around at the Australian Open.
 - After all, he tore an abdominal muscle in the third round and wasn`t sure he could continue to compete. Entering February 21, 2021, Djokovic ceded five sets in the tournament, the most he ever dropped en route to a major final.
 - And to top it all off, he was facing Daniil Medvedev, owner of a 20-match winning streak
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