

Nation stands with armed forces: FM

STAFF REPORT



shoulder to shoulder with armed forces in the war on terrorism. During a visit to the Armed Forces Institute For Rehabilitation Medicine in Rawalpindi on Thursday, he said our valiant security forces have given immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. On the occasion, the Foreign Minister was given a detailed briefing about the Armed Forces Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine.

Criminalizing the criticism ridiculous

DNA



idea" to criminalise criticism, a day after a National Assembly panel approved a

Briefs PM Imran says economy not managed well

Says people still face obstacles when approaching banks for small loans to make a house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Banks in Pakistan are not in the habit of giving loans to people without influence, said Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday. He was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of Farash Town apartments in Islamabad, which is a housing project under the Naya Pakistan Housing programme. The apartments are expected to be completed within the next two years. "People still face obstacles when approaching banks for small loans to make a house," the premier told the audience, explaining that negotiations between the government and banks are still under way. He spoke about going towards automation to make processes, such as going to the Capital Development Authority to get permission for construction or house maps approved, easier. Later, Prime Minister Imran Khan proposed a five-point roadmap to materialize the vision of D-8, which include mobilizing financial resources to recover robustly for the economic and health crises in-

curred by COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing the 10th D-8 virtual summit Thursday, the Prime Minister invited the D-8 leaders to consider his five-point plan and join advocacy for COVID-19 related relief measures to deal with the unique economic and financial challenges faced by developing countries as a result of the pan-

Pak enters int'l capital market after 3 years

COMMERCE DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has entered the international capital market after a gap of over three years by successfully raising USD 2.5 billion through a multi-tranche transaction of 5-, 10- and 30-year Eurobonds. The transaction generated great interest as leading global investors from Asia, Middle East, Europe and the US participated in the global investor calls and the order book.

This is for the first time that Pakistan has adopted a program-based approach with registration of Global Medium-Term Note (GMTN) program. The program will allow Pakistan to tap the market at short notice. The Government intends to make full use of this program and become a regular issuer in the International Capital Markets.

demic. Imran Khan proposed taking concrete actions to achieve target of expanding inter-D-8 trade form currently around 100 billion dollars to 500 billion dollars by 2030.

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SARGODHA: Air commodore Ali Naeem Zahoor, Base commander PAF Base, Mushaf presenting souvenier to Saudi ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al Maliki at the closing ceremony of The Aces Meet 2021 maneuvers. – DNA

Multi-national exercise 'ACES 2021-1' concludes

Nawaf Saeed Al-Malky, Ambassador of KSA to Pakistan thanked Pakistan Air Force for arranging such exercise

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Two-week long Multi-National air exercise "ACES Meet 2021-1" concluded at an Operational Base of Pakistan Air Force. A closing ceremony was held in this regard.

ceremony as Guest of Honour. Air Vice Marshal (Pilot) / Staff Awad Abdullah Al Zahrani, Defence Attache KSA and Colonel Wallin David, Air Attache successful and meaningful USA were also present in conduct of exercise, we the ceremony along with have consolidated our resolve, that we stand by each observers from Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan.

At the same time, Exercise ID-19 situation. He said that ACES Meet has also providsuch exercises increase the ed a good opportunity for us comradeship and profesfor mutual learning." sional excellence of the par-He further said, "With the

ticipants. Colonel Wallin David, Air

Attache USA also congratulated Pakistan Air Force on successful completion of the exercise.

bill that proposes a two-year prison sentence and a hefty fine for those who intentionally ridicule the armed forces. Though Chaudhry did not directly reference the bill in his tweet, his remarks came in reaction to a tweet by senior journalist Mazhar Abbas who, while apparently commenting on the bill passed by the NA committee, wrote that citizens were free to criticise the parliament, politicians and media but the "rest is national interest".

Could never cause harm to PM Imran

KHAYAM ABBASI

Ja



Thursday said he could not even think about "causing harm to Prime Minister Imran Khan". Tareen also denied reports that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) stalwart and leader of the opposition in the Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani had travelled on his plane. "If Yousuf Raza Gilani used Makhdoom Ahmed Mahmood's plane, how is it my fault," the estranged PTI leader asked.



DC Faisalabad inaugurates Insaf Sasta Mobile Shop program – Page 02

PM Khan ensuring rapid economic development - Page 03

Ehsaas pioneers orphanage living standards in the Muslim World – Page 04

> Protect the trees to save the planet – Page 05

Selective invites can make Istanbul moot a success – Page 06

11 killed as Myanmar protesters 'fight soldiers with rifles – Page 07

Denmark's interest in Pak green initiatives lauded - Page 08

Army leadership satisfied with Afghan peace process



RAWALPINDI: Chief Of Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa chairing the Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) at GHQ. - DNA

held formation exercises.

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Corps Conference Commanders Pakistan (CCC) on Thursday reviewed internal security situation including ongoing third wave of COVID-19 and reaffirmed Taresolve of the Armed Forces on to extend full support to civil administration in controlling the pandemic.

The CCC was chaired by ceasefire Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa held here at General Headquarters (GHQ). The par-Pakistan. The Forum reafticipants undertook a comfirmed complete solidarity prehensive review of global, with Kashmiri brethren in regional and domestic secutheir struggle for right to rity environment, said the self-determination. Inter Services Public Rela-The Forum undertook a

tions (ISPR) Director Gendetailed review of security eral in a tweet. He added situation in Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakthat the Forum expressed confidence in operational tunkhwa (KP).

preparedness of the Army The Forum reiterated the displayed during recently importance of energizing early induction of civil ad-The Forum also held a ministration and other Law detailed discussion on sit-Enforcement Agencies uation along the Eastern along with speedy imple-Border and the Line of mentation of development Control (LOC) especialplan within these districts for their ultimate transition ly the environment post understanding to civil administration in an 2021 between the Director earlier timeframe. Generals of Military Opera-

The Forum expressed satisfaction over positive developments in Afghan Peace Process and efforts made so far. The Forum was also apprised about military engagements with friendly countries.

Air Commodore Ali Naeem Zahoor, Base Commander PAF Base, Mushaf was the chief guest at the occasion. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malky, Ambassador KSA to Pakistan graced the

Addressing the participants of the exercise, the chief guest said, "PAF is happy to share its experiences and expertise in the field of Counter-Terrorism Operations with RSAF & USAF.

other as allies and friends." His Excellency Nawaf Saeed Al-Malky, Ambassador of KSA to Pakistan while sharing his views with the audience thanked Pakistan Air Force for arranging such exercise, especially in COV-

ACES MEET 2021-1 featured active participation of PAF, RSAF and USAF participated in the exercise whereas Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan air forces were invited as observers.

Pak, Iraq ink MoU for cooperation

SAIFULLAH ISLAMABAD: Dr. Saleh Hussein Ali Al-Tamimi, Under Secretary for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The Foreign Minister warmly welcomed the Under Secretary and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong and fra-

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said

ternal ties with Iraq. He

Pakistan accorded

Security: Asad Qaiser's Kabul visit postponed

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser's visit to Kabul has been postponed due to security reasons, tweeted Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, on Thursday. The NA speaker was heading a nine-member parliamentary delegation to Kabul on the special invitation of his counterpart Chairman Wolsi Jirga Afghanistan, Mir Rehman Rahmani. The aircraft of the speaker was denied permission to land at the Hamid Karzai International airport "due to a security threat", said Sadiq.

He said "the plane was about to descend when the control tower informed of the closure of the airport. New dates for the visit will be decided after mutual consultations.' According to the data available from the flight tracker Flightradar 24 and shared by an unofficial PIA enthusiast the aircraft circled for some time near Kabul's Hamid Karzai airport, before heading back home However, the information available from the Kabul Airport's online arrivals and departures showed regular flight movement. Chairman Wolsi Jirga Afghanistan Mir Rehman Rahmani and Chairman of the Afghan Senate Fazal Hadi Muslimyar telephoned Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and regretted the postponement of the visit. They said they were looking forward to the visit of the delegation from Pakistan at an earlier date. Speaker Asad Qaiser said he would be visiting Kabul as soon as the security situation improves. - DNA



Vaccination registration for all citizens after Eid Umar terms the coming five to six weeks

tions (DGsMO) of India and

"critical" in Pakistan's battle against the ongoing third coronavirus wave

Shujaat Hamza

ISLAMABAD: Head of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) - the body that is leading Pakistan's fight against coronavirus - Asad Umar, on Thursday said that COVID-19 vaccination registration will be open to all citizens after Eid. According to a report, the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was speaking to senior journalists when he announced the development. Umar termed the coming five to six weeks "critical" in Pakistan's battle against the ongoing third coronavirus wave. Speaking of vaccinations carried out so far, he said that 1.1 million people had been inoculated via the government's vaccination programme, whereas 14,000 people had received a jab through the private sector.

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Pakistan sees highest daily cases since July

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 5,329 new cases of coronavirus, according to the Health Ministry on Thursday, the highest single-day number in the country since July 2020. With new infections, the total number of cases in the country reached 705,517. The country also reported 98 more fatalities over the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll to 15,124. Some 623,399 patients have so far recovered, whereas the number of active cases reached 66.994. Infections have risen sharply in the

Another Milestone, Another Achievement

Airlink has established a state-of-the-art smart phone production facility in Lahore in line with 'Made in Pakistan' vision of Prime Minister which was inaugurated by Mr. Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister of Industries & Production, on 20th March, 2021.

We want to thank our customers, business partners, financial institutions, associates and our team for their trust, confidence and for always considering Airlink as their smart device partner.

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NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Friday, April 09, 2021

Briefs

Two bus stations sealed

DNA

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar during crackdown against the violators of Corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) sealed two bus stations and arrested their managers here Thursday. The officers of district administration along with the officers of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) inspected bus stands in respective areas of jurisdiction and collectively sealed two bus stations and arrested their managers. A cash penalty amounting to Rs.33000 was also imposed on them over violation of the SOPs.

Similarly, 227 commuters' vehicles were also checked in various localities and the owners of 18 vehicles were arrested over not wearing safety masks and a fine to the tone of Rs.149000/- was also imposed on them.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood has directed the operators of bus stations and owners for strict adherence to officially announced SOPs, otherwise, stern legal action would be initiated against them.

12 Ramzan Sahulat bazaars to be set up

DNA

SARGODHA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Shah Rukh Khan Niazi has said that 12 Ramazan Sahulat bazaars would be set up in the district this year to ensure supply of daily commodities to the people at discounted rates.

He was addressing a meeting to review the arrangements for Ramadan Bazars, here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners from across the district, traders, Distributory Council, DO enterprise and concerned officers.

He urged the traders to come forward and play their role in



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finanace Hammad Azhar and Governor State Bank Reza Baqir called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

DC Faisalabad inaugurates **Insaf Sasta Mobile Shop program**

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of District Administration, the "Insaf Sasti Mobile Shop" program has been formallx inaugurated. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali checked quality and presence of rate lists of fruits and vegetables on loader Riksha and departed them to different areas in the city. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Khurram Pervez, Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool, EADA M.Usman besides officers of Market Committee were also present.

Talking to media on this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Insaf Sasti Mobile Shop Program was a revolutionary initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan which aims to provide vegetables and fruits to the



citizens at their doorsteps troduced. at wholesale prices during the month of Ramadan.In this regard 150 Insaf Sasti mobile shops have been in-

He said that registration and branding of mobile shops has been done which will provide essential items at

market rate and essential items will be available at lower rates from Sasti mobile shops as compared to the

The Deputy Commissioner said that the vehicles would be parked at designated places in the city, geo-tagging of the vehicles would be done

'Technology use vital to curb corrupt practices'

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assis-tant to Chief Minister (SACM) on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Thursday that the use of technology was vital for curbing corrupt practices and changing the system. Talking to the media here, she said that it was a very difficult task to introduce technology in the revenue department and change the decades old system, which revolved around the 'patwari'. She said that Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar had started the process of setting up 'Araazi' [land] Record Centres to facilitate people in a transparent manner.

Till now, 115 such centres had been set up at 'Kanungoi' level, adding that 20 mobile units were operational in the field across the province to facilitate senior, the disabled and ill persons, who could not visit the 'Araazi' centres, she added.

Dr Firdous said that 20 more mobile units would be made operational and 8.000 'Araazi' record centres would be computerised till the end of this year.

The SACM said that digitalisation mechanism had been updated and uploaded in 100 tehsils, while the registry process had also been made easy.

Up-gradation of 'Jamabandi' and its printing had been stopped for the last 10 years, she said adding that now 'Jamabandi' would be carried out online on regular basis.

Four killed over old enmity

DNA

SARGODHA: Four persons were shot dead, while three others suffered serious bullet wounds over old enmity in Khushab police limits here on Thursday. Police said seven people including Muhammad Yaqoob,Tahir Iqbal,Nas-

Naveed,Amir Raza,Khan

Muhammad and Israr

Ahmed, residents of Jhagi-

van, were in a market near

Sandral road when three

armed men resorted to in-

discriminate firing at them

sar

Iqbal,Muhammad

general market.

ensuring all possible facilities in Sahulat bazaars during Ramazan.

ADCR said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, all food items will be made available in these bazaars.

KPK's covid positivity rate reaches 12.3%

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra on Thursday said, the province has reported 1,018 COV-ID-19 cases during the past 24 hours at the positivity rate of 12.3pc.

Jhagra in his tweet said, as many as 1,018 coronavirus cases were reported during past 24 hours, while the positivity rate of the cases was recorded at 20pc in five districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Overall positivity stable but still very high," he added. Overall, coronavirus has claimed 98 more lives in Pakistan during the past 24 hours, taking the overall death toll to 15,124. The latest statistics of the NCOC showed the COV-ID-19 has claimed 98 more lives and 5,329 fresh infections were reported during the period. – $\ensuremath{\mathbf{APP}}$

5 more corona patients die in Faisalabad

DNA

FAISALABAD: Five more patients died of COVID-19 in the district, while 204 persons tested positive during the last 24 hours.

A spokesperson for the Health department said on Thursday the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 668 in the district.

He said that 1,150 tests for coronavirus were conducted in public and private sectors labs during the same period. He said that so far 10,215 patients had recovered from the disease while total active cases in Faisalabad reached 3,392.

He said that 220 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital and 106 at the DHQ Hospital for COVID-19 patients. At present, 212 patients, including 138 confirmed ones, were under treatment at the Allied Hospital while 99, including 47 confirmed, were admitted to DHQ Hospital.

Govt taking practical steps to address issues

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday said the government had been taking practical steps to address deprivations of the people and the journey of development would not be stopped as improving the quality of life was top priority of the government.

In a statement, the CM said the people had trusted him and he was firmly standing for the rights of the people. Those who were dreaming of destabilizing the government had been fallen, he said. Similarly, those engaged in the politics of chaos had become a symbol of desolation after their disintegration, he added.

The CM vowed to continue the journey of development, adding that the government was moving forward with the full trust of the people.

Indonesian Consulate General hosts media gathering

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi held a Media Gathering with the press from a number of well-known media in Pakistan. Responding to the challenges of diplomacy amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi continuously develop

and maintain relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, especially in people-to- people diplomacy.

In this meeting, Consul for Information and Socio-Culture conveyed the important role of the press in society, which becomes very relevant especially in today's information age. During the gathering, the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi introduced three educational and cultural programs that are organized by the Consulate throughout 2021, namely Indonesian language classes, KNB Scholarship, and Indonesia Virtual Show. Furthermore, the Indonesian Consulate once again promotes the digital platform "Indonesia Portal" which can facilitate the process and initiatives for coopera-

tion between the people of Indonesia and Pakistan in various aspects, including trade, investment, tourism, education, as well as arts and culture.

and the price magistrates

He informed that 19 Ramzan

Bazars are being set up and

Insaf Sasti Shops are being

set up outside 40 large mega

marts of city where fruits,

vegetables and wholesale

items will be sold at dis-

counted rates. He said that

in Ramzan, the process of

providing quality products

at lower rates as compared

to local market will be moni-

141,200-kg sugar seized

As much as 141,200-kilo-

gram sugar, stored illegally,

was seized by the district

administration here on

Thursday. According to an

official source, a team head-

ed by AC Samundri, Faisal

Sultan raided two godowns

and seized 900 bags of 50-

kg each from the godown of

one Suleman and 800 bags

of 50-kg quantity each from

the godown of Fahad.

tored completely.

would check the vehicles.

these programs will initiate other supporting activities, through establishing collaboration and cooperation with the media and other stakeholders from the two countries

terpreted "Art as a medium

to express, invent and com-

The artists highlighted the

importance of artwork as

a reflection of society and

a source of inspiration for

communication, character

Liberation" mesmerised the

audience as artworks of over

50 artists from across Punjab

had been showcased at the

Zubeida Agha Art Gallery of

the Sargodha University.

Literary Festival continues at UoS

prehend".

Mehboob Ahir

SARGODHA: The second day of the fourth Sargodha Literary Festival (SLF), featuring an online art exhibition and intellectual discussions here at the University of Sargodha (UoS), attracted a large number of people concerned. The day started with a talk on the 'Art and Liberation', moderated by renowned photographer and graphic

designer Ayesha Bilal, while artists from across Pakistan including Dr Ahmad Bilal, Shahnawaz Zaidi, RM Naeem, Asrar Hussain Chishti and Nirmal Bano participated as panelists through 'Zoom'. The participants in-

and managed to escape from the crime scene. Consequently, Muhammad Yaqoob, Tahir Iqbal, Nas-It is hoped that in the future sar Iqbal and Muhammad Naveed died on the

spot, while three others suffered serious injuries. On getting information police and Rescue-1122 team reached the spot and shifted the bodies and injured to DHQ hospital Khushab. Regional Police Officer (RPO) Ashfaq Khan took the notice of the incident and directed the concerned team to arrest the accused at earliest.

16803 senior citizens vaccinated

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: As many as 16803 senior citizens have vaccinated so far in which first doze to 14595 and second doze provided to 2208 old people. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali visited vaccination center at Sports Complex Samanabad and reviewed the process of vaccinating. He checked the sitting arrangements for senior citizens in connection with the corona SoPs. He talked with the senior citizens and asked them about the arrangements.

He also checked the availability of drinking water and facility of washrooms. He directed the duty officers and staff present on the spot to implement corona SOPs in the center.

He said that the centers of Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Samundari New Building, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital New Building Tandlianwala and Rural Health Center New Khurrianwala Building are under constant supervision while a strategy is being worked out to set up a new center in city area. AdCG Khurram Pervaiz, AC Sadar Umar Maqbool and other Officers were also present.

Notice issued to Khusro's brother sugar mill

KHAYAM ABASSI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday issued a notice to the sugar mill of Makhdoom Shehryar, the brother of the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Khusro Bakhtiar, for allegedly selling sugar through the practice of satta (price-fixing through collusion).

Per the notice, the administration and shareholders have been accused of being involved with the satta mafia, adding that the latter is minting illegal money with the help of sugar mill owners.

As the matter surfaced, Minister Khusro Bakhtiar said that he previously had shares in the company but does not have them anymore.

Last month, the Commercial Banking Circle of the FIA had arrested seven people allegedly involved with the sugar satta mafia which persistently increased sugar prices by creating an artificial shortage of the commodity, Geo News reported Sunday. The FIA had recently launched

a crackdown against the sugar satta mafia for its involvement in money laundering. The suspects, who were arrested, allegedly colluded with the sugar mill owners to create the situation. During an operation, three brokers identified as Dayal Das, Santosh Kumar, and Raj Kumar - were arrested first.

In the second operation, four more people were taken into custody for their alleged involvement in the sugar scandal.

According to the FIA, the accused had created different social media forums and fake bank accounts to carry out illegal activities.

Sources at the FIA said that the accused were involved in creating an artificial shortage of sugar because of which the price of the

commodity had skyrocketed. Currently, there are two cases registered against the accused at the Karachi branch of the FIA which were filed in accordance with the Anti-Money Laundering Act. To carry out further investigations, the FIA has also obtained a remand for the arrested individuals from the court.

The FIA had also exposed the sugar mafia's involvement in monetary fraud, speculative trade, and money laundering after obtaining strong evidence.

The sugar mafia earned Rs110 billion in a year by increasing the sugar prices from Rs70 to Rs90 via satta and stashed the illegally-earned money in fake and secret accounts, the FIA said.

Almost all the major sugar-producing groups - some of which belong to major political parties - including Sharif Group, Tareen Group, Alliance Group, Almoiz Thal Group and Hamza Group, were found to be involved in satta, the agency added.

FIA Director Lahore Dr Muhammad Rizwan, while talking to the media on Thursday about the operations against the sugar mafia, said that solid evidence has come to light in the operations via data retrieved from 32 digital devices belonging to the sugar mafia.

He said owing to the sheer vol-

ume of the data gathered, "thou sands of books" can be printed. Rizwan said that 10 cases have been registered against the sugar mafia while 40 people have been identified who "were all in touch

with each other". The FIA had decided to investigate and scrutinise the accounts of prominent members of the sugar satta mafia, and then arrest them after registration of cases under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, said the director. Rizwan said of the "satta" mafia

groups, 10 are from Lahore, while others are located in Multan, Hasilpur, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur.

It was also revealed that the sugar mafia conspired to further increase sugar prices through satta in the month of Ramazan.



HYDERABAD: Artisan busy in preparing traditional cloth at his workplace. - DNA

building and cultural archives while promoting peace, love, tolerance and compassion among all human beings, irrespective of prejudices of caste or class systems prevalent in our society. The virtual painting exhibition on the theme of "Art and



Briefs Recognizing the role of a Muslim woman: IMV

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Chairperson International Muslim Women Union (IMW) Dr. Samia Raheel Qazi said the world community has deliberately shut their eyes on transpar ent and selfless role of a Muslim woman. The global wave of terrorism has multiplied the problems and miseries of Muslim women, she said while addressing online the inaugural session of annual meeting of the Union's Council of Trustees here Thursday. Dr Samia Raheel Qazi said that as focal point of love in our social and family system, woman was always the first victim of any kind of odd situation in the society. She said, women has always played remarkable and piv otal role at forefronts by realizing and performing her responsibilities during all challenges including prevailing Covid pandemic.

Later during the meeting, the participants were apprised about various welfare projects, both in-hand and insight of the Council in different regions besides presenting annual reports by the heads of respective regions.

Gilani files ICA against senate elections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan (PPP)'s People's Party Senator Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday filed an Intra court appeal (ICA) in Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging the results of chairman senate elections. The petitioner had named Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Presiding Officer Mazhar Hussain Shah and



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan performed the groundbreaking of Farash Town apartments in Islamabad under the Naya Pakistan Housing program. Prime Minister Imran Khan was also given a detailed briefing on the program. - DNA

PM Khan ensuring rapid economic development

PM to approach IMF for relaxation in strict terms and conditions which are necessary to provide relief to the masses and deal with the negative impact of the Covid-19 crisis

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said Prime Minister Imran Khan is ensuring rapid economic development amid the third wave of the pandemic. He is also trying to reduce inflation for which the new economic team has been given the task, it said.

The benefit of a strengthened exchange rate will not be limited to the business community as it would be transferred soon to the masses, said Chairman Pakistan Economy Watch Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan.

He said that changes in the Economic Advisory Council and inclusion of noted businessmen in it will improve situation through much needed bold policy and ad-

ministrative decisions. He noted that PM is aware that improved focus on progress in energy, taxation and the agriculture sector is the key to ensure rapid economic development. The PM is now preferring growth over stabilization so that

masses can get employment and relief amid devastation by the pandemic.

He also lauded the decision of

the PM to approach IMF for relaxation in strict terms and conditions which are necessary to provide relief to the masses and deal with the negative impact of the Covid-19 crisis.

The IMF must soften its conditions for the remaining period of the loan to provide the government with room to pursue pro-growth strategies for mass relief, he demanded.

Annually over one trillion dollars find their way from underdeveloped countries to developed nations and tax heavens and Pakistan is no exception.

However, he said some recent steps by the government has not only increased home remittances but also lured overseas Pakistan to invest in their own country which is a very welcome development, he said.

38,142 motorist fined during ongoing year

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued 1, 25,616 fine tickets during the ongoing year to those drivers involved in careless driving on roads. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that as per directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ul Rehman special squads have been constituted to take action against careless drivers putting the lives of others at risk. He also asked to adopt decent attitude with road users and ensure implementation on policy of Phele Salam-Phir Kalam'. a news release said.

He said that all officials have been directed for strict action against such drivers and to ensure steps for safe road environment in the city. He said that directions have been made to ensure renewed efforts for awareness about traffic rules among citizens by ITP education wing. He directed ITP's teams to visit educational institutions to create traffic sense as several students have joined ITP as traffic volunteers. The SSP (Traffic) said that purpose of action against such drivers is to ensure their own as well as others safety. He also assigned task to ITP's education team to present weekly report about its performance.

Dacoit gang busted; two arrested

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

RAWALPINDI: In a crackdown against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a dacoit gang and arrested its two members besides recovering cash over Rs 850,000, gold ornaments worth one million rupees and other items from their possession. According to a police spokes-

others as respondents in his case. Gilani stated that he was elected as senator on March 3, 2021 and then participated in polls of chair man senate on March 12.

He alleged that the ruling parties had used its influence to defeat him in polls. Cameras were also installed illegally in polling booths and the opposition members including Farooq H. Naek and Saeed Ghani submitted complain to secretary

senate in this regard. The petition further said that the presiding officer had rejected seven votes of Yousaf Raza Gilani in violation of law. Gilani prayed the court to turned down the decision of single member bench and declared the decision of presiding officer regarding votes rejection as void. He also prayed the court to declare him as successful in chairman senate elections. It may be mentioned here that a single member bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah had previously dismissed this petition and termed that the courts couldn't interfere into the affairs of parliamen tary proceeding.

Rawalpindi police recover cache of arms, ammunition

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from a car and arrested two accused, said a police spokesman on Thursday. He informed that City police during snap checking recovered cache of arms and ammunition from a suspected car and arrested two accused namely Naseeb Ha-

keem and Obaidullah. He said, SHO City Police Station along with a team party managed to recover three 44 bore rifles, a 223 bore rifle, 10 magazines, 15,500 rounds of 9mm pistol, 46,500 rounds of 30 bore pistol, 1000 rounds of rifle 7mm, 450 rounds of 222 rifle and other items from the possession of the accused arrested during the operation. He informed that a case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway.

the upcoming budget 2021-22

RCCI urges consultation for

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) that the budget for the next financial year 2021-22 should be prepared in consultation with the stakeholders. The Chamber's recommendations should be included in the budget. In a statement, Muhammad Nasir Mirza, President RCCI said that the Pakistani economy is currently facing many challenges. "We demand that electricity and gas prices be reduced to lower business costs." He said traders should not be harassed on the account of documentation and registration. Sales tax rate should be reduced to single digit. Point of sale registration should be

PNCA sets up its regional

office at Gilgit Baltistan

extended. He demanded that interest



free loans on soft terms be provided to business women especially women entrepreneurs and women belonging to cottage industry. A special Covid 19 concession package should also be an-

nounced for women, he said. He referred to RCCI ICS2021 where a joint declaration was adopted which urged the government to take immediate steps in addressing the impact of Covid pandemic.

The tourism sector has been severely affected and a package should be announced for this sector too. Corporate tax rate should be reduced to 20%.

Focus on agro-based industries and form a special task force for food security. Cotton production has been affected. A new policy should be formulated regarding seed procurement. Like the construction package, a concessional package should be announced for other sectors, he added. Nasir Mirza added that for easy business, the FBR should combine all taxes to make filing easier.

WINS EWA elections

AIOU: Pasban group

ISLAMABAD: 'Divine providence has established the system of reward and punishment for just and smoot functioning of this world so that goodness may prevail, and evil is shunned. Progress and development of the institutions is, also, grounded in fair application of the same principle.

The employees who work with an utmost sense of devotion, dedication and commitment not only ensure institutional progress but also promising future for themselves. We will mutually collaborate for raising quality standards of AIOU and for its further progress and development', these views were expressed by Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum during his meeting with the newly elected representatives of Employees Welfare Association (EWA).

He congratulated the new office bearers and assured them maximum cooperation of AIOU administration in resolving legitimate issues of the employees. EWA President, Daleel Khan, Vice President, Raja Sabir, and General Secretary, Muhammad Nadeem, assured the Vice Chancellor, AIOU of maximum cooperation of their association.

Moreover, the newly elected representatives appreciated and thanked AIOU administration for providing peaceful and congenial environment throughout the process of elections and announcement of results. They, further, added that they believe in negotiation and dialogue for peacefully resolving genuine issues of employees. Therefore, they have numinously decided to extend full support to Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum for the betterment of AIOU and its employees. - DNA

PTWS appeals for blood donation

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Thalassemia Welfare Society (PTWS) has appealed the people, particularly the youth, to donate blood to save the lives of thousands of children suffering from thalassemia. PTWS spokesman Muhammad Asad said on Thursday that due to the prevailing lock down situation, hospitals and blood banks have been facing an acute shortage of blood as people have been remaining indoors on the government's orders as part of a preventive measure against the spread of coronavirus.

He said that society was being set up three days blood donation camp from April 11 to 13 at Allama Iqbal Park from 2 pm to 6 pm to collect the blood for children suffering from this deadly disease. - DNA

man, Chontra police in a raid arrested Kamran Khan, ring leader of 'Kami' gang and Danish Ali and recovered cash Rs 850,000, gold ornaments worth over one million rupees and other items from their possession.

He informed that the Police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Chontra Police Station on the directives of SP Saddar conducted a raid and managed to net the gang members.

As per preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. SP Saddar said that other

members and facilitators of the gang would also be arrested following preliminary investigations with the detainee culprits.

The SP also lauded endeavor of Chontra police team for netting the accused.

IESCO issues power suspension schedule

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:On Dated 9th April From 08:30 AM to 12:30 PM KRL, Fazia, Jinnah Camp, Falcon, CDA, FHS, I-8/4, Shakrial, Noor Muhammad, Kurry Road, Khurram Colony, Service Road, Tariq Shaheed , Muslim Town Feeders, On Dated 10th April From 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM K-Block, Mushtaq Hussain, Kala Khan, PMC Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Chakri, Arsalan Poultry Farm, SPD, Pariyal, Tarlai, H-8, Highway, Iqbal Town, Fazia, NPCC-II, SWD, DEC, Hussainabad, Col. Sher Khan, Burhan, Shafi Chauhan, Sarai Kharboza, Pind Parian, ECHS, Sangjani, Shah Allah Ditta, Belout, Taxila, Shaheed, Salar Gah, Bohi Ghar, Fateh Jang Rural, Khanda, Laniwala, Kot Dhamik, Baba Shaheed, New Rawat, Mansoor Shaheed, Mureed, SPARCO, PAF Mureed, Gharial, Mandi Bhalwal, NIH, Golf City, Gadari feeders and surrounding areas will be remain without power.

RAJA PERVAIZ Board member Mr. Taqi Akhunzada were also pres-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Naent at the occasion. Shafqat tional Council of the Arts, Mehmood, Federal Minisopens up its regional office ter NH &CD was also goat GB. The office was foring to be present, however, mally inaugurated by the due to flight cancellation he GB's Minister for Tourism, could not come. He sent a Sports, Culture & Archeolspecial message expressing ogy, and Youth Affairs, Raja his intentions to be actively Nasir Ali Khan on Thursday engaged with GB in future. He said "I am happy that 8th April 2021, Dr. Fouzia Saeed DG PNCA, Mr. Su-PNCA has set up this remair Ahmed Syed, Secregional office at GB. We will tary Tourism, Sports & Culmake sure that we contribture GB, Zafar Taj a cultural ute to the promotion of the personality and Secretary, rich culture of GB through

Agriculture and PNCA's cultural activities. "PNCA's office is located in a small portion of the Sports Complex in Jutial.

complex features This sports and cultural facilities. PNCA has constructed a sound proof audio recording studio within the allocated space, which is fully equipped with latest technology. It is prepared to record all genres of music. The Council intends to talk to the KIU for their interest in setting up a music archives for traditional and modern music of GB.

"Serendipity Saturdays" in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Theatre Wallay in collaboration with Backyard Youth Theatre "Serendipity Saturdays" is in full swing a unique online experience of theatre games and fun activities. According to Theatre Wallay, these weekly sessions being continue every Saturday till May 8 for 45 minutes. "These are free sessions, open for people to showcase their expertise in games activities. After the huge success of pilot project, Theatre Wallay and Backyard Youth Theatre in Boston has collaborated again in Serendipity Saturdays.- APP

CTP provides licensing services to citizens

IBRAR KHAN

computerized driving licens-

RAWALPINDI:City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi provided licensing services to as many as 21,128 citizens during March. According to Incharge Licensing, Saqib Rizwan, CTP issued over 16,154 learner permits during the period besides 1580 new driving licenses. He informed that 2871 old licenses were renewed in March besides issuing 75 duplicate licenses. The licensing branch also issued 64 international licenses to the applicants. The CTP licensing branch renewed 288 licenses of other districts, he said. He informed that the

es are issued under a transparent procedure.

The CTO said, the citizens should directly contact licensing branch of the traffic police and get all required information in this regard so that they could not face any difficulty regarding issuance of driving license. He informed that CTP had launched one window op-

eration system to facilitate the applicants. He said. CTP had made arrangements to adopt all possible precautionary measures against coronavirus and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government to contain spread of coronavirus were being followed in letter and spirit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Narcotics Control, Akbar Durrani (TI) / PAS met with Mr. Jeremy Milsom, representative UNDOC Copak and presented souvenir. - DNA

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Friday, April 09, 2021

Briefs

Visitors violate SOPs on trails: MHNP

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The avid nature enthusiasts of the federal capital are flouting Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) or safety guidelines while hiking in the scenic trails of Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) despite repeated exhortations by Islamabad Wildlife Manage ment Board (IWMB) staff. Chairperson IWMB Rina Saeed Khan first highlighted the repeated violations of the citizens with a snapshot shared by her on Twitter. She wrote, "This picture was taken at the Ficus spring atop the popular trail 5 this weekend (April 4). I was there: not one person was wearing a mask and the trail was crowded. Now tell me should IWMB close this trail on weekends? Staff running around asking people to wear masks, no one listens!" She regretted that the irresponsible attitude of the visitors was cumbersome and tantamount to spread Covid-19 with open arms and jeopardize public health and life at large. An IWMB official told APP that the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board staff deputed at the entrance and patrolling teams on the trails was regularly advising the visitors to wear mask and face social distancing.

Futsal Tournament from today

ISLAMABAD: The Twin City Hafiz Salman Butt Memorial Soccer Futsal Tournament would kick off from Friday (April 9) at Prostar Football Stadium, Bahria Town, Rawalpindi. According to Adnan Ahmad

Malik, Senior Vice President, Pakistan Soccer Futsal Federation (PSFF), as many as 32 teams from Rawalpindi and Islamabad were featur-



RAWALPINDI: Lt. Gen. Nigar Johar presenting a souvenir to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi during his visit to Armed Forces Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine Rawalpindi. – DNA

Ehsaas pioneers orphanage living standards in the Muslim World

This is the first time not just in Pakistan but also across the Muslim World that such a historic initiative has been taken by the government for the welfare of orphans and deserving children

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Thursday unveiled the new Ehsaas' standards for private sector orphanages in a special launching event.

This is the first time not just in Pakistan but also across the Muslim World that such a historic initiative has been taken by the government for the welfare of orphans and deserving children, aimed at minimizing variation in the orphan care and to support private sector orphanages in raising their service standards nationwide.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special As-

sistant to the Prime Min-

ister (SAPM) on Capital

(CDA) Affairs Ali Nawaz

Awan Thursday inaugurat-

ed a dedicated super feeder

for the tube wells, installed

at Pona Faqeera, to ensure

uninterrupted water supply

to the multiple sectors of

After the inauguration, he

told the media that the ded-

icated feeder was meant to

provide constant electricity

supply to the tube wells at

Pona Faqeera which would

ISLAMABAD: Chief Com-

missioner (CC) Office of

Islamabad Capital Territory

(ICT) has directed all the

relevant departments for a

comprehensive crackdown

illegal

schemes to protect public

from real estate sector's

CC office passed the direc-

tions on Deputy Commis-

sioner Islamabad, Registrar

Cooperatives, Director Mu-

nicipal Administration and

housing

against

tricksters.

Authority

Development

Islamabad.

in the country. Predicated under the policy no. 37 of Ehsaas strategy, the 25-point living standards have been tailored to needs of orphan care centers. For the first time ever, a stakeholder committee had been it in place under the umbrella of plementation in the country. Ehsaas by Dr. Nishtar in 2019 to stipulate "Living Standards for Orphanages and Child Care Centers"



eventually ensure round the

clock availability of water

for the residents of different

sectors of Islamabad includ-

He said earlier, the peo-

ple of those sectors were

facing severe problem

of water shortage due to

the load shedding in Pona

The water issue used to be

worsened in those areas

during summer season and

the holy month of Ramazan,

The SAPM said the govern-

ment was striving to resolve

water woes of the people

of twin cities of Rawalpindi

and Islamabad on perma-

directorates concerned of

the Capital Development Au-

thority on receipt of numer-

ous complaints, a senior offi-

cial told media on Thursday.

She said all the departments

concerned were told to step

up efforts to bar illegal hous-

ing schemes' offices from

plot bookings, marketing

and advertisement through

brochures, publication ma-

terial as well as through bill-

boards, hoardings and panaf-

ing G-11, I-9 and I-10.

Faqeera.

he added.

Crackdown starts against

illegal housing schemes

Dr. Nishtar richly lauded the expert committee for their stellar work on the formulation of Ehsaas' orphanage standards and emphasized on the widespread imall committed to delivering the best possible care to children who live in orphanages", Dr. Sania Nishtar remarked.

She added, "With the formal launch of Ehsaas' standards, the

will also oversee continuous improvement by providing private sector orphanages to add value and build on the care their institutions already provide. I am hopeful all orphanages in public as well as

Pakistan has a number of orphanages in the private sector which have been established all over the country. Nevertheless, the care and service provided is of varying quality.

Many of orphanages are managed by the private sector. Ehsaas' standards for orphan care not just look at processes in place but it also looks at whether these deliver what orphans need. Chaired by Nadeem Ahmed Khan Chairperson Khubaib Founda-

tion, the Ehsaas' Orphan Care expert committee had brought together all major NGOs hosting orphanages along with Parliamentarians.

Formally, UNICEF was also part of the committee. The standards that are developed had several iterations and UNICEF and other technical stakeholders have endorsed these standards. The committee formally met 17

times last year, and after taking

Twenty commercial centers sealed

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Anwar ul Haq on Thursday conducted raids at several places to check implementation of COVID-19 SOPs and impounded 23 Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) while 20 commercial centers and seven restaurants were sealed for flouting SOPs.

According to a district administration spokesman, the officers concerned were regularly conducting raids in Rawalpindi city and all tehsils of the district to ensure implementation of the SOPs issued by the Punjab Government to contain spread of coronavirus.

He said, 11 raids were conducted at PSVs during last 24 hours and those found violating the SOPs were imposed fines amounting to Rs 23,600 while 23 vehicles were impounded.

The administration had accelerated its ongoing operation against coronavirus SOPs violators.

He said, 52 public places including parks were checked and Rs 3000 fine imposed on those not following the SOPs.

Similarly, eight bus and van stands were also inspected besides imposing Rs 5000 fines one the violators.

The administration officers checked 30 marriage halls and 78 restaurants and sealed seven restaurants and a marriage hall while fines amounting to Rs 43,500 were imposed for breaching the guidelines of the government issued to contain spread of coronavirus.

10 gamblers arrested; stake money recovered

Shujaat Hamza

RAWALPINDI: Gangmandi police have arrested 10 gamblers and recovered Rs 22.900 cash stake money, six mobile phones and other items from their posses-

sion. According to a police spokesman. Gangman di police acting on a tip off conducted a raid and rounded up 10 gamblers namely Khalid, Muhammad Shan, Hamza Rasheed, Muhammad Azeem, Huzafa Bashir, Muhammad Hamza, Rasheed, Zubair Butt, Kala Khan and Muhammad Ramazan allegedly involved in betting while playing cards. recovered Rs Police 22,900 cash stake money, six mobile phones and other items from their possession.

ing in the event. He said that the Tournament would be played on knockout system as per PSFF rules. "The final match of the tournament will be played on April 11 and prizes will be distributed among the winning teams at the end of the tournament," he said. The tournament was being organized by Islamabad and Rawalpindi Soccer Futsa Associations in collaboration with Pakistan Soccer Futsal Federation. – APP

Dastak drive to focus mosques today

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As part of its ongoing cleanliness awareness campaign 'Dastak', the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) is all set to kick off the next phase of the campaign at various mosques of the city from today (on Friday).

During the campaign, the communication tems of the Company will held meetings with Imam Masaiid and Khateebs of the mosques and ask them to disseminate the cleanliness messages regarding dengue fever in their Khutbat-e-Juma or in other religious congregations

They would also tell the people that public cooperation and participation was essential to make the campaign successful.

The religious clerics would be told to educate the general public about putting their waste in the waste bins or dump it into the waste holders of the company or handover it to sanitary worker.

The mosque clerics would also be requested to follow the SOP's regarding corona i.e. to wash hands with soap for 20 seconds, keep distance, wear mask, avoid gatherings, cover nose and face if there is flue or cough. They were requested to inform the general public that not to burn the waste, dump it in the waste containers or hand it over to the waste specialist of the companies. The helpline number would also be highlighted for any public queries regarding sanitation and cleanliness in their area, registration of complaints or giving suggestions.

"These standards have been laid out by a diverse group of orphanage organizations across Pakistan.

SAPM inaugurates super

feeder for tube wells

initiatives

expert committee will now transit to an observatory role to track the implementation of these quality care guidelines. The committee

nent basis through inclusive

He said two Million Gallons

per Day water supply to Is-

lamabad from Rawal Dam

had been restored recently,

whereas work on bringing

100 MGD water for the Is-

lamabad from Ghazi Brotha

"Water is one of the biggest

problems of the Islamabad

and we are trying our best

to resolve this issue," he

To a query, the SAPM said

initiation of inquiry against

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-In-

saf's senior leader Jehangir

Khan Tareen was an exam-

ple for other political par-

Dam was started.

maintained.

ties of the country.

most 24 years.

wrongdoing.

the past.

He said no one was above

the law in 'Naya Pakistan',

adding this was the change;

the PTI had strived for al-

Ali Awan said some element

seemed perturbed by the

action against Jehangir Ta-

reen as in Pakistan, there

was no culture of punish-

ing their own people for a

The PTI had had a track re-

cord of taking action against

its own people, he added

while citing Aleem Khan as

an example who remained

in custody of the National

Accountability Bureau in

private sector will be able to use these resources to improve the quality of boarding. The philanthropic landscape of

stock of the on-ground situation, finalized these standards which will now be notified and shared with provinces for endorsement.

CDA reviews layout plans of new buildings

ISLAMABAD: DVC, a committee of Capital Development Authority (CDA) regarding the approval of Building Plans Design met at CDA's secretariat in Islamabad on Thursday. Layout plans for designs of 10 new buildings were presented for approval during the meeting. 02 of them were approved, 01 was partially approved, 05 were rejected, 01 approved after the implementation of code of conduct, and another one has given the permission of approval in case CDA's board approves it. During the meeting of DVC, building plan design of plot No. 87,88, block No. 11, Civic Center Gulberg Green was partially approved; Plot No. 38, 40, 46 of Gulberg Green Zone 4 business square and plot No. 72, 73, 74 of street road 6 block business square Gulberg Green Zone 04 were approved. Designs of apartments, and buildings in Capital Residensia at Sector E-11 Golra were set to be considered as approved in case CDA's board would do so. Building plan design of Capital Icon at Loi Bheer was given condition of implementing the code of conduct for approval. Plot No. 69 business square Zone 04 Gulberg Green was approved according to the decision of design adjustment. Building plans of sector apartments and flats at sector E-11 would be approved if CDA's board would do so. The rejected building plans during the meeting include, apartment building's layout for design plan in E-11. - DNA

A case has been registered against all the accused while further investigation is underway.

Superintendent Police (SP) Rawal division appreciated the police team and directed them to continue crackdown against lawbreakers.

IBA files review petition in lawyers' case

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Bar Association (IBA) on Thursday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court pleading to review its decision of demolishing illegal chambers of lawyers constructed on football ground in Islamabad.

The 17-page review petition was drawn and filed by Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa, Hamid Khan and others through Tariq Aziz Advocate-on-Record.

On March 2, the apex court had maintained the Islamabad High Court's verdict to demolish the illegal chambers constructed on Islamabad's sector F-8 football ground and dismissed the bar association's appeal.

The Supreme Court in its decision had ordered the administration to demolish all illegal chambers in two months.

The IBA in its review petition had stated that several applications against the encroachment were pending in the Islamabad High Court.

It is unfair to demolish just the lawyers' chamber and no other structures, the application said.

It further stated that real facts were not presented in the court.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Dr. Fehmida Mirza chaired a meeting on issues relating to veterinary education with VCs of publicsector universities. - DNA

Govt starts upgrading IHITC with 150 beds

In view of the third wave of Covid-19, with unparalleled support from the ministry, IHITC management was able to ramp up the bed capacity to 105 beds

KHAYAM ABASSI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has started upgrading Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) Islamabad with addition of 150 beds, enhancing other facilities

According to ministry spokesman, this 250 bed purpose-built facility for infectious diseases has been serving Covid-19 patients since its

inauguration by the Prime Minister Imran Khan in July, 2020. He added the Ministry of National Health Services took over the facility from January 1st, 2021. Initially only 35 beds were functional with a limited number of medical. paramedical and support staff. In view of the third wave of Cov-

id-19, with unparalleled support from the ministry, IHITC management was able to ramp up the bed capacity to 105 beds.

He said that IHITC now has 52 doctors and a paramedical staff of 86 while 84 patients are currently being treated at IHITC.

The facility now has a total of 55 ventilators, 100 BiPAPs, 250 syringe pumps, 19 infusion pumps, 92 cardiac monitors, 25 portable oxygen cylinders, one ultrasound machine and eight mobile X-Rays units.

He said that initially a 6,000L tank of liquid oxygen was being used for centralized oxygen supply. A master tank of 15.000L is currently being installed in addition to this to ramp up the liquid oxygen

storage capacity.

Pathology lab at IHITC was initially totally outsourced however within a short period of time, with support from the ministry, the management has been able to start indigenous testing becoming self-reliant and economical.

The spokesman said that independent PCR testing will commence soon too while one fully equipped ambulance is stationed at IHITC for transportation of critical patients to-and-from the facility.

In addition, a standard ambulance is also stationed to facilitate patients while a mass vaccination center was established at IHITC on March 16, 2021.

He said that 2,126 people have since been inoculated with capacity to vaccinate 4,000 people daily. He added there are total eight registration counters, 40 vaccination counters, 54 observation beds four emergency rooms, 8,000 vials storage capacity and three ILRs with zero serious adverse effects reported till date.



lexes. - DNA

Reforming police stations

N a sudden move, the Inspector General (IG) of Punjab Police Inam Ghani removed station house officers (SHOs) bearing criminal record. The action on the part of the IG can be seen as an initiative to reform the police department from within. The initiative can help in the uprooting of corruption from the police station. Undoubtedly, the removal of the SHOs is a big step in cleaning up the police force provided more such actions back the so-called reform drive. This is not the first time that police officials with a 'tainted' record have been banned from being appointed as SHOs. Last year, the department blacklisted at least 16 such police officials for their chequered record.

The recent suspension of 61 SHOs shows that the last year's clean-up operation did not serve the purpose of deterrence. In all likelihood, this drive will also not go too far in eliminating corruption from the system. Such action, which according to some police officials is nothing but a gimmick, if not backed by a holistic strategy, will not alter 'thana culture' that symbolises corruption and abuse. It is a fact that the SHO is effectively the leading police officer of an area. Therefore, her/his accountability is of utmost significance. If s/he is corrupt, the entire precinct or station members follow in their footsteps. Admittedly, cities such as Kasur, Faisalabad and Lahore were in dire need of this change. And now that this fundamental and challenging step has been taken, the next efforts should focus on maintaining transparent checks on replacements to ensure that the new SHOs do a far better and cleaner policing. Further accountability can be ensured if cameras are installed in the police stations. Likewise, it is worth recalling the old idea regarding the equipment of cops with body cams to ensure the police serve the public instead of exploiting and abusing them. Lastly, the police department also needs to offer competitive salaries to the officials. Otherwise, dreaming of a corruption-free department is just wishful thinking.

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Careless statements

RIME Minister Imran over the weekend held a twohour long question and answer session with the public, during which he was asked about what steps the PTI-led government had taken to prevent rape and child abuse. What could have been an opportunity to educate the public on how grievous the crime of rape is and all the new steps that the government is taking to curb it and make the country safer for women was completely missed. Instead, the Prime Minister gave some statements linking rape to "vulgarity in society", putting the onus on victims, and brought on a lot of backlash on himself and his government. There is a lot to unpack. This misstatement reflects the lack of good messaging from the government. The Prime Minister could have used the opportunity to bring light to the positive steps the government has taken, with regards to legislation, to stop rape crimes.

Instead, his careless remark not only brought criticism from women's rights groups, civil society and also international media and organisations. These remarks do not fare well for Pakistan's reputation, considering the country has already fallen on the Global Gender Gap Index.

Moreover, the statement reflects an unhelpful approach on curbing rape crimes. Rape is a result of power imbalance not temptation. Rapists control their urges when they have a fear of social and judicial retribution, accountability and conviction. Unfortunately, fewer than three percent of sexual assault or rape cases result in a conviction, according to the Karachi-based group War Against Rape. Statements appearing to blame victims or putting the onus on the women to prevent such crimes also takes away from the social stigmatisation of rape as a criminal act. It is hoped that the Prime Minister will take in account the thoughtful criticisms and make a clarification of his statement. Gender discrimination and sexual abuse are unfortunately a reality in our society, and victim blaming and deflection can only worsen the situation.

Protect the trees to save the planet

Ranvir S. Nayar



Brazil again occupied top spot in terms of the loss of primary forest, with 1.7 million hectares - anincrease of 25 percent in a year and three times as much as the DRC, which was next on the list. The figures from Brazil are hardly surprising, as President Jair Bolsonaro has openly dismissed talk of climate change and has actively encouraged the clearing of vast tracts of the Amazon forests for farming, commercial plantations, businesses and even for housing and roads

XACTLY a year ago, when societies around the world were largely closed down in order to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the first reports appeared of the very positive impact these lockdowns were having on the environment, with the emergence of clear blue skies, refreshed water bodies, and renewed wildlife. By the end of May, there were many more reports and photographs of previously dirty rivers flowing clean again and of people in the most polluted parts of the world experiencing unusually clear views, such as those in northern India who were able to see the Himalayas, more than 200 km away, for the first time in a century.

This sharp improvement in the all-round state of the environment – with cleaner land, water and air – brought about discussions on how the pandemic and its related lockdowns did have at least one positive, even as they cost millions of lives and drove the global economy into the ground. It was said that world leaders should capitalize on the opportunity by pushing for and implementing wide-ranging policies relating to the green economy and sustainable businesses and lifestyles. But by last June it had become clear that the world had learned nothing from its mistakes. Protecting the environment or making businesses sustainable were low priorities globally. Deforestation was high on the list of missed targets for governments across the world, as media reports from countries as far apart as Russia, Australia and Brazil, as well as large parts of Central and Western Africa, told of huge forest fires raging for weeks on end. Last year saw a 12 percent increase in the area of tree cover lost, up to 12.2 million hectares, according to a report released by Global Forest Watch (GFW) last week. The total loss of virgin primary forests, which have existed for millions of years and are among the richest storehouses of biodiversi-

equivalent of an area the size of the Netherlands. The loss of primary forest also led to carbon dioxide emissions of 2.64 gigatons, more than 6 percent of the total for 2019.

Ironically, way back in September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit, countries, companies and international organizations set a goal of cutting the global forest loss in half by 2020 and stopping it entirely by 2030. This was the first goal of the New York Declaration on Forests, a voluntary and nonbinding international declaration to take action to halt global deforestation. It is evident that this target, like almost all other climate-related goals, has been missed by a wide margin.

While the loss of forests due to natural causes like extreme weather, landslides or fires is difficult to predict and control, what is worrying is that, as in the past, the overwhelming cause of deforestation across the world was human actions. The main reasons for this deforestation were logging or the clearing of land for agriculture. Brazil again occupied top spot in terms of the loss of primary forest, with 1.7 million hectares - an increase of 25 percent in a year and three times as much as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which was next on the list. The figures from Brazil are hardly surprising, as President Jair Bolsonaro has openly dismissed talk of climate change and has actively encouraged the clearing of vast tracts of the Amazon forests for farming, commercial plantations, businesses and even for housing and roads. While Brazil has seen deforestation due to its government's own policies, in Africa, notably the DRC, it is the lack of a proper government and a collapsed economy that has caused widespread forest loss. With the country in the midst of civil war and dozens of armed groups ravaging the forests and the people, the DRC's economy has taken

ty, stood at 4.2 million hectares in 2020, the a serious hit, as has the government's grip over the nation. As a result, it has lost nearly half a million hectares of primary forests. There were similar stories among many of the DRC's neighbors.

Fortunately, the GFW report was not all bad news. There are a few countries that oversaw a dramatic drop in forest loss in 2020, notably the Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia and Malaysia. Indonesia saw its rate of deforestation fall for the fourth straight year and, for the first time since GFW launched, it is not in the top three countries in terms of most forest lost. This is partially due to natural causes, such as a very wet season after a few years of drought, but mainly the cut in deforestation is a result of government initiatives, both at federal and regional levels, including a moratorium on new palm oil plantations, which are one of the primary causes of deforestation. The country has also begun efforts to restore its wetlands and forests. The story is very similar in neighboring Malaysia, which also has seen a drop in the rate of deforestation due to government policies. These successes clearly show that it is not impossible to achieve the goal of ending deforestation without causing major economic havoc, as Bolsonaro and former US President Donald Trump have frequently argued. Although humanity has missed its first target for the cutting of deforestation, it is still possible for us to end it entirely if governments use the carrot of incentives and subsidies and the stick of severe punishments for offenders. This would need a concerted global effort. as the timber industry and the trade in other forest goods are global phenomena and one or two governments cannot fight this on their own. It needs all governments, businesses and global bodies to align their policies and put in place the best practices for the protection of forests and also reforestation.

- Courtesy: Arab News

Aiding Palestine refugees is not political

Philippe Lazzarini



The recent attacks on UNRWA - alleging that we teach "jihad" and "terrorism" - are biased attempts to drag a principled humanitarian agency into a highly politicised sphere where it does not belong. Moreover, they incorrectly cast UNRWA students as prone or supportive to jihad and terrorism

OHAMMAD is a seven-year-old boy living in Gaza which in June will en living in Gaza, which in June will enter its 15th year of a land, air, and sea blockade. Like the nearly 300,000 students in Gaza who attend schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), he has been in and out of in-person and remote learning since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago. He battles against electricity cuts every day to receive online educational materials prepared by UNRWA teachers who also struggle to get access to electricity and the internet. Mohammad's right to education remains inalienable even during a pandemic and a humanitarian crisis.

He is just one of the 5.7 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA today, many of whom have faced unimaginable suffering since their ancestors were displaced from their homeland over 70 years ago. The oneyear anniversary of the global lockdown marks 12 months of even greater suffering for Palestine refugees across the region. As commissioner-general of UNRWA, my responsibility is to ensure that Palestine refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, receive the basic services to which they are entitled. And yet, in the past year, UNRWA has been the subject of attacks of unprecedented ferocity and bias.

The charge most frequently levied against us is that UNRWA plays a political role. This could not be further from the truth. UNRWA is mandated to provide direct, vital humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. That is the agency's priority and focus. It does not engage in politics. UNRWA, like all other United bound to the four humanitarian principles (humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence) that are enshrined in two UN General Assembly resolutions.

This means that all UNRWA operations are exclusively driven by the alleviation of suffering (humanity), while ensuring that our response is independent from military and political aims (independence), with no discrimination (impartiality), and not taking sides in conflict (neutrality). Being political is antithetical to being a humanitarian.

Strict commitment to humanitarian principles drives all our positions and decisions. Every UNRWA staff member is trained in upholding the principles of neutrality and non-discrimination and is held accountable and disciplined if found in breach of them. At all 711 UNRWA schools in the region, our students organise in school parliaments and learn about the importance of human rights, equality and tolerance. UNRWA schoolteachers are constantly trained on how to approach critically any educational content that is not in line with UN values. It is a testament to our 28,000 staff and some 532,000 students that they overwhelmingly assert these values even amid emergency and crisis, remaining neutral even during conflicts. The recent attacks on UNRWA - alleging that we teach "jihad" and "terrorism" - are biased attempts to drag a principled humanitarian agency into a highly politicised sphere where it does not belong. Moreover, they incorrectly cast UNRWA students as prone or supportive to jihad and terrorism. There should be no tolerance for stereotyping. Firmly sticking to neutrality and non-discrimination ensures that we can work with all parties to be able to

Nations agencies and international NGOs, is assist and protect Palestine refugees, whether by importing medicines for our 144 health clinics that 3.1 million refugees access each year, obtaining visas for our teachers to attend conferences abroad, or ensuring the sanctity of our buildings in wartime.

As the largest UN or humanitarian agency operating in one of the most complex and longest-standing conflicts in the Middle East, we know better than anyone else the importance of remaining neutral. The ongoing attacks and unfounded allegations against UNRWA are but a political tool to delegitimise the agency and the Palestine refugees that it protects. These attacks seek to draw the focus away from the hardships Palestinian refugees face due to their ongoing dispossession and displacement. In the face of these political attacks, it is the voices of the most vulnerable like Mohammad and his classmates. struggling to learn in the harshest of settings, that are muted. Shaking the foundations of the agency that provides aid to millions of individuals across the Middle East constitutes yet another blow to a highly volatile region.

Just imagine a Middle East without UNRWA and an unresolved conflict. In the absence of a political solution, no UNRWA means no education for half a million children or no health clinics for 3.1 million Palestine refugees a year and mostly, no sense of safety and stability for millions of Palestine refugees who are made to feel increasingly discriminated against, disenfranchised and marginalised. As humanitarians, finding a solution to this conflict does not fall in our remit. But ensuring that the human rights of Palestinian refugees are fully respected and their voices are not silenced, until the international community finds a solution, does.

WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Friday, April 09, 2021

Briefs

Imam Khan, Shadab to return home tomorrow

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Two national men's cricket team players Imam-ul-Haq and Shadab Khan will return to Pakistan from South Africa tomorrow, media reported. Both the players will arrive in Pakistan on the morning of April 10 after participating in the ODI series. Imam to reach Lahore while Shadab Khan will reach Islamabad. Remember, Fakhar Zaman had to arrive back with Imam after the ODI series, however, Fakhar was retained in the T20I squad after stellar performances in ODI series against Proteas. Meanwhile, limited-overs Shadab Khan is returning home after he suffered a thumb injury during the second ODI. The 33-year-old Zahid Mehmood replaced him for Zimbabwe T20Is.

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi witnessing a signing ceremony of MoU on cooperation between the Foreign Service Academies of Pakistan and Iraq held at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. – DNA

Pak, Iraq ink MoU for cooperation

From Page 01

priority to its bilateral relations with Iraq, and was desirous of further enhancing and diversifying these ties in all fields. He hoped that close collaboration between the two countries in regional and multilateral fora will continue to strengthen in the years ahead. Recalling the recent Ministerial visits from both sides, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the importance of maintaining the positive momentum in high-level bilateral interactions.

Conveying warm wishes from the Iraqi leadership, the Under Secretary for Political Affairs thanked the Government of Pakistan for dispatching COVID-related assistance to Iraq in March 2021. He added that this brotherly gesture was well-received by the government and people of Iraq. Dr. Saleh Al-Tamimi welcomed Pakistan's intention to forge closer ties with Iraq, and assured the Foreign Minis-



Selective invites can make

delegates were invited without taking into consideration. This time [in Istanbul], only the influential parties associated with the war and peace should be invited," he suggested.

He added that the Afghan government should be represented as one party with all its institutions, including the High Coun(HCNR), and parties within the government. And this delegation should be headed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

Regarding the Taliban, he said the "insurgent" chief Mullah Hebatullah would be unable to attend the proposed conference due to security and other concerns, but that his deputy should represent the group in the Istanbul conference. Charging the HCNR for wasting huge funds and failing to advance the peace efforts, Hekmatyar said the leading political parties, his Hezb-e-Islami, the Jamiat-e-Islami, the Hezb-e-Wahdat, and former president Hamid Karzai's delegation should all have a sole representative for the sake of fruitful and candid discussion for peace in Afghanistan at the proposed conference.

tanbul should revolve around key points such as the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Outlining his plan for peace, Hekmatyar advocated that a transitional government-led and comprising individuals with a clean background and no political affiliation should be formed for at least a year to hold free and fair elections.

This transitional government should not be a coalition of political parties that have been engaged in fighting against each other for the past 40 years, he added. "Parallel to this transitional government, a high state council comprising the leaders of these factions should supervise this government and oversee fair and just elections via a new commission acceptable to

men involved in the drills,

the two defence ministers

wished them success and

emphasized the importance

of improving the interoper-

ability of the signal troops,

organizing unified commu-

nications and automated

control systems between the

troops, as well as continuing

joint activities in this sphere.

It should be noted that on

April 7, Zakir Hasanov ar-

rived in the drills scene,

visited the field command

posts deployed on the ter-

rain and inquired about the

organizing and progress

of the exercises. The most

modern tactical and strate-

gic communications equip-

ment available in the arma-

ment of the national units

was demonstrated to the

defence minister.

8 year old breaks Indian record

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The eight-yearold Fatima Naseem has reclaimed her elbow strike record in Guinness World Record Book, media reported. Fatima struck 272 strikes by using alternate elbows in one minute. She achieved this record on March 7, 2021.

The record was previously held by India's Kiran Uniyal four months back. She struck 258 times. Kiran broke Fatima's record of 242 strikes. Fatima has dedicated her record to Pakistan Army. Guinness World Records has also released all the details on its website.

It must be noted that Fatima Naseem is the daughter of Martial Arts champion Muhammad Rashid who has set 65 world records for Pakistan.

Vaccination registration for all...

From Page 01

He said that China is the "primary source" of the vaccines Pakistan has been getting, and now after Sinopharm, the CanSino vaccine will also be available after Eid.

"We will be able to vaccinate more than 125,000 people per day after Eid," media quoted Umar as saying.

The minister, according to the report, expressed concern over the rising number of patients requiring critical care, which he said number even more than those reported in the first coronavirus wave.

"Strict enforcement of SOPs (standard operating procedures) can bring down the rising rate of in-

fection," he stressed. Registrations are currently open for all those aged 50 and above, besides healthcare workers.

The government has also decided to offer Islamabad and Punjab citizens over 80 to get vaccinated at home.

of the Hezb-e-Islami party in the "In Moscow, a large number of cil of National Reconciliation He added that negotiations in Is- all with a new system," he said.

hideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar says the selection criteria for delegates could be pivotal to the success of an expected conference in Istanbul on peace in Afghanistan. In an exclusive interview with Turkish news agency, the former prime minister emphasized that only top leaders of influential political parties, Afghan government officials, and Taliban leaders should be invited to the proposed conference in a bid to avoid a repeat of the "failures of the Doha

DNA

and Moscow meetings." "There are many obstacles and opponents of the peace negotiations both within the country and outside," said the 71-year-old head

of the delegates [in Istanbul] is KABUL: Veteran Afghan Mujathe same as it was in Doha, then the result would be the same failwere not invited to Doha.

war-ravaged country.

have been no significant peace talks in Doha since the start of intra-Afghan talks in September 2020, following a historic agreement between the US and the Taliban in February 2020.

ure. The Doha meeting failed because only two parties to the conflict [the Afghan government and the Taliban] were engaged," he opined. "The Kabul government insisted on the continuation of war, as the peace agreement was against its interests," he charged, adding that other influential sides for war and peace in Afghanistan

According to Hekmatyar, there

ter of full cooperation and support. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to enhance high-level interactions, work towards developing frameworks in various fields of cooperation, and hold the 9th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission at the earliest.

Following the meeting, the Foreign Minister witnessed the signing of an MoU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Academies of the two countries, inked by the Iraqi Under Secretary for Political Affairs and the Director General of the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan. The MoU provides a framework of collaboration for capacity building and training of diplomats of both countries. Pakistan and Iraq enjoy warm and friendly ties rooted in shared faith, values and culture. Both countries cooperate closely in regional and multilateral fora. Both countries remain committed to expanding and intensifying bilateral cooperation.

Syria blames Israel for missile attacks

FOREIGN DESK

DAMASCUS: A missile attack near the Syrian capital of Damascus has wounded four soldiers, according to Syria's state media which blamed Israel for the attack. Syria's state news agency SANA, quoting an unidentified military official, said Syrian air defences were able to shoot down most of the missiles before they hit their targets on Thursday. Damascus residents reported hearing at least one explosion. The missiles were fired from the direction of neighbouring Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, state television said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, reported that military posts near Damascus were targets, but gave no further details

Al-Manar TV, of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, said one of the Syrian air defence missiles exploded near the Lebanon-Syria border and was heard in parts of southern Lebanon.

Saudi Embassy lifts **Diplomatic Football Cup**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Embassy became the crown champions collecting a total of 24 points after seeing off Brazil United 6-3 goals in the last fixture of Gerry's Diplomatic Football League at Total Football Ground Islamabad on Thursday. Brazil United dropped from the second spot to the third position with 19 points on the table. The Arab Tent outsmarted Kazakhstan Embassy in the dying moments of the match, winning by 5-4 goals to claim the second position with 21 points. The German Embassy ended fourth with 16 points, while the Kazakhstan Embassy finished fifth place and the Europe Team came last in the League. Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki was present on the final day of the league as chief guest. He was accompanied by Ms. Agnes Pompos, Head of Missions' Relation and Communications of Gerry's Visa, representative of the title sponsor of the league. - DNA



TURIN: FC Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal during a serie A football match between FC Juventus and Napoli in Turin, Italy. – DNA

Qasim named U19 captain

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: All-rounder Qasim Akram has been appointed Pakistan U19 captain for the upcoming tour of Bangladesh, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced. Pakistan U19 is scheduled to play a four-day game and five 50-over fix-

DNA BAKU: The Azerbaijani and Turkish armies started tactical and operational exercises on April 8, the Defence Ministry has reported. The exercises are conducted at combined-arms training grounds located in various directions of the areas of responsibility of the Army Corps of the

Azerbaijan Army. The exercises' main objective is to improve interoperability and increase the combat effectiveness of the operational units of the Azerbaijani and Turkish armies, to develop the skills of military decision-making among the commanders of operational units, as well as their ability to show initiative and control military units, the report added. The exercises will last until April 9. In a separate report, the ministry said that under the training plan for 2021, intensive combat training sessions are conducted with the partic-

ipation of tank units of the Azerbaijan Army. "After mastering theoretical knowledge and studying safety regulations, the tank crews are improving their



practical skills in tactical and firing training as well as in driving combat vehicles, the ministry said.

It should be noted that earlier Azerbaijani Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov and his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar assessed the interoperability between all types of the two countries' troops, the development of joint operational plans, an increase of combat interaction between units and other activities. A direct video conference

was established between Hasanov and Akar as part of the ongoing joint tactical and special drills of the Azerbaijani and Turkish signal troops that are ongoing under the plan approved by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. In an address to the service-

sees highest Turk-Azerbaijani operational daily... tactical exercise kick off From Page 01 South Asian nation of

over 200 million people in recent days, with over 32,000 COVID-19 cases reported in the first eight days of April.

The government has already imposed "broader lockdowns" in high-risk areas, with no movement allowed, except for emergencies until April 11.

Pakistan is currently vaccinating frontline health care workers and senior citizens using Sinopharm, and CanSino doses donated by China.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's Planning Minister Asad Umar, who leads the country's anti-virus response, said over 1 million people have so far been vaccinated.

Imran says economy...

From Page 01

He said it should include measures like simplification of border procedures, enhancing institutional linkages and operationalizing new initiatives.

Imran Khan said Pakistan welcomes ideas like D-8 Payment Card which would enable transactions in local currencies.

The Prime Minister said D-8 should develop a Youth Engagement Strategy focused on promoting cultural, educational, scientific and business exchange.

He said linkages should be established between educational institutions like scholarships, skill development, trainings, fellowships, joint research and exchange program for the vouth particularly in the field of science, technology, and innovation.

Imran Khan emphasized on promoting knowledge-based economy, increase expenditure for research and development and focus on rapid digitization.

He said technological development is a gateway to economic prosperity, particularly in the post pandemic period when reliance of technology would be greater than ever in the human history.

OIC urges member states to back Azerbaijan "The most serious problem in the restoration of the liberated territories and the return of people there is associated with the mine threat," he said

DNA

BAKU: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has called on the member states to support Azerbaijan in the restoration of Karabakh, OIC Secretary General's Assistant for Economic Affairs Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo has said. Sengendo made the remarks at a press conference dedicated to the results of the OIC Contact Group delegation's visit to Azerbaijan's

Aghdam region and Ganja city. "The [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict has ended, but the process of restoring the territories of Azerbaijan liberated from Armenian occupation will take time," he said. He added that the organization will continue to support Azerbaijan. "The OIC has always supported Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. This support is associated not only with the fact that Azerbaijan is a member of the OIC, but also with the country's fair position," he said.

Sengendo added that the OIC will continue to support the work on the restoration of the territories. "We call on all members of the OIC to provide support," he said.

The OIC official said that the work must be carried out to assess the damages caused to Azerbaijan's cultural monuments as a result of the Armenian aggression.

"Big damage has been caused to the cultural monuments of Azerbaijan. The OIC must convey this information to the world community and carry out the work to assess the damage," he said. Mehmet Metin Eker, a member

of the OIC Contact Group, said that after increasing international pressure, Armenia may give mine maps to Azerbaijan.

"The most serious problem in the restoration of the liberated territories and the return of people there is associated with the mine threat," he said.

Eker stressed that Armenia still refuses to hand over minefield maps. "This will be discussed today when preparing a report following a trip to the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. By increasing international pressure on Armenia, it may give a map of minefields. We will focus on this issue," he noted.

The permanent representative to the OIC from Afghanistan, Shafiq Samim, spoke about Armenian destructions on Azerbaijan's liberated territories. "In Aghdam, all settlements and mosques were destroyed. Besides, during our visit

to Ganja, we saw the consequences of the bombing of civilians during the war," he said. He stressed that Azerbaijani President Ilham Alivev informed the world about Armenia's aggression against th Azerbaijani nation before and during the war.

"We support the president's position. I'll make efforts to spread information about what I saw in the Afghan media," added Samim. The Gambian deputy ambassador to the OIC, Abu Bakr Jah, also shared views about great destructions by Armenian on liberated "On Azerbaijan's liberatlands. ed territories, we saw destroyed mosques, everything was ruined. Attempts were made to completely destroy life here, but this was not achieved. Life will be restored, here again, people will return to their homes," he said.

The deputy ambassador said that

the perpetrators of crimes committed on Azerbaijani territories must answer before international iustice. Diibouti's permanent representative to the OIC, Dya-Eddine Said Bamakhrama, voiced similar opinions

"The OIC includes 57 countries. We visited the liberated territories for the first time and witnessed heavy destruction. Aghdam was razed to the ground," he said. He said that during the trip, the delegation members also met people, who had been affected by the 44-day war. "We visited Ganja and saw the destruction from Armenian missile strikes on the city (during the war). Our goal was to familiarize ourselves with the situation on the spot," he added. The OIC official noted that the or-

ganization will support Azerbaijan to restore Karabakh.

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Brazil finds new virus variant

WEB DESK

SAO-PAULO: Scientists in Brazil have discovered a new variant of coronavirus that combines 18 mutations, rubbing salt in the wound of the South American epicenter.

The new strain from Belo Horizonte city "has characteristics in common with the variants that were already circulating in Brazil but it also has new charac-teristics," Virologist Renato Santana from the Federal University of Minas Gerais told local daily G1 on Wednesday.

"It is as if these variants were evolving," Santana said, adding the new variant includes the same genes modified by Brazil's Manaus, known as P1, Brit ish and South African variant. Noting that it is early to assess whether the new strain more transmissible or deadly, he said that it has mutations in common with variants that are already associated with a higher risk of death.

The new super variant made headlines at a critical time when Brazil registered record-high single-day COV-ID-19 deaths with more than 4,000. The grim milestone points to an uncontrolled advance of the virus in Brazil, which accounts for one-quarter of the world's daily virus-related deaths, although it only accounts for 2.7% of the global population.

Turkey, Uzbekistan aim to enhance trade

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: Turkey and Uzbekistan aim to enhance their bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion, the Turkish trade minister said on Thursday.

Ruhsar Pekcan, who met her Uzbek counterpart Sardor Umurzakov in Tash kent, said the countries can achieve the target with a



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on commerce & investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with Bernhard Schlagheck, German ambassador, - DNA

11 killed as Myanmar protesters 'fight soldiers with rifles'

The military, which is hunting some 120 celebrities for speaking out against the coup, arrested a prominent actor, singer and model, according to his sister

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: At least 11 people have been killed in a northwestern town in Myanmar, local media reported, as security forces cracked down on anti-coup protesters who fought back with hunting rifles and firebombs.

The Myanmar Now and Irrawaddy news sites said on Thursday that six truckloads of troops were deployed to quell a huge protest in the town of Taze on Wednesday. When the protesters fought back with guns, knives and firebombs, five more truckloads of troop reinforce-

ments were brought in. Fighting continued into Thursday morning and at

ing the restoration of Aung least 11 protesters were San Suu Kyi's government, killed and about 20 wound-AAPP said

There was no word of any In Yangon, the country's casualties among the solcity, activists biggest diers. That would take the placed shoes filled with toll of civilians killed by flowers to commemorate security forces to over 600 dead protesters.

The military, which is huntsince the Myanmar miliing some 120 celebrities tary seized power from the elected government of Aung for speaking out against the San Suu Kyi on February 1, coup, arrested a prominent according to the Assistance actor, singer and model, according to his sister. Paing Association for Political Pris-Takhon, 24, was taken from Taze is near the town of his mother's home in the Kale, where at least 11 peo-North Dagon area of Yangon early Thursday, his sisple were killed in a similar clash on Wednesday, acter Thi Thi Lwin posted on cording to news media and Facebook."As he's seriously ill, they arrested him calmly witnesses. Security forces fired live rounds, grenades, without violence. We do not know where he's taken," she and machine guns on protesters who were demandadded. Thi Thi Lwin said

the actor had been suffering from malaria and a heart condition. The country's most famous comedian, Zarganar, was also arrested on Tuesday, media reported. AAPP has said 2,847 people

were currently being held in detention. Overseas, diplomatic tussles re-emerged on Wednesday. Myanmar's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Kyaw Zwar Minn, said he had been locked out of the embassy, with sources saying his deputy had shut him out and taken charge on behalf of the military. Kyaw Zwar Minn has broken

ranks with the ruling military in recent weeks, calling for the release of detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "It's a kind of coup, in the working of hospitals, the middle of London... you can see that they occupy my building," he told Reuters news agency.

schools, roads, offices and

"CDM is an activity to de-

stroy the country," he said.

Fitch Solutions, a consult-

ing company, said in a re-

port that Western sanctions

targeting the military were

unlikely to succeed in restor-

ing democracy, but said the

It predicted a violent revo-

lution pitting the military

against an armed opposition

comprised of members of

the anti-coup movement and

army was losing control.

factories.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Thursday condemned the "bullying actions of the Myanmar military regime" and praised the ambassador's "courage". But it was unclear what, if anything, the UK could do about the move.

There have also been similar counterclaims in embassies in other global centres and at the United Nations.

ethnic militias. Meanwhile, Senior General "The escalating violence on Min Aung Hlaing, the leader civilians and ethnic militias show that the Tatmadaw of the coup, said in a state-(military) is increasingly ment on Wednesday that losing control of the counthe civil disobedience movetry," it said. ment, or CDM, had halted

Turkev reports highest daily covid cases

Islamabad **POST**

Friday, April 09, 2021

MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: Turkey recorded 54,740 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, health ministry data showed late on Wednesday, the highest daily cases since the start of the pandemic.

The latest daily death toll was 276, also the highest since the start of the outbreak, bringing the cumulative toll to 32,943.

Turkey has carried out nearly 17.97 million vaccine inoculations, with some 10.55 million people receiving a first dose, since it began the nationwide rollout of COVID-19 shots on January 14, health ministry data showed.

In late March, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a tightening of coronavirus restrictions, including the return of full nationwide weekend lockdowns during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which starts on April 13.

Out of the country's 81 provinces, 58 are marked as "red" or "very high-risk" zones, including the cultural and economic hub of Istanbul and the national capital, Ankara.

Communal meals during the holy month of Ramadan observed by Muslims have been prohibited, as was the case last year.

Putin, Merkel discuss situation in Donbas

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the situation in Donbas, eastern Ukraine, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in a phone talk on Thursday.

Both Putin and Merkel voiced concern over the rising tensions in the southeast of Ukraine, the Kremlin said in a statement.

"Vladimir Putin drew attention to the provocative actions of Kiev, which has recently purposefully escalated the situation on the line of contact. The need for the Kiev authorities to strictly implement the previously reached agreements was stressed, first of all, to establish a direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk and to legally formalize the special status of Donbass," it said. The parties to the conflict were called upon to exercise restraint and intensify the negotiation process to fully implement the 2015 Minsk Agreement as a non-alternative basis for a settlement, it said. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further close coordination of efforts between Russia and Germany, including in the Normandy format - Germany, France, Russia, and Ukraine - through political advisers and the foreign ministries. Putin and Merkel also spoke about the humanitarian sitnation in Svria welcomed the establishment of state institutions for the transition period in Libya, and stressed the necessity to ensure stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PCE provides great opportunity

KSA reaffirms

ing terrorism, extremism and intolerance.

commitment to

combat terrorism

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to the

United Nations Ambassador Abdullah Al-Muallimi affirmed

that the Kingdom a is proud of its prominent role in combat-

He added, "As we are aware of our responsibility in combat-

ing terrorism as a major player in the international order,

we aim to strengthen dialogue between followers of religions

and stand against all extremist ideologies and terrorist at-

tacks that seek to destabilize the security of our region and

our world." In the Kingdom's speech delivered Tuesday dur-

ing the virtual ceremony organized by Bahrain's permanent

delegation to the United Nations on the occasion of the sec-

ond anniversary of the World Day of Conscience, Al-Mualli-

mi said: "It is always at the forefront of countries promoting

a culture of peace. "And the Kingdom, as an active member

of the United Nations, spares no effort to promote respect

and coexistence among people and to play the role of media-

Authority Members and Sen-

3. SAPM emphasized on

the collaboration of a policy

maker and the regulator for

the implementation of fair

and transparent regulatory

4. Chairman OGRA, Mr. Mas-

roor Khan assured SAPM

that OGRA will operate with-

in its laid down regulatory

framework with efficiency,

transparency, specially en-

forcing "ease on doing busi-

ness", while watching con-

5. The SAPM on Petroleum

categorically emphasized that

a regulator should work ac-

"The US move to send warship to

sail through the Taiwan Strait and

hype it publicly is an old trick to 'ma-

nipulate' the cross-Strait situation,"

Senior Colonel Zhang Chunhui, the

spokesman for the Chinese People's

Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern

Theatre Command, said in a state-

ment. "China is firmly opposed to

The US earlier defended its latest

naval activity calling it a "routine"

"The ship's transit through the

Taiwan Strait demonstrates the

US commitment to a free and

open Indo-Pacific. The United

States military will continue to fly,

sail, and operate anywhere inter-

national law allows," the US Navy

said in a statement.

that," he said.

transit.

framework.

sumer interest.

ior Management. - OGRA

tor for the peaceful settlement of disputes."- DNA

balanced trade based on a win-win approach. She recalled that the trade volume between the country is currently around \$2 billion.

Umurzakov, for his part, welcomed Pekcan's visit and said the two sides will find solutions to the existing problems and improve their relations.

Sri Lanka arrests 'Mrs World' over assault

FOREIGN DESK

COLOMBO: Colombo police on Thursday arrested the current "Mrs World" on charges of assault over an on-stage fracas in which she pulled the crown off the head of the new "Mrs Sri Lanka".

Caroline Jurie yanked the crown off Pushpika de Silva minutes after she was de clared "Mrs Sri Lanka 2020" in a Sunday gala at Colombo's Nelum Pokuna theatre. Jurie was the previous year's "Mrs Sri Lanka" and had gone on to win the "Mrs World" competition organised by a California-based company.

De Silva needed hospital treatment after the incident, seen by stunned spectators in a packed venue as well as a live social media audience. "We have arrested Jurie and (her associate) Chula Manamendra in connection with a charge of assault and causing damage to Nelum Pokuna (theatre)," senior police official Ajith Rohana said. De Silva told reporters outside a police station in Colombo Thursday that she was ready to drop the

charges if Jurie made a public apology, but she had refused. "I tried to end this out of

court, but she has refused," de Silva said. "I can forgive, but not forget.

Police said a court hearing was fixed for April 19 and Jurie and her associate who crashed the stage on Sunday were released on bail Thursday. Neither of them nor their lawyers spoke to reporters outside the police station. Towards the end of Sunday's ceremony, Jurie had claimed that de Silva was divorced and therefore ineligible for the prize.

for promoting Pakistani trade

tional markets,

from May 7 to 10.

China announced that it will

ed. the media said.

oners (AAPP).

DNA

BEIIING: China International Consumer Products Expo (CIPCE) that is a regular process will provide great opportunities to Pakistani businessmen to attract Chinese market. Media reported on Thursday quoting government officials that the first CIPCE focuses on the strategy of expanding domestic demand, bases on the location

advantages of Hainan Free Trade Port, and aims to connect domestic and interna-

Hainan. The officials stated this as The expo will cover an area of 80,000 square meters hold such an expo in Haikou and feature fashion, jewelry, food and supplements, hospitality and professional Around the construction of services.

Hainan international tourism consumption center, The organizer will invite the expo will not only proworld-renowned consumer vide exhibition and trading goods brands to participate opportunities for consumer in the expo to build a highproducts from various counend trading platform with tries to enter the Chinese multiple forms of business market, but also create a and categories. It is expectplatform for high-quality ed to be the largest conproducts from China and sumer products exposition other countries to sell globin the Asia-Pacific region, ally, said Shen Danyang, according to organizers. The expo's international executive vice-governor of

exhibition area will cover 60,000 square meters, accounting for 75 percent of the total venue area. It features 1,165 brands by 630 exhibitors from 69 countries and regions, with Switzerland serving as guest country of honor.

On June 1, 2020, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the Master Plan for the Construction of Hainan Free Trade Port, which proposed that overseas exhibits would enjoy duty-free import and sales during CICPE.

SAPM visits OGRA head office and meets Chairman

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Petroleum, Mr. Tabish Gauhar visited OGRA head office and met the Chairman, Authority Members and Senior Management. the senior management, emof a policy maker and the regulator for the implementation of fair and transparent regunot only facilitate the regulatees but also bring in efficien-

cy, productivity and competitiveness within the Oil and Gas sector. SAPM categori-

cally pointed out that a regulator should work accordingly to its mandate and take decisions independently. Chairman OGRA, Mr. Masroor assured SAPM that OGRA will operate within its laid down regulatory framework with almost efficiency, transparency, specially enforcing "ease on doing business", while watching the consumer interest. The Authority members also thanked the SAPM on his in-

spiring thoughts. TV Tickers: 1. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum (SAPM), Mr. Tabish Gauhar visited OGRA head office. - OGRA 2. Mr. Tabish Gauhar met

cordingly to its mandate and with the Chairman OGRA,

Javad Zarif meets with President of Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met and held talks with the President of Turkmenistan Berdimuhamedow on Thursday.

Zarif met and held talks with President Berdimuhamedow in Ashgabat on the final step of his visit to Central Asian countries.

Describing the dimensions of relations between the two states in various political, economic, and cultural areas, Zarif emphasized the importance of relations between the two neighboring countries.

Supporting the two countries' relations in different political, economic, and cultural fields, President Berdimuhamedow also stressed his country's determination to develop cooperation between the two nations.

Zarif, who is on a visit to Central Asia, had different meetings with top-ranking officials from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. He said that on the third leg of his regional tour in Kazakhstan, he have had "substantive and fruitful" meetings with President Tokayev and FM Tileube. – APP

US warns China over 'aggressive' moves

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has warned China against what the Philippines and Taiwan see as increasingly aggressive moves, reminding Beijing of Washington's obligations to its partners, as the two rival powers step up their naval

activities in the South China Sea. "An armed attack against the Philippines' armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific, including in the South China Sea, will trigger our obligations under the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters on Wednesday. "We share the concerns of our Philippine allies regarding the contin-

ued reported massing of PRC maritime militia near the Whitsun Reef," Price said, referring to the People's Republic of China.

HANOI: Ambassador of Pakistan to Vietnam Samina Mehtab had

a meeting with Saadi Salama, ambassador of Palestine & Dean of the

Diplomatic Corps in Hanoi. - DNA

More than 200 Chinese boats were first spotted on March 7 at Whitsun Reef, about 320 kilometres (200 miles) west of Palawan Island and within the Philippines's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Since the first reported sighting,

the vessels have scattered across a wider area of the South China Sea within Manila's EEZ as defined by the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague. For weeks, Manila has called on

Beijing to withdraw the "maritime militia" vessels, saying their incursion into the Philippines's EEZ is illegal as defined by the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague. China - which claims almost the entirety of the resource-rich sea - has refused, insisting they are fishing boats sheltering from bad weather

and are allowed to be there. In response, Manila warned that the presence of the vessels could ignite "unwanted hostilities" between the two nations.

Tensions have also risen with Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of China, with the self-governing democracy on Wednesday reporting that 15 more of the mainland's planes crossed into the island's air defence zone.

Taipei warned that it would defend itself "to the very last day" if necessary. On Monday, the Chinese carrier, Liaoning, also led a naval ex-

ercise near Taiwan, and Beijing said that such drills will become regular occurrences.

Price, the US spokesman, voiced "concern" about the Chinese moves, saying: "The United States maintains the capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardise the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan." He was using language from the

Taiwan Relations Act, under which the US is obliged to provide the island with the means to defend itself against Beijing.

The US issued the latest statement as Beijing confirmed that it had tracked the USS John McCain destroyer that sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday.

take decisions independently.

Mr. Tabish while speaking to phasized on the collaboration latory framework, which will



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Briefs Govt making efforts to control inflation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Senator Shibli Faraz Thursday said the government was making all-out efforts to control inflation.

The government's performance in other economic sectors was good and it was focusing on institutional reforms to provide maximum relief to the masses, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Shibli Faraz said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had tried to create hurdles in the way of the government, which was taking many initiatives for public relief and welfare. The so-called alliance of the opposition parties was now 'buried' with its 'dirty and negative politics', he added. The plunderers of national wealth, he said, had gathered under the umbrella of PDM, who failed in their endeavours to dislodge the elected government as their reprehensible politics aimed at political gains, was rejected by the people.

Shibli Faraz said today all the national institutions were independent, which were carrying out investigations against corrupt elements without any discrimination. "Nobody is above the law," he added.

U.S. Chargé d'affaires visits Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chargé d'affaires a.i. Angela Aggeler visited Gwadar on April Aggeler was the first U.S. official to visit Gwadar in 15 years, and this was her second trip to Balochistan Aggeler highlighted U.S.-Pakistan cooperation on maritime security, increased commercial and economic ties between the United States and Balochistan, and promoting prosperity in Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Lis Rosenholm calls on Minister of State for Climate Change, Zartaj Gul. - DNA

Denmark's interest in Pak green initiatives lauded

"Both sides agreed to boost bilateral cooperation and joint working for learning from each other's green initiatives related to forestry, renewable energy, energy efficiency, vertical gardening initiatives and water management"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul lauded the Danish government for its interest in Pakistan's green initiatives and furthering it through enhanced collaboration in the shape of transfer of technology and capacity-building of the relevant sectors for effective implementation of the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision.

Danish Ambassador Lis

Rosenholm on Thursday

called on Minister of State

Gul Wazir and conveyed

her government's interest

to join and support various

Climate Change Zartaj

to deepen further Pakiunder the Prime Minister stan-Denmark relations Imran Khan's vision for through enhanced cooperation and collaboration in, among others, forestry, "Both sides agreed to boost renewable energy, water bilateral cooperation and joint working for learning and disaster management from each other's green inthrough jointly working itiatives related to forestry, towards Prime Minister's renewable energy, energy world-acclaimed vision for efficiency, vertical gardening clean, green and climate-reinitiatives and water mansilient Pakistan," he added. agement," Climate Change Danish ambassador told the Ministry media spokesperstate minister Zartaj Gul son Muhammad Saleem that Danish government, Shaikh said in a press statewhich is committed to globment while sharing varial climate and environmenous aspects of the bilateral tal sustainability actions, is meeting held at the climate deeply appreciative of the

green initiatives launched

Clean Green Pakistan.

change ministry

"However, the Danish Am-

bassador and minister of

Ambassador was also impressed with Clean Green Pakistan programme and various green projects initiated under the vision. specially one of the world's largest ambitious 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP) Ecosystem Restoration Initiative for promotion of nature-based solutions, Protected Areas Initiative for conservation and protection of the environmentally-sensitive and biodversity-rich wildlife areas. She also informed the minister that Denmark is a world leader in fighting climate

neutrality targeted already by 2050. During the meeting, the Danish envoy Lis Rosenholm extended her government's offer to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with climate change ministry in Green Framework for enhanced bilateral collaboration in environmental, climate change, renewable energy, water management and forestry sectors for supporting Pakistan's green initiatives. "We are very much honoured to receive the offer for signing agreement with the Danish government for boosting cooperation in the forestry.

vertical gardening, urban forestry and would sign the MoU after go-ahead from the Prime Minister Imran Khan," Zartaj Gul told media after the meeting. While sharing details of Pa-

kistan's green projects being implemented under the environmental leadership of PM Imran Khan, she told the Danish ambassador that the climate change ministry was implementing several globally-acclaimed flagship programmes and projects in technical support with the international UN organ-

isations including United

Pakistan for joint efforts to deal with challenges

BUREAU REPORT

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called for collective efforts to deal with various challenges including that of COVID-19.

Addressing the tenth Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram stressed that vaccines must be made available to everyone and everywhere.

He said we must understand that no one will be safe until everyone is safe.

The Pakistan envoy called for mobilizing national and international efforts especially finance to recover from the recession which has been induced by the pandemic and to revive the prospects of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Munir Akram said the commitments made at the Paris Conference to mobilize one hundred billion dollars in climate finance annually must be fulfilled to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and ensure transition to a green global economy.

Govt notifies office timings for Ramazan

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday notified new timings for public offices during the holy month of Ramazan, which is expected to begin from April 14.

In this connection, Cabinet Secretariat Establishment Division has issued a notification confirming two different time slots for offices working for five and six days a week.

As per the notification, public offices under the federal government working five days a week (Monday to Friday) will operate from

Pakistan HC issues 1,100 visas to Sikh pilgrims

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: The High Commission of Pakistan in India has issued 1,100 visas to Sikh pilgrims to participate in the annual Baisakhi celebrations being held from April 12 to 22.

Under the framework of the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, a large number of Sikh Yatrees from India visit Pakistan to observe various religious festivals every year. The issuance of pilgrimage visas is a part of the Government of Pakistan's efforts to facilitate visits to religious shrines and its commitment to faithfully implement bilateral protocol in this regard.

Bilawal urges to accept all demands of employees

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman Paki-

stan Peoples Party Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari has asked

to accept all the genuine

demands of its employees

without any delay and ex-

pressed sympathy and sol-

idarity with the provincial

government employees who

are on the streets under a

In a press statement issued

here, the PPP Chairman

said that people of Pakistan

are reeling under unbeara-

ble inflation generated by

the selected regime of Im-

ran Khan and it has become

very difficult to survive for

the poor employees like the

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari ex-

tended support to all the

genuine demands of the em-

ployees of Balochistan gove.

downtrodden people.

mass protest nowadays.

Balochistan

government

President approves ordinance ending HEC autonomy

Appointment of the HEC chairperson will be for two years and the members of HEC will be appointed for four years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has approved Higher Education Commission Amendment Ordinance 2021, formally ending the autonomy of the commission. According to details, now all decisions of Higher Education Commission (HEC) will be subject to approval of Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, appointment of the HEC chairperson will be for two years and the members of HEC will be appointed for four years.

Earlier on March 27, government removed Chairman HEC Dr. Tariq Banuri before the expiry of his term. A formal notification issued in this regard stated "In terms of sub-section (5), read with sub-section (5A), of Section 6 of Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002, as amended vide Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021,

Dr. Tariq Danuri has ceased to be the Chairperson, Higher Education Commission forthwith and is accordingly removed from the said post, with immediate effect". Banuri was appointed at the position by former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in May 2018. He was to complete his tenure in May 2022.

stimulating vision of PM Khan for Clean Green and environmentally-sustainable state Zartaj Gul resolved and resilient Pakistan.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was

held between Hamad Obaid

Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Am-

bassador of the United Arab

Emirates to Pakistan and

Khalid Taimur Akram, Ex-

ecutive Director, Center for

Global & Strategic Studies

During the meeting, it was

decided that CGSS will collab-

orate with various think tanks

and institutions in the United

Arab Emirates to enhance

the bilateral ties of both coun-

It was agreed that CGSS

and the Embassy of the

the field of research, and

seminars/conferences will be

As this year marks the 50th

Anniversary of Pakistan and

the United Arab Emirates of

arranged for cooperation.

Emirates,

work in

Arab

Islamabad will

(CGSS), Islamabad.

tries.

United

change. We aim to reduce country's carbon emission to 70% by 2030 (below its 1990 levels), with carbon

environment. restoration, renewable energy, water conservation.

UAE embassy, CGSS discuss cooperation

Nations Development Pro gramme and UN Food and ecosystem Agriculture organisation and the World Bank.

10 am to 4 am for the first four weekdays and will close down at 1 pm on Friday. Similarly, the government of-

fices working six days a week will operate from 10 am to 3 pm. The offices will close at 1:00 pm on Friday. Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Fawad Chaudhry predicted on Saturday that the Ramadan moon will be sighted on April 13.

The moon of Ramadan, 1442 AH will be sighted on the evening of April 13, 2021, and the first Ramadan will be on April 14, Fawad Chaudhry tweeted. The moon will be clearly sighted in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and other parts of the country, the minister had said.

NA-75 polls: ECP issues SOPs for polling staff

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Election Commission of Pakistan issued stan-dard operating procedures (SOPs) for polling staff to conduct the by-polls on the Daska NA-75 seat scheduled for April 10. The presiding officer (PO) and assistant presiding officer will have a smartphone, according the ECP announcement. If the PO does not have a smartphone, the assistant PO will be appointed in his place. It has to be ensured that the location service feature of the smartphone is enabled, the ECP said, adding that the PO is to send a picture of Form 45 to the ECP and RO.

The location feature should stay active even while taking the picture of Form 45, the ECP statement reads.

Polling agents are to be present when the picture is being taken. In case of a network connection failure, the PO has been told to immediately reach the election office.

The POs have been instructed to submit the polling record, including Form 45, on time. The RO, meanwhile, is tasked with making all the forensic details part of the record. The NA-75 constituency has more than 823,000 voters and the turnout in the last three elections has remained over 55%

diplomatic ties, CGSS and the ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador Embassy of the United Arab of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, and Khalid Taimur Akram, Emirates will jointly take Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), arrange various activities to posing for a picture. - DNA celebrate this historic event.

Accordingly, a comprehensive yearly Training Plan for 2021 was devised to ensure continued professional development of its officers/officials and Prosecutors

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has said that NAB accords top priority for training/capacity building of its Investigation Officers and Prosecutors on modern lines as training is a continuous process which is an effective tool for improvement and maintaining the quality of Investigation Officers and Prosecutors.

He said this while chairing a meeting to review the performance of the Training and Research Division of NAB at NAB Headquarters on Thursday. According to a press statement issued after the meeting, Justice Javed Iqbal said that NAB is an

apex anti corruption organization of the country which has assigned the mandate of eradication of corruption and corrupt practices from the country. He said that this requires an extremely dedicated and highly trained man He said that NAB attaches great

importance to its Human Resource Development. Accordingly, a comprehensive yearly Training Plan for 2021 was devised to ensure continued professional development of its officers/officials and Prosecutors. In order to ensure successful implementation of the Training Plan, it is equally important that trainers are fully capable and geared up to undertake this responsibility. He said Training Cells have been

created at all Regional levels are primarily responsible to liaise



and carry out the planned activities in their respective Regional Bureaus. Therefore, the Training of Trainers (ToT) program was organized by the T&R Division NAB at NAB Headquarter. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman

NAB said that NAB gives top priority to the training of its Investigation officers/ Prosecutors. He said that NAB recognizes the centrality of training as a tool of improvement and maintaining the quality of its manpower.

He said that a standardized syllabus for all investigation officers, refresher and capacity building courses on Accounts matters, General Financial Rules, FR, SR, Digital Forensic Questioned Documents and Fingerprint Analysis has been formulated by NAB to ensure quality and uniformity.

It will help NAB in achieving standard application of SOPs, Laws and rules. The performance objectives of training programs will also be continuously evaluated so as to form a basis for subsequent review and improvements in future training needs.

The Chairman NAB said that a state of the art Forensic Science LAB has been established in NAB. The Forensic Science LAB has the capacity to conduct analysis in the fields of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents; Fingerprints analysis so that investigation officers and prosecutors may utilize Forensic LAB facilities in order to investigate cases within stipulated time period as per law. He said that NAB has established

Anti Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Cell in Islamabad. The main responsibilities of the Cell shall include compliance, monitoring, analysis and coordination with the National FATE Secretariat and relevant stakeholders as per law

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NAB for modern training of IOs, prosecutors