

WEF lauds **NAB working:** chairman

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal,

> man has said that

Chair-

NAB

corruption is a method and

technique

Briefs Bilawal trashes **PDM's show** cause notice

Says he had come into politics for respect, and nothing was greater than respect, CEC meeting to resume today

Pakistan hands over

aid to Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz Embassy has expressed its gratitude

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday tore apart the showcause notice served to his party by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), sources said, as all eyes are set on PPP's Central Executive Committee meeting.

Bilawal, during the CEC meeting at Bilawal House, Karachi, read out the show-cause notice served to PPP by PDM's secretary-general Shahid Khaqan Abbasi - and after that, he tore it. Following Bilawal's move, the party leaders present during the meeting lauded his action and started clapping, sources said. Addressing the CEC meeting, Bilawal said he had come into politics for respect, and nothing was greater than respect. The meeting, which has 50 PPP leaders in attendance, is discussing the current political situation and the relations between the Opposition parties and the overall anti-government strategy of the party. Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal are presiding over the meeting. Meanwhile, Opposition Leader in the Senand rendered many sacrifices for the cause of man Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. democracy," the sources quoted him as saying.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Man-

agement Authority (NDMA) has handed over

Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) to

Kyrgyzstan to help overcoming shortage of

According to spokesman, the PPEs included

some 5,000 N-95 masks, protective suits and

face shields each handed over to Krygyzstan

on behalf of government to help fight the

pandemic. As part of anti-crisis activities

aimed at combating Covid-19, the Embas-

sy of Kyrgyzstan in Pakistan has worked

Continued on Page 06

the equipment during the pandemic.

'A vicious step'

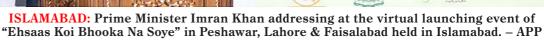
STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Responding to the development, PML-N secretary-general Ahsan Iqbal said PPP had taken a "vicious" step by tearing apart the notice served to it by PDM. It wasn't a show-cause notice. They were just asked to respond to their move of getting Gillani the slot of Leader of Opposition in the Senate via support from a government-ally - BAP, he said, while speaking in a news programme.

'So if they have shredded and thrown away the notice from PDM, it is akin to them breaking their partnership with PDM. It s an extremely vicious step," the PML-N leader said. Iqbal said a final decision would be taken by the PDM leadership in the matter. However, for him, PPP is no more a part of the Opposition alliance.

"Allegations which are unfounded cannot be levelled against PPP," Gillani was said ate Yousuf Raza Gillani offered the party his by sources to have added. His proposal was resignation as Leader of the Opposition in the unanimously rejected by the CEC, as well Senate, sources said. "We have given our lives as PPP President Asif Ali Zardari and Chair-

(CEC Picture on Page 2)



PSL matches from June 01

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The remaining matches of the HBL PSL 6 will be held from June 1, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday. The PCB announced that the tournament will resume after the players and officials undergo a seven-day quarantine stay at one hotel and following three training sessions, the PSL will resume from June 1. To ensure all those who will

be part of the bio-secure bubble remain safe from the infection this time, the PCB said it it in the final stages of appointing "a globally-recognised safety management company that specialises in providing Covid-safe technology solutions, bio-secure monitoring & management, as well as response and reaction to positive tests". (Detailed news on Page 6) and the climate objectives.

PM opens ECOSOC DfD Forum today

The objective of Forum is to mobilize adequate financial support to enable developing countries to recover from impact of the Covid pandemic

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will deliver the Opening Statement at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum

on Financing for Development (FfD) on 12 April 2021. The Forum will be held from 12-15 April 2021 under Pakistan's Presidency of ECOSOC. The objective of the Forum is to mobilize adequate financial support to enable the developing countries to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

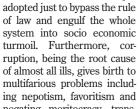
'Govt to ensure rule of law'

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the government is taking bold steps to ensure rule of law in the country.

Talking to Principal Jamia Rahimia Karachi, Mufti Rahim in Islamabad on Sunday, he said only equal law system for all citizens and punishment and retribution system in all offices can improve the system.

The Prime Minister said ensuring writ of the government and elimination of the system that facilitates the corrupt elements is on the top priorities of the government. They discussed the vision of Riasat-e-Madina of the Prime Minister during the meeting. They also discussed increasing foreign investment due to business-friendly policies of the government.

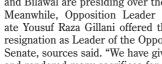


of almost all ills, gives birth to multifarious problems including nepotism, favoritism and negating meritocracy, transparency and accountability. He said that NAB's effective Awareness and Prevention Strategy has started yielding excellent results which was appreciated by the World Economic Forum in order to aware people about the ill

effects of corruption. Future depends on IK success

DNA





ئى بھوكا نہ *س*وئ uSaulani

Insaf (PTI) has to straight en its ranks as the future of this country depends on the success of PTI and Imran Khan. In his tweets, the federal minister said, "Imran Khan is the hope of democracy in Pakistan and there is no leader of political stature compared to him". "Recognizing Bilawal Bhutto and Maryam Nawaz as the leader of Pakistan will be a slap in the face of democracy", he said.

FM Qureshi arrives in Berlin

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makh doom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sun arrived day Berlin,

Germany along with his delegation on a two-day official visit. Upon arrival at the air port, the foreign minister was warmly received by Pakistan ambassador in Germany Dr Muhammad Faisal, senior officials of German foreign office, and senior members of Pakistan embassy, a press release said. Talking to media after his arrival, the foreign minister said that he would hold meeting with the business leaders and members of Pakistani community.

DNA ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned indiscriminate firing of heavy weapons and grenades on a Mosque in Shopian, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu

The Foreign Office spokes-Zahid person Chaudhri, in a statement, said the desecration and damage Mosque

News Desk

and Kashmir.

Hafeez caused to the during so-called

ation", and repeated incidence of extra-judicial killings in various places in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are manifestations of the unabated state-terrorism to which Kashmiris are subjected in the occupied territory.

He said this inhuman conduct of Indian forces is reflective of their moral nity in IIOJK.

"cordon-and-search oper-

A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran

(AEOI), Behrouz Kamalvandi, said an "incident" had occurred

in the morning involving the nuclear facility's power network

on Mosque in IIOJK The spokesperson said targeting the faith and cultural identity of the people of occupied territory is in clear violation of basic human norms and fundamental precepts of international law. The spokesperson said the Government and people of Pakistan will continue to stand by the Kashmiri people in their just and legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant

Ramazan in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

month of Ramadan. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Su-

dais, head of the Presidency

for the Affairs of the Two

Holy Mosques, said that the

taraweeh prayers will be

shortened to 10 raka'ts from

20 raka'ts, and that will be

strictly in compliance with

the precautionary measures

and preventive protocols,

prepared by the presidency

and other relevant agencies

involved in serving the pil-

grims and ensuring their

safety from coronavirus.

Sheikh Al-Sudais highlighted

the Saudi leadership's keen-

ness to continue facilitating

the performance of rituals at

the Two Holy Mosques.

Continued on Page 06

Saudi Arabia executes 3 soldiers

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia executed on Saturday three soldiers for high treason crime the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The executed soldiers, identified as Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Yahya Akam, Shaher bin Isa bin Qasim Haqqawi, and Hamoud bin Ibrahim bin Ali Hazmi, collaborated with the ene my against the kingdom and its military interests, the SPA said, without mentioning which enemy they were aiding. The execution took place after the three soldiers were convicted by the court and the issuance of a royal order that serves as a death warrant. – DNA



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Dental Surgeons

Insīde..

FDA to be streamlined on modern lines to serve people - Page 02

No peace in South Asia until conflicts resolved humanely - Page 03

Historic Ramadan relief package 2021 launched – Page 04

Indonesia's national strategy of Artificial Intelligence – Page 05

Pakistan looks forward to cooperate with US: Munir - Page 06

Next month best for Pakistani mango to enter China market – Page 07

'Pak-Italy Friendship bridge' inaugurated for Chitral people – Page 08 TEHRAN: A nuclear fathe Trump administration cility in Iran was hit by a in 2018 - have resumed. "terrorist act" a day after On Saturday, Iran's Presiit unveiled new advanced dent Hassan Rouhani inauuranium centrifuges, a top gurated new centrifuges at nuclear official says. He did the Natanz site, which is key not say who was to blame to the country's uranium but urged the internationenrichment programme, in al community to deal with a ceremony broadcast live nuclear terrorism. Israeli on television. Centrifuges media suggest the incident are needed to produce enwas a result of an Israeli riched uranium, which can cyber attack. Last year, a be used to make reactor fire broke out at the Natanz fuel - but also material for underground facility, which nuclear weapons. the authorities alleged was It represented another the result of cyber sabotage. breach of the country's un-The latest incident comes dertakings in the 2015 deal.

as diplomatic efforts to rewhich only permits Iran to vive a 2015 nuclear deal produce and store limited abandoned by the US under quantities of enriched uranium to be used to produce fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.

> On Sunday, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI). Behrouz Kamalvandi, said an "incident" had occurred in the morning involving the nuclear facility's power network. Mr Kamalvandi did not provide further details but told Iran's Fars news agency there there had been "no casualties or leaks". Later state TV read out a statement by AEOI head Ali Akbar Salehi, in

which he described the incident as "sabotage" and "nuclear terrorism".

"Condemning this despicable move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasises the need for the international community and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to deal with this nuclear terrorism," he

was quoted as saying. "Iran reserves the right to take action against the perpetrators." Last July, sabotage was blamed for a fire at the Natanz site which hit a central centrifuge assembly workshop.

Continued on Page 06

bankruptcy as well as the prevalent culture of impu-UNSC resolutions. **Terrorist act' at Iran nuclear facility**



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government has announcement Ramazan will start in the Kingdom on Tuesday, April 13. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman has ordered to shorten taraweeh prayers (special night prayers) at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque Pakistan condemns firing in Madinah during the holy

02

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 12, 2021

Briefs

Crescent sighting meeting on **Tuesday**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An unprecedented meeting of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will be held in Peshawar on Tuesday (Apr 13) to sight the crescent moon of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak- an auspicious month-long festival during which the Muslims will not eat or drink from pre-dawn to dusk.

Central Ru-Chairman. et-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad will chair the meeting of the committee, to be held at office of the Administrator (Auqaf), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Eidgah Charsadda Road, Peshawar. The start of Ramadan is determined by the lunar calendar which, unlike the Gregorian calendar, follows a 29- or 30-day cycle determined by the cycle of the moon.

This will be the first Ramadan the ninth month of the Islamic calendar - moon sighting under new chairman, Moulana Azad, who was appointed by the federal government in December last year, replacing Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman.

Ten held with contraband

STAFF REPORT

SARGODHA: Police claimed on Sunday to have arrested ten criminals and recovered liquor and weapons from their possession.

The police teams of different police stations conducted raids within their jurisdiction and arrested 10 accused and recovered 210 liter liquor, 520 gram hashish, 2 guns and a rifle from them.

The outlaws were identified as Ghulam Qadir, Umer Farooq, Riyasat Ali, Muhammad Arif, Mumtaz Arif, Hammad Ramzan and others. Cases have been registered against the accused.

> Shelter for people



KARACHI: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chairs Central Executive Committee meeting. - DNA

FDA to be streamlined on modern lines to serve people

Insaf shops set up in Faisalabad to provide people with cheap daily use items

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority(FDA) Director General Dr Faisal Azim has said that the all sections of FDA would be made in line with the modern requirements under new vision and extra ordinary development projects would be concieved to boost up the image of this institution. He was presiding over introductory meeting in which he was briefed about the functions and performance about the different directorates of FDA. Additional Director General Amer Aziz and Chief Engineer Shahid Mehmood briefed about the administrative structure, budget details, governing body composition and other departmental activities. He said that the new uplift projects would be initiated side by side routin departmental affairs. He assured that Punjab government would be approached to get the required funds for the completion of abortive development projects. He directed for accelerating the efforts to finalise the twenty year Faisalabad Master Plan 2021-2041 without further delay. He stressed upon continuing

the effective operation against il-



FAISALABAD. Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim presides over a meeting. - DNA

legal housing schemes, removal of encroachments, recovery of dues . He urged upon the raising the quality of FDA services and said early relief should be provided to each and every applicant through one window counter. He said that necessary steps should be taken for the welfare of the employees and their issues should be redressed under government policy, rules & regulations. The DG was apprised of the FDA City development programme, on going project of sports

complex and details of operation against illegal housing schemes.

Insaf shops established Insaf Sasti Shops have been established outside the 40 Mega Stores in the city to provide essential items to the consumers. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali visited various mega stores and reviewed the availability, quality and sale process of fruits, vegetables and groceries at Insaf Sasti Shops. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Khurram Pervez and As-

sistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool was also present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner said that "Insaf Sasti Shops" are being set up outside 40 big superstores of the city which will be fully functional before the month of Ramadan where consumers will be provided standard fruits and vegetables, pulses, basins, flour, sugar and other basic necessities in the general market. He asked the management of Marts to display the price lists of the items in a promi-

nent place so that the buyers would be aware of the prices and there should be no shortage of any item. He said that services should be available at Insaf Sasti Shops beyond the expectations of the people. The Deputy Commissioner said that 150 Insaf Sasti Mobile Shops consisting of loader rickshaws were also selling fruits and vegetables at wholesale prices to consumers in densely populated areas of the city.

DC inspects various shops Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali reached different areas including Samanabad to check the implementation of SOPs and take out the passengers from car and motorbike riders without face masks and made them stand facing the wall for some time. The Deputy Commissioner reminded the citizens to be aware of the seriousness of the current third wave in Corona and to avoid leaving their homes without a face mask, which is essential to protect the health of them and their families. He reprimanded the shopkeepers and vendors and said that registration of cases against the violators of Corona SOPs was going on in the district so follow the strict guidelines laid down to

keep the business going.

Electricity cost rejected: PALSP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers urge the Govt not to increase the cost of electricity for the steel sector which is already facing a crisis like situation.

The govt has made this announcement under the diktat of IMF to increase the cost of electricity by Rs 5.65 per unit before October this year and it will be 36% increase in the cost of electricity. Early this year, the Govt had increased the cost of electricity by 16%.

This decision will have disastrous consequences for steel industry of the country in particular and the local steel industry in general. Steel is energy intensive sector and one of the major consumers of electricity and this major increase in electricity cost will create crisis like situation for the struggling steel sector.

In the month of February this year, the govt. increased the energy tariffs by issuing SRO No. 192 dated 12th February 2021. By this SRO Rs. 1.95 / kwh was increased in variable charges and Rs. 40 / kw / month increase in fixed charges. The consumer suffers extra burden and pay heavy fixed charges for electricity connection. Where all cost of distribution system (grid, cable, substation, transformer etc.) has to be paid by consumer. If we compare with our neighboring countries.

Smart lockdown in 5 Peshawar areas

PESHAWAR: The local authorities in Peshawar on Sunday have decided to impose smart lockdown in different areas due to increasing cases of coronavirus.

The Health Department of KPK has decided to impose a micro smart lockdown in five areas of Peshawar after coronavirus infections in the city rose. A notification issued by the government stated that entry and exit points of these areas will be sealed at 6pm on Sunday: Hayatabad Sector E-4, Phase 7; Abshar Colony; and Officers Garden Colony. The lockdown will remain in force until further notice. The police and district commissioners will be responsible for ensuring SOPs are implemented. People not wearing masks in public will be fined. The instructions will apply include: No general entry or exit to this locality by any person, except those supplying essential commodities, shall be allowed; All shops other than essential services shall remain closed: and The congregation in mosques to be restricted to five people

only. – APP

without homes

LAHORE: Food, shelter and clothing have been described as the basic human needs by almost all psychologists and sociologists from the early times as these are vital to the self-esteem, security, belonging, actualization and contentment in life.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has been well cognizant of the fact that low income strata of the society could not own home due to various factors. Therefore, soon after his government came into power in 2018, he announced to build five million homes in the country to provide shelter to the people without homes. He also foresaw that the revival of housing sector will bring about economic boom in the country.

Absence of effective foreclosure laws hindered banks from financing in the housing sector but the introduction of ordinance by President Dr. Arif Alvi on July 29, 2019 'An Ordinance to provide for the Efficient Recovery of Mortgage-Backed Securities by Financial Institutions' laid the foundation of a new era in home financing in the country. – APP

Ramadan package for families of PHP personnel

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of Addl: IG Punjab Highway Patrol, before the commencement of month of Fast, Ramadan Package was distributed among the families of Martyrs, deceased and PHP personnel who are disabled, injured and sick in the line of duty. While talking to media, SP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal reiterated the resolve that the welfare and wellbeing of PHP officers/ Officials is his prime task . in order to materialize the vision , The families



Faisalabad was visited. SSP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal visited the family of Late Head constable Sadaf Raza Naseem and on his instructions, DSP PHP Malik Muhammad Amin visited the families of Martyred, deceased and Sick police

of Martyrs of PHP Region

officers. The Martyrs of Patrolling Police are sub Inspector Rana Hafeez Ur Rehman, ASI Imran Liagat, Constable Rafaqat Ali and Constable Ishaq Ahmad. They sacrificed their precious lives for the safety of homeland fighting against criminals of society.

Government fully committed to facilitate farmer: Fakhar Imam

MULTAN: Federal Minister nology to farmers in order for National Food Security to decrease their expenses Sved Fakhar Imam says that government is fully committed to facilitate farmers and their issues would be resolved on top priority. Speaking at a joint news conference with Punjab Minister for Agriculture Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi in Multan on Sunday he said that steps are being taken to provide latest techments facing problems in

5-day polio drive starts

QUETTA: A five-day antipolio drive began in all 33 Districts of Balochistan province from Sunday. Coordinator Emergency Operation Centre Balochistan Rashid Razzaq has said that during the drive more than 2.4 million children up to five years of age would be administered anti-polio

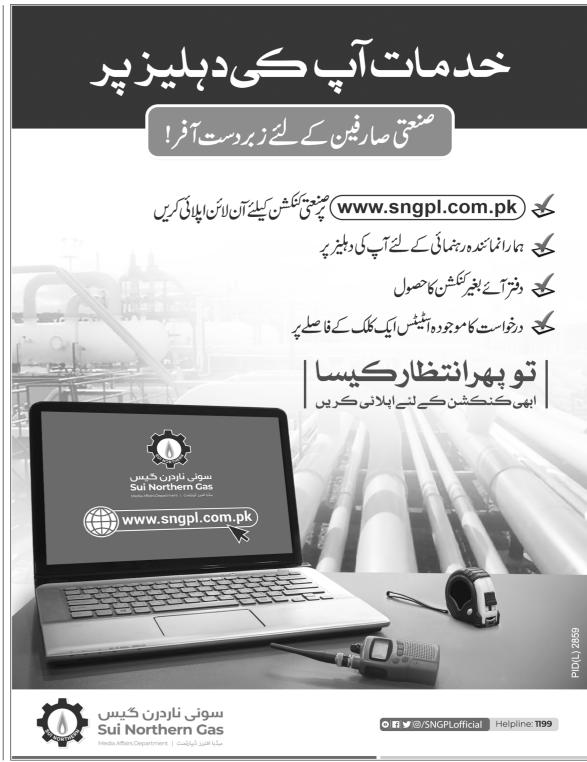
drops. "During the drive, as many as 2.4 million children up to five years of age would be administered anti-polio drops," Rashid Razzaq has said. – DNA

and increase their produce. Syed Fakhar Imam said that government was committed to facilitate farmers and said that issues of the farmers would be resolved on top priority. He claimed that targets of agriculture crops have been achieved despite locust attacks, however, concerned departachieving target of cotton

crop. He said that the incumbent government has increased wheat support price to Rs 1800 per 40kg under the initiative to facilitate farmers. He said that steps were being taken to provide latest technology to farmers in order to decrease their expenses and increase their income. He said that the South Punjab had been

neglected in the past by the previous governments in distribution of funds but the incumbent government paying special focus on development of the deprived area.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Minister for Agriculture Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi said that farmers playing a vital in identifying agriculture related issues. - APP



Special incentives for CPEC projects in next budget

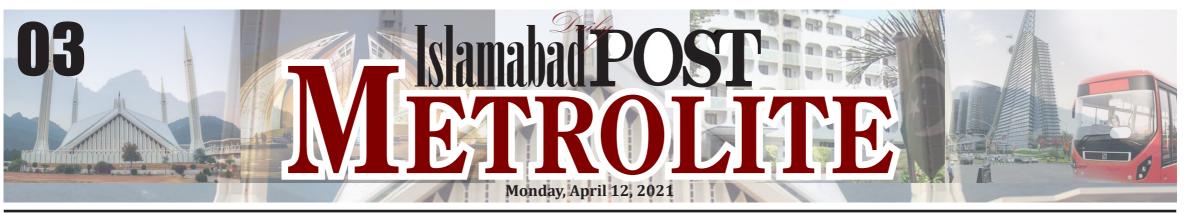
ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The budget for the next financial year will provide special incentives for completion of CPEC projects, development of economic zones and introduction of new product lines in textiles. This was stated by Abdul Razzaq Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Trade and Investment. He was talking to Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq. Adviser to PM said that import of raw materials would be made duty free and special schemes would introduced through be State Bank of Pakistan to promote manufacturing, similarly, special measures will be taken to support the allied industry like wise special focus will be on textile,



leather, glass and ceramics special attention will be given to the development of industries, says Federal Adviser. Adding he said that the Western Line of Women Wear and the technical exports can be increased sector thus, a sourcing park like this initiatives. He said that new industry will be set up in Lahore

and Karachi for brands and would be given priority in the economic zones of foreign customers, while a FIEDMC so that exports one-window service act will could be increased by rebe introduced to facilitate ducing imports. In addition, investors in the economic zone so that all the required facilities can be provided at their doorsteps. Chairman FIEDMC briefed him about the ongoing development works in the economic zones. Expressing satisfaction over the performance of FIEDMC the Federal Adviser promised to visit Faisalabad soon.



Briefs Five names shortlisted for Nadra chairman slot

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Five names have been shortlisted for filling the post of chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NAD-RA). The Interior Ministry has forwarded the names of Tariq Malik, Usman Mobeen and Sohail Munir to the federal cabinet.

However, the summary sent to the federal cabinet by a selection committee also included the names of Sarfraz Khurshid and Masood Raza. Sohail Munir is an American citizen and linked to an IT company. Usman Mobeen and Tariq Malik had already served as Nadra chairman. A permanent Nadra chairman will be appointed for three years and the federal cabinet will give final approval of it.

CIA Police arrest car snatcher

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has arrested a car snatcher and recovered a vehicle snatched from Police Station Shamas Colony area, mobile phone and cash, a police spokes-

man said on Sunday. Following special directions of DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmad Kausar, he said that SSP (Investigation) Ata Ur Rehman constituted special police team under supervision of DSP CIA Hakim Khan including ASI Akram Ranjha and other police officials who worked hard and succeeded to arrest an accused of a vehicle snatcher's gang. The accused is identified as Farhad Khan s/o Lugman Khan, Police team has also recovered a vehicle snatched from the

No peace in South Asia until conflicts resolved humanely

Devcom-Pakistan international webinar urged India to support the revival of South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with the human rights watchdog established within to get favoured nation status and global appreciation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Expert while speaking at a webinar on Saturday urged the governments to reactivate the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to curb the militancy and terrorisms, bilateral conflicts and transboundary challenges confronting the region because of climate change. Occupied Kashmir is the flashpoint between the two nuclear nation states where violation of human rights are at its peak.

The panel of experts urged the nondemocratic forces to give a chance to people to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions within their countries. Democracy ensures basic human rights that lead to peace in a society. But, unfortunately the hegemonic approaches and decision making of the governments have excluded the voices of the people. Only the vested interest prevail at the cost of human rights. Development Communications

Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the international webinar on the theme "Ensuring human right for peace in the region". The panel of experts included former senator Farhatullah Babar, Lt. General (retd) Talat Masood, Jus-



tice (retd) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, General Secretary Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Harris Khalique, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, an expert from Tehran Dr Yahya Jahangiri, Desert Resource Centre (India) Founder Director Anshul Ojha, Secretary General Human Rights Alliance, Kathmandu (Nepal) Bidur Subedi, Joint Secretary SAARC Human Rights Foundation (Dhaka-Bangladesh) MD Tanbirul Islam, and President International Human Right Movement (London-UK) Rana Basharat Ali Khan.

Seasoned politician and a former senator Farhatullah Babar said some hidden-hands always disrupted the peace efforts in the region primarily between Pakistan and India. Hatred is the political slogan to win vote bank while the region is suffering from poverty, hunger and the impact of climate change. A just and a strong parliamentary system will ensure the fair distribution of resources ultimately addressing human rights. Democratic governments are less likely to go to war. Mr. Babar said Pakistan needed to work to strengthen democracy,

democratic institutions and parliament. We have seen lately the adverse impact of hybrid democracy. The state institutions need to understand the importance of people's voices and concerns. Even the Supreme Court of Pakistan has stressed upon the freedom of expression but media bashing is on. Now, the citizens are barred to the right to criticism too. Devcom-Pakistan Director Munir

Ahmed said the countries need to ensure citizens participation in the decision making for the maturity of the political process. Fair

distribution of resources and just policies shall bring the socio-political equilibrium to ensure human rights. Women and marginalized communities and segments are under severe stress. Bilateral and multilateral conflicts are nowhere on the priority agenda of the governments. The only regional platform SAARC is dormant for years. In the absence of SAARC what else could be the platform to discuss the regional frameworks of collaboration on militancy, terrorisms and transboundary climate impact and water scarcity. Ahmed said we need to learn from

China that has successfully dealt with poverty, doing trade efficiently with the countries China has conflicts. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has successfully integrated trade and commerce issues with the development of the region in a broader framework of cooperation. India shall support the revival of SAARC with the human rights watchdog established within to get a favored nation status and global appreciation. Justice (retd) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, stressed to strengthen the human rights institutions to improve the situation. The National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR), a statutory body under the parliament of Pakistan, is abandoned for the last three years.

NUMS, UK foundation to provide medical care

IBRAR KHAN

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has launched the first ever structured online teaching postgraduate certificate programme, in collaboration with British-based foundation, to train professionals for providing specialized medical care to terminally ill patients in the country. Realizing the national needs of trained professionals in palliative care, the multifaceted initiative in collaboration with Shaheen Palliative Care Project, a United Kingdom- based foundation, was launched to help develop knowledge, skills and confidence of healthcare workers to care for patients and their families who have life limiting illnesses, said Prof. of medicine Dr. Nafisa Tahir.

The accessibility to palliative care services, adequately trained healthcare professionals and availability of essential medicines is a dire need of Pakistan Healthcare System and this over six months Postgraduate Certificate in Palliative Care (PG-CPC), introduced by NUMS will be a step forward in that direction.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Lt Gen Syed Muhammad Imran Majeed HI(M) (Retd) in his brief remarks said "NUMS healthcare have been mulling over to begin a training programme to bridge the yawning gap in the field of palliative care and this programme will turn over a new page to be emulated by others.'

Commissioner Rawalpindi visits RRP

DNA AWAI PINDI Commis

Europe is a big market for Pak: RCCI Based on this status, around 80% of Pakistan's exports to the EU are quota and tariff-free, offering an advantage over many other competitors

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: Europe is a big market for Pakistan and there is a big opportunity for Pakistani manufacturers to capitalize the opportunity of Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status to the optimum. Based on this status, around 8 of Pakistan's exports to the EU are quota and tariff-free, offering an advantage over many other competitors. These comments were made by President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza while addressing the executive committee at chamber house. He said, Pakistan's exports to



mobile phone and cash.

CTP vows to take strict action against one wheelers

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have decided to take strict action against one-wheelers during Ramazan ul Mubarak. According to traffic police spokesman, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rai Mazhar Iqbal said that strict orders had been issued to all the traffic wardens, inspectors and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of all sectors to impound altered motorcycles prepared for wheelies from youngsters moving around the city roads and send the violators to jail.

He added that those found involved in the activity would be sent behind bars under Section 99/A. - APP

the EU went to \$7.5 billion or 34 percent of total exports of the country after getting GSP Plus status and there was a need to focus more on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He informed that RCCI is organ-

izing the "Virtual International Trade Forum Europe Chapter" on April 14, a series of trade forum aiming to explore new markets and address the key issues in bilateral trade among the member countries of the respective region.

Nasir Mirza said commercial and trade consular from Pakistan and abroad would participate in the event to apprise the business community about trade and export opportunities in European markets. He said Pakistan would have to find new markets to boost exports, adding, "Exports have been badly affected due to the corona pandemic, but we have to advertise our products and potential through virtual platforms," he said.

RTA accelerates drive

against SOPs violators

RAJA PERVAIZ

RAWALPINDI: Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Rawal-

pindi on the directives of DC Rawalpindi Anwar-ul-Haq, has

accelerated its ongoing operation against Covid-19 Stand-

ard Operating Procedures (SOPs) violators. According to

Secretary, RTA Rawalpindi Rashid Ali, the authority on the

directives of the DC had launched a campaign to ensure

implementation of the SOPs. He said, the teams of the au-

thority conducted raids and checked implementation of the

SOPs at different routes while those found indulged in vio-

lations of the SOPs were fined and the vehicles were also

impounded during March. He informed media that fines

amounting to over Rs 130,500 were imposed on the viola-

tors during last month while 171 vehicles were challaned

and 170 impounded on violation of coronavirus SOPs.

يوڻيلڻي سڻورزکارپوريشن

sioner Rawalpindi Division Gulzar Hussain Shah visited Ring Road project site to inspect various sections of the project. Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority Capt. (R) Abdul Sattar Isani and Deputy Proiect Director Abdullah were also present on the occasion and briefed commissioner on the project progress.

Commissioner Rawalpindi division emphasized that project planning and execution was streamlined and timelines are met.

The commissioner said that the officers and personnel working on the Ring Road project should complete the set targets as per the deadline. Strict action would be taken against the officers and personnel, who were using delaying tactics, negligence and incompetence, he added. He said that the project was very important for the people which would have a positive impact on the economic and civic life of the residents.

UTILITYSTORES

April 27 to be last date to subm t bids for RRRP

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: The tenders of Rawalpindi Ring Road Project (RRRP) would be opened after April 27 which is last date to submit bids for the project. A Commissioner Office spokesman on Sunday informed media that newly appointed Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Gulzar Hussain Shah after taking charge of his office chaired a meeting here to review progress on the project. He also visited track of RRR and said that the project would be completed on fast track basis. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt. ® Anwar ul Haq, Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority, Abdul Sattar Isani, Deputy Project Director, Muhammad Abdullah and other officers concerned.

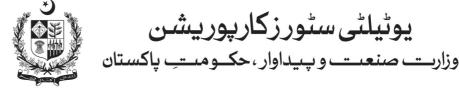
The Commissioner said that RRRP would be completed on fast track policy as per vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, Sardar Usman Buzdar. He informed that the design

of the project was thoroughly being reviewed and bidding process of the project was also underway. On request of the companies which are taking part in the bidding process, last date to submit tenders, has been extended. He said, the companies during pre-bid meeting held on April 5, had requested for extension in last date for bids submission. Commissioner Gulzar Hussain Shah said, the process of the payment for the land acquired for Rawalpindi Ring Road project was also in process. The authorities concerned had been directed to accelerate the payment process, he said adding, the hurdles in the payment process in Rawalpindi district had been removed and significant improvement would be made in next few days.

NOCs for Rawalpindi Ring Road were required from 30 departments and agencies, out of which, 26 had been obtained and efforts were being made to get NOCs from four other departments. He said that the Punjab government is making earnest efforts to kick off the construction work of Rawalpindi Ring Road Project (RRRP) as soon as possible.

حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے وزیراعظم رمضان ریلیف پیکیج2021			
آغاز	10 اپريل 2021 سے	شياء پرخصوصي رعايت	119
نمبرشار اشياء قيمت	اشياء قيمت	نمبرشار اشياء قيمت نمبرشار	نمبرشار اشياء قيمت
16. لال شربت 800ml 20روپي/بول رعايت	کھچور 20 روپے ککورعایت	6. دال مونگ 10رو پے اکلو رعایت	ا تا (20 كلوگرام بيگ) 800 روپے 1.
.17 چائے 50 روپے اکلورعایت	باسمتی حپاول 10 روپے <i>ا</i> کلورعایت	7. دال ماش (دخلی ہوئی) 10روپے/کلورعایت 12.	2. چينې نې کلوگرام 🛛 😽 روپ
دودھ (UHT) 20روپے / لیٹر رعایت 18.	سيلاچاول 10 روپي کلورعايت	.8 دال مسور 30 روپے اکلو رعایت	3. کھی نی کلوگرام 170 روپے
19. مصالحہ جات 10% تک خصوص رعایت	ٹوٹا چاول 12 روپے/کلورعایت	.9 سفيد چنا 25روپے اکلو رعايت	4. كوكتُك آئل 20روپي/ليژرعايت
اس کےعلاوہ تقریباً 1500 سے زائدا شیاء پر بھی خصوصی رعایت	لال شربت 1500ml 25روپے ابول رعایت	بيسن (چکی) 20روپے/کلورعايت 15.	5. وال چنا 15روپے/کلو رعایت





04

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

Medical, colleges affectees to submit complaints

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has asked the affectees of private medical and dental colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to submit their complaints about forced monetary demands for admission (in the medical colleges) and other related irregularities to the bureau during office hours. An announcement from NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that the bureau has begun a probe into alleged misuse of authority, cheating public at large, forced donation demands, excessive fee instead of fixed by Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC).

The complaint applications duly annexed by supporting documents should be submitted to the coordination officer investigation for director (A&P) wing, NAB, KP.PDA Complex, Block III, Phase V, Hayatabad, Pesha war by Tuesday (April 13).

SPARC to observe Street Children Day on Monday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Socie ty for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) is observing International Street Children Day 2021 on Monday to highlight the importance of the neglected segments of our society and our social responsibility in this regards. On this occasion, the representatives of SPARC and Child Rights Club will highlight the significance of the day besides shedding light on various aspects of social degradation, the negative impact of social disparity on our collective lives and our responsibility in a Muslim society to address it during a press briefing.

Hundreds registering in PNCA talent hunt

Historic Ramadan relief package 2021 launched

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, as per its precedence of averting food shortage, all 4,881 retail outlets of USC remained open by strictly complying Standard Operating Procedures of Covid-19 to maintain continued supply of food items at prices lower than the open market

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Under the directive of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan, (USC) launches a historic Ramadan Relief Package 2021 on April 10, 2021 through provisioning of subsidy on 19 essential items including wheat flour, sugar, ghee, rice, cooking oil, pulses, white gram, dates, tetra pack milk, tea, spices, and gram flour.Under the relief package, USC is offering hefty discounts on more than 1500 products as well. In this relief package, wheat

flour of 20-kilogram bag is available at Rs. 800; sugar per kilogram is available at Rs. 68; Ghee per kilogram will be available at Rs. 170 whereas subsidy on black tea is Rs. 50 per kilogram; oil will be Rs. 20 per litre; subsidy on

pulses is from Rs. 15 to Rs. increase number of Mobile 30 per kilogram; subsidy on Utility Stores under the relief white gram is Rs. 25 per kilopackage. gram; subsidy on dates is Rs.

Since its inception, USC is 20 per kilogram; subsidy on serving the nation with an obligation of averting food shortage during thick and es from Rs. 20-25;subsidy on thin. Over the years, USC milk (UHT) per litre is Rs. 20 has proved itself to be a reliand subsidy on spices is 10 able support to the nation as it is successfully transferring Government's subsidy on essential food items, deterring ly be implemented nationhoarding, black marketing and providing critical market intelligence to assist governvision of Prime Minister of ment in framing economic policies. sidy on 19 essential items has

The role of USC specifically becomes critical during the pandemics and disasters as it has the largest retail network nationwide. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, as per its precedence of averting food shortage, all 4,881 retail outlets of USC remained open by strictly complying Stand-

ard Operating Procedures of Covid-19 to maintain continued supply of food items at prices lower than the open market.

The public is urged to take precautionary measures against the epidemic while shopping from the utility stores and co-operate with the sales staff in this regard. Moreover, USC ensures ample supply of all necessary items at its stores nationwide, so bulk buying and panic buying are not advised. It is worth mentioning here that from January 2020, US-Chas successfullybeen providing continuous subsidy on

five staple food items (sugar, wheat flour, ghee, rice and pulses), ensuring food security in Pakistan despite spread of Covid-19.During the year, USC achieved success at various fronts and acquired a turnover of around Rs. 100

billion, serving 45.8 million upgrade to ensure fast, achouseholds during the year 2020. During the year, USC deposited Rs. 8.59 billion tax to the national exchequer and transformed itself into almost a self-reliant, self-sufficient and self-sustained organization.

countable and hassle free

customer services using

sophisticated technologies

and automated processes

till fiscal year 2021. USC

has successfully established

an Information Technology

infrastructure by developing

a modern data centre. The

data centre has the capacity

to meet future infrastructure

requirements. Other initia-

tives include deployment of

Online Stores Information

System by geo-tagging all

stores throughout the coun-

try. USC has also implement-

ed a Demand-based Online

Purchase Ordering System

integrated with Finance Pay-

able System. The automation

will enable USC to start tar-

geted subsidy for the poor

segment of the society with

Also, USC is the first in Pakistan to introduce poly/ shopping bags by using Oxo-biodegradable Additives for green environment as per Pakistan Environment Protection Agency rules for the betterment of people of Pakistan and has launched 64 products under 'Own Brand' umbrella. The products are of high quality and are up to the benchmark of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority. Sequel to Prime Minister of

Pakistan's vision of Digital the surety that subsidy is Pakistan, USC will have a dispersed to the right indicomprehensive technology viduals

RCB receives over 3433 complaints through PCP

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) received over 3433 complaints through Pakistan Citizen Portal, out of which 2977 were addressed within shortest possible time frame while 456 are under process. According to RCB spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood, the Cantonment Executive Officer Muhammad Umar Farooq Malik had issued special instructions to the officials to facilitate the citizens and address their problems on urgent basis so as to provide better facilities to the residents.

To a question he said, the Public Facilitation Centre of RCB, received as many as 6928 complaints regarding electricity, water supply and sanitation problems during last nine months and made all out efforts to resolve them while 6246 were addressed on urgent basis.

Qaiser Mehmood said, the RCB's facilitation centre received total 6928 complaints during the period and addressed 6246.

He said, CB care center issued 5285 birth and 2531 death certificates during the period.

49,523 vaccine doses administered in Rwp

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Around 49,523 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have now been administered to people in the district. District Health Coordinator for COVID-19, Dr Jawad Khalid told APP here Sunday, that 14,023 health workers including 35,500 people with senior citizens have received free of cost shots at 23 government vaccination centres of the district.

He informed that the district health authority has registered a total of 20,711 positive cases to date out of which 19,067 belonged to Rawalpindi and 1644 to others district.

Dr Jawad said that 15316

Excise dept issues advisory amid third wave of coronavirus

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Excise and Taxation department has issued new guidelines with strict precautionary measures to contain the third wave of coronavirus pandemic.

Applicants having online appointment were being entertained for new registration of vehicles and transfer of ownership, said Director Excise, Bilal Azam.

Talking to media, he said all leasing companies/ Banks could send only one nominated focal person for the new registration of vehicles. The applicants might avail door step service for vehicle registration and transfer of ownership through contact No. 051-90395386 and 051-

2775386

card on excise website before visiting the office. Timing would be observed for delivery of registration cards from 03:00pm to 07:00 pm. To a query, Azam said token tax was being collected

through online means like 'City Islamabad app' mobile bank app or via ATM. All Registered Motor Vehicles Dealers having at least 10 or more files for new registration or transfer of ownership might also avail the door step facility after booking an online appoint-

rice is from Rs. 10-12; subsidy

on squashes and syrups rang-

The relief package will equal-

wide on over4, 800 utility

In line with the directive and

Pakistan, the amount of sub-

been increased this year, as

compared to previous years

to provide maximum relief

to the marginalized people of

In order to facilitate people

of Pakistan and to provide

essential commodities at

their doorsteps, USC will

livery status of their smart

percent.

stores.

Pakistan.

ment, he added. He maintained that registration for professional tax, bed tax, Motor Vehicle Dealers, Real Estate Agents and tobacco venders' fee was added in door step service. The online appointment



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) announced the results of week-17 of talent hunt music edition. The first Jury award won by

Muhammad Bilal Magbool. second by RJ Rashid Ali and third by Nomi Rajput.

The PNCA director general, announcing the results through a video message, said the PNCA would also provide opportunities to the winners in its functions.

The PNCA started this programme for the promotion of classical and semi-classical to folk. modern tunes and pop singing among the younger generation and to

groom their hidden talent at the National Art Gallery. professionals Renowned artists in different specialized music fields were taking auditions of registered participants in the PNCA. The PNCA director general said the talent hunt programme was attracting a large number of young music aspirants as hundreds of participants were registering in the said programme to show their skills.

Hunerkada announces music, vocal courses

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada Arts College Islamabad announced instrumental music and vocal training short courses and diploma.

According to Hunerkada, training courses would be arranged for three months, six months and one year. The instrumentals courses would include Guitar, Violin, Key board, Rubab, Drums & Percussions. Head of Hunerkada Amna Shah told APP that highly qualified, skilled and talented intellectuals of visual and performing arts would impart training. She said that Hunerkada provides a secure platform for focused to new artists. She said that students would learn and explore different aspects of art under the supervision of profession al trainers in order to pursue shining careers in their fields in the field of music. – APP

could be taken through He said those coming for contact No. 051-9265588 collection of smart card and WhatsApp No .0345was asked to check the de-5232512. /395/778

ISLAMABAD: Choudhry Zahid Rafiq General Secretary Islamabad Estate Agents Association & Choudhry Yaseen presenting Flowers to Zafer Bakhtawri Former President ICCI, Khalid Choudhry, Zia Abbasi, Choudhry Fakher, Zulqernain Abbasi, Baber Choudhry, Sardar Zahid Imtiaz Abbasi & others are present at the occasion. - DNA

AIOU to extend its network to distant regions of Baluchistan

Social elites and prominent figures of the area appreciated the role of AIOU in promotion of education in the country and hoped that construction of the proposed building of Model Study Centre of the university would help people

ZUBAIR AHMAD

PISHIN: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is striving hard to spread its educational network across the country, especially to those far flung areas of the country which presently lack formal educational system. This was said by Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIOU during his visit to Balochistan for extending AIOU educational facilities to different parts of the province.

The Vice Chancellor along with his team including DGRS, Anam Ullah Sheikh, Director Coordination, Maj (R) Umer Yunis, Regional Director Quetta, Mr. Qamar visited various areas of Tehsil Khanozai of district Pishin yesterday and explored the possibility of establishing a Model Study Centre of the university there. During his meetings with

firm resolve of educating every Pakistani child. stances, AIOU and its Prof Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum distance learning system said Balochistan was the might be proved to be the largest province of the best solution for provision country with respect to its of education facilities to size, while on the basis of people of the area, he main-

the prominent figures of

the area, he reiterated his

population-wise comparitained. son with the other three The Vice Chancellor said provinces, it was the small-AIOU was already playing a est province of the country. key role by providing educa-Hence, as a matter of fact, tional services to the people of Balochistan through due to the thin population distribution, it was difficult six regional centers and for any government to esone Model Study Centre. tablish schools, colleges, He informed that besides

of the province.



and universities in all parts free matric education to people of Balochistan, AIOU offered various fi-Owing to these circumnancial assistance schemes for poor, physically handicapped, and children of

> martyrs. Prof. Zia while mentioning extension of AIOU to the remote areas of Balochistan as well as other provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir urged upon the provincial governments and local administration to provide AIOU their due support, especially by allotment of land in the concerned areas.

Social elites and prominent figures of the area appreciated the role of AIOU in promotion of education in the country and hoped that construction of the proposed building of Model Study Centre of the university would help people, especially the district of Pishin in getting education from matriculation to PhD level

16 Ramazan bazaars sets up to facilitate masses

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district administration on the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, is finalizing arrangements to set up 16 Ramadan bazaars for uninterrupted supply of daily use commodities on affordable rates during the holy month.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Capt. (R) Anwar-ul-Haq has said that the district administration had finalized a plan to provide relief to the citizens during Ramazan.

He said, all out efforts would be made to provide relief to the people during Ramazan as a plan had been finalized to ensure availability of all essential commodities in the markets at affordable rates. Fair price shops would also be set up and all out efforts, on the directives of the Punjab government, would be made to control adulteration, profiteering and back marketing of essential commodities, he added.

He informed that all the departments concerned had been taken on board and also given tasks to control profiteering and hoarding. The DC said, flour bags would also be provided to the citizens at subsidized rates at all Ramazan bazaars. He said, the officers concerned had also been directed to ensure availability of quality food items particularly in Ramazan bazaars. The Ramazan bazaars are being set up within the limits of Rawalpindi city and cantt areas at Public Park Double Road, Committee Chowk, Gulzar-e-Quaid, Advala Road, Jarahi Stop, Chakri Road near Zafar Plaza, Changi No. 22, Chor Chowk Model Bazaar, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, Dhok Hosu, Haideri Chowk. Kalar Syedan Tehsil bazaar will be at Shahrah-e-Kashmir near Al-Falah bakery. Kolti Sattian bazaar will be in Main Kotli Sattian bazaar. Taxila bazaar will be at Sarai Kalan chowk. Gujar Khan bazaar will be set up at main G.T.Road near Rahat Bakers. Kahuta Ramazan bazaar will be set up at Sabzi Mandi near old Kutchery and Murree bazaar will be at Lower Mall, Murree. The DC directed the officers to keep the data of the bazaars accurate and up-to-date and the auction of food items including fruits and vegetables would be closely monitored by the Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates so that transparency could be ensured and relief could be provided to the citizens.

patients having positive results were discharged after recovery while 5481 including 3197 were quarantined at homes and 2284 in isolation. The health officer told that 251 more confirmed cases were reported during the last 24 hours including 243 of Rawalpindi and 15 from outside the district.

"Presently 203 established patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including 28 were admitted in Holy Family Hospital,27 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital,123 in Institute of Urology and 25 in Fauji Foundation Hospital.

He updated that patients reported during the last 24 hours, 54 belonged to Rawal Town,76 Potohar town,74 Rawalpindi cant.9 Guiar khan,15 Taxila,3 Murree,9 Kalar Syeda,2 Kotli Sattian, and one from Kahuta, Lahore, AJK and Attock each. The report elaborated that 29 patients were on the ventilators in critical condition,69 stable, and 105 in moderate condition while no people died during the last 24 hours.

Bike lifter gang busted, four arrested

DNA

RAWALPIND: The police have busted a dacoit and bike liter gang and arrested its four members besides recovering three stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 150,000 and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, a police team under the supervision of SHO Naseerabad Police Station was constituted which after hectic efforts managed to net four accused namely Ali Zubair, ring leader, Waheed Khan, Basit Ali and Atta Muhammad who were dacoit, bike lifter gang members of Ali gang and allegedly involved in a number cases registered in different police stations.

The police recovered three stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 150,000, four 30 bore pistols and other items from their possession. They confessed to have committed bike lifting and other crimes in different areas.

A case had been registered against all the accused while further investigation was underway, he added.

issues, the CDA has started this initiative to provide relief to people of capital city

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) management has started a series of online forums to address the issues of general public.

The first online court in this regard is being held on Tuesday, April 13, said a news release. In the light of Prime Minister Im-

ran Khan's instructions for immediate and online solution of public issues, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started this initiative to provide relief to people of capital city.

People can express their problems online on Facebook link ' https:// www.facebook.com/capital.development.authority In the first phase, a court will be

held to resolve issues related to sewerage and sanitation. Complainant must enter his name, mobile number, details of the complaint in the comment box. Meanwhile, The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has allotted 321 plots in sector I-12 and I-14 to people, in lieu of deleted plots. The plots were allotted through balloting conducted by National

Database and Registration Au-

thority.

CDA retrieves 150 kanal land at Chontra

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) during its ongoing anti-encroachment operation has retrieved 150 kanal government's land from Sanyari Chontra from the land grabbers.

According to detail, the administration of CDA is continuously conducting operations against encroachments, illegal buildings, and land grabbers. In this regard, a mega operation was conducted against land grabbers, encroachments, and illegal constructions at Sanvari Chontra. CDA took action on the information that the land grabbers had done constructions again on government's land at the said place. During the operation, 79 rooms, 47 boundary walls, 33 kitchens, 51 washrooms, 29 DPC, 15 water tanks, three water pumps, 12 gates, and other illegal constructions were demolished. - DNA

land was allotted to other people [double allotment].

CDA officials said 205 plots were allotted in sector I-12 and 116 were allotted in sector I-14. The balloting was held at the CDA headquarters, attended by a number of CDA officers.

He said soon CDA would also allot plots to affected persons of sector E-12 to get possession of the sector. He said currently their application was being scrutinized.

According to CDA official, the plots were allotted to people whose land was deleted from maps of the said sectors during revision of design and those whose

CDA starts online forums to resolve citizens' issues

In the light of Prime Minister Imran Khan's instructions for immediate and online solution of public

IMF commitment

HE government's commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to revive the Fund programme will have an extreme effect on the public's lives. This means that the upcoming budget might not be a 'people-friendly' one. It will be a great challenge for the government as well in deciding what segments of society can absorb the shocks of the new taxes. The government's pledge to IMF to increase electricity rates and sales tax are a real blow to the lives of ordinary citizens.

The government, on one hand, claims to be aware of the miseries of the poor. On the other, it is burdening the people with unbearable taxes. Moreover, the petroleum levy on oil products that will be taken to the maximum level might become the straw that will break the back of the camel. The public should brace itself for unprecedented food inflation, job losses, inadequate social services and pay cuts. A shrinkage in incomes and purchasing power might contract the economy even further; the government is taking fiscal decisions that will have lasting ramifications but is only looking at short-term gains. This is not the best way to approach economic policy. While we are going time and again to the IMF for loans, the government has yet to overhaul the tax structure. Unfortunately, there is little, if any, deliberation made by the government on making it more progressive. What is beyond comprehension is the fact that the current government had promised the people to transform Pakistan into a welfare state. But the state has not even begun to create an equitable tax regime.

Our Prime Minister (PM) often stresses the importance of wealth creation. However, is it possible to create wealth if the poor are left with nothing at the end of the month for saving or investing or buying assets? The economic minds of the government must explain why quick fixes to overcome revenue shortfall are being prioritised over the higher principle of creating a robust economy with jobs and wealth being created.

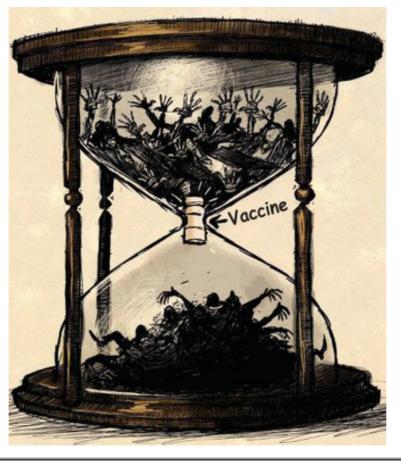
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New FBR chairman

HE government's deliberations for the new FBR chairman have culminated in the selection of Asim Ahmad, a member of the Inland Revenue Service posted at the FBR headquarters. This is the fifth FBR Chairman to have stepped in during this government's three-year tenure. However, on at least two occasions, the government is hardly to be blamed; Shabbar Zaidi had stepped back of his own volition and Javed Ghani reached the superannuation age.

The new chairman has a mammoth task on his hands, much like his predecessors. The IMF's projection for next year's tax collection stands at Rs6 trillion. With the government not having worked on making any significant policy changes to improve tax collection or allow for widening the tax net, Mr Ahmad will be required to increase collection without any major improvements to the system itself.

There is also the matter of taxing the wealthier segments of society. The government must increase wealth and property taxes as a long-term measure to both increase collection rates and make the tax brackets more equitable.

The new chairman will also be carrying the many problems the institution is best by on his shoulders. One of the bigger impediments to collection is corruption in key commercial collection points such as Karachi. In the past three years, the large collection targets have all but ensured that FBR officials work around the clock to meet collection targets with rules, procedures and corruption investigations taking a backseat. This is something that the government must help the FBR leadership work on in the year to come. The FBR is an instrumental part of the state and its proper functioning can help Pakistan reduce reliance on foreign loans and acquire the funds needed to both develop the country and improve key economic indicators. Beyond the targets, there is a need to look at how best to advance its functioning. It is hoped that the new chairman will be given the time and impetus to bring about some significant improvements.

Indonesia's national strategy of Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Indonesia's Industry Minister Airlangga Hartato said it will be key to encourage added value and high technology downstream industries to become a competitive player in the new global context. In order to turn Indonesia into a competitive nation, it will require the development and integration of connectivity, technology, information and communication. This should lead to a more efficient economy as well as higher quality output in the industry sector." It hopes the initiative will boost GDP by 1-2 percent in the next few years, adding to an already impressive 5 percent GDP growth rate Indonesia has enjoyed over the last several years

RTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) has become "part and parcel" of our lives. Survival and future growth of "humanity" has direct correlation with the AI which actually, paves the way of achieving the goals of smarter economy, smart governance, digitalization of economy/society, massive industrialization, diversification of economy and last but not least, innovative future orientations. In this context, Indonesian government announced its national strategy for the development of AI. It termed it "safe" and widely "beneficial". For achieving the desired goals of technological revolution, innovative transformation, digitalization transmission, and highest standards of higher education and to cope with deadly diseases, and expedite research Indonesia published a blueprint, known as Stranas KA, for the national development of AI between 2020 and 2045. The head of Indonesian national research and innovation agency (BRIN) shared the future plans of his government pertaining to AI mainly in education and research, health services, bureaucratic reform, and food security as well as mobility and smart cities.

It would start a giant automation process in the country. By outlining the national strategy for the development of AI he termed it vital for an independent, advanced and prosperous Indonesia, one that can be reformed or reinvented) from a natural resource-based country to an innovation-based country. The agency and broader government outlined five sectors of its focus, the first being AL as well as Internet of Things (IoT), advanced robotics, augmented reality, and 3D printing. Stranas KA is a framework that provides a road map to unite many of the digital developments taking place in the country and aligns closely with Visi Indonesia 2045, its broader development strategy. According to Indonesian Stranas KA, for the national development of AI (2020- 2045) there are five priorities of it mainly health services, bureaucratic reform, education & research, food security and mobility & smart cities. There are four focus areas i.e. industrial research & innovation for the development of research ecosystem and artificial intelligence innovation platform in order to accelerate bureaucratic and industrial reforms, infrastructure & data development, create a data ecosystem and supporting infrastructure for AL to contribute to national priorities, talent development, nurture AI talent that is competitive and has good character, and last ethics & policies to create ethical artificial intelligence in accordance with national values.

being carried out in diverse sectors of economy and civility too mainly agriculture and education, with machine learning helping to streamline production, anticipate forest fires, and rejuvenate traditional teaching faculties. The national strategy identifies 186 programs, pilot schemes, and policies. The national strategy focuses a number of unique' datasets that can help it develop AI. It also recognizes some potential pitfalls of its immediate growth. Indonesia does not have the provisions to regulate the technology, nor an official agency to oversee AI development. It fears that without proper supervision, close monitoring, and refinement, AI can become as much an obstacle to development as it can a contributor. The country also leans heavily on imported technology and holds its own concerns with regard to data misuse and cyber-security. To combat these limitations, the guidebook advises that country focuses on infrastructure and data, research and industrial innovation, ethics and policies, and talent development while setting up a data ethics board to oversee implementation of much-needed data privacy and security systems.

To overcome this deficiency the government advises the formation of a data ethics board to oversee AI development, as well as for the regulation and setting of national standards for AI innovation. AI developers and experts have urged the government to consider all the risks and prepare a comprehensive strategy for the future growth of AI. In this connection, development of fundamental infrastructure and expertise of cloud computing systems should be developed to prevent data leaks. Indonesian companies have the highest rates of AI adoption in SE Asia. Being prominent regional expert of geopolitics/economic I suggest that Indonesian government should prioritize trade, higher education and industrial affairs, as these will yield the best economic benefits and prepare the next generation for the burgeoning vision of modern Indonesia. The government should work towards creating a better internet infrastructure, nurturing high-quality talent and providing additional infrastructure to bolster technological development such as an indigenous cloud computing system to prevent any leak of confidential information. Reforms of higher education based on AI should be regularized to prevent AI algorithm errors that may harm humankind Indonesia plans to robust its Artificial Intelligence Industry (AII). Indonesia has a literacy rate of 95 percent and a geographical location that lends itself to being the perfect next step in the Asian Ai revolution, Indonesia is primed for the future. Indonesia's government announced an initiative in 2018, "Making Indonesia 4.0" which essentially is a government sponsored program that seeks to speed up the automation of the Indonesian society. Through investments in AI, robotics and technology-based Indonesian firms as well as encourage investment from leading Japanese, Chinese and Korean tech firms Indonesia's Industry Minister Airlangga Hartato said it will be key to encourage added value and high-technology downstream industries to become a competitive player in the new global context. In order to turn Indonesia into a competitive nation, it will require the development and integration of connectivity, technology, information and communication. This should lead to a more efficient economy as well as higher quality output in the industry sector.' It hopes the initiative will boost GDP by 1-2 percent in the next few years, adding to an already impressive 5 percent GDP growth rate Indonesia has enjoyed over the last several years. The government wants technology to represent more than one quarter of Indonesia's total economy. Indonesia's population is already extremely digitalized. The population averages 5 hours per day on their phones

as compare only 3 hours for Japan and 193 million out of a population of 264 million have a smartphone. However, only half of mobile phone users in Indonesia use their phones for mobile transactions. Before 2011, Statista.com shows that less than half of the country even had a mobile phone and less than 10 percent had smartphone technology.

Indonesia is already home to a number of AI firms today. In fact 4 of the globe's technology unicorns are based in Indonesia. Recently funded Ai firms include Snapcart which just received USD \$14m in funding for their smart receipts platform and four conversational Ai firms: Kata.Ai, BJTech, Bahasa.ai & Prosai.ai. The AI scene in Jakarta is exploding, with the government hoping for over 1,000 tech startups by the end of 2020. Stranas KA is planned to take advantage of Indonesia's rapid development and youthful demographic. Thriving start-up sector with world-famous unicorns like Gojek, its rapidly growing internet penetration rate (more than 64 per cent), and the relatively high adoption rates of technology by the private sector, including large enterprises would create hope for the Stranas KA to achieve the goals of the AI in the country.

The Stranas KA provides a foundation for AI development and unifies multiple ongoing technology-related projects under one national program. However, it still needs to tackle issues around the quality of internet connectivity especially in rural and eastern regions and data protection.

Indonesia joins the ranks of countries worldwide with na-

One of the foremost priority of Indonesian government is to upgrade and replace the nation's unsupportive bureaucratic. To achieve this goal President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo outlined plans to replace a number of civil service positions with AI in 2019. It would a big step towards e-governance and smarter economy in the days to come.

From Aristotle to modern philosophers Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, Kant, Marx, and Wittgenstein bureaucracy by design, composition and orientation is a passive class which has been creating serious socio-economic and geopolitical issues in the evolution of human civilization. But governments/states have the authority and capability to remodel it by re-designing forward-thinking processes, protocols, and business orientation.

In this regard, AI may be an ideal choice to overhaul it. Indonesia's government has introduced an innovative concept of e-bureaucracy in the country so that caravans of socio-economic prosperity, economic sustainability, political stability and societal cohesion may be achieved by implementing people and business's friendly policies through an interactive mechanism of the AI. The government will employ an online single submission (OSS) system and the Single Map policy for accomplishing this vision. Various AI projects are tional AI strategies like Singapore, South Korea, and Canada. Economic development is often the key goal among many countries' AI strategies Indonesia's plan stands out for leveraging AI to address specific problem areas. Indonesia aims to use AI to help tackle its struggles with poor nutrition among infants and to implement government services digitally. According to consulting firm Kearney and Singapore-based investment firm EDBI (2020-2021) Artificial intelligence could add US\$366 billion to Indonesia's gross domestic product in the next decade and almost \$1 trillion in added GDP across Southeast Asia.

Financial services and retail have been the early adopters of AI in Indonesia which would be further increased in the days to come. The logistics and supply chain sector may also be sole beneficiary of the development of the AI in Indonesia. Indonesian e-commerce platform Tokopedia succeeded to increase the total number of transactions by 202 percent and increase revenue by 179 percent month-over-month after implementing AI-based product recommendations.

To conclude, Indonesian national policy for the national development of AI between 2020 and 2045 has strategic importance which would further enhance elements of fairness, accountability, and transparency among the ranks, organs, organizations and departments of its government in the near future. It would further accelerate its country-wide drive of massive industrialization. It would revolutionize its government, society, industry, IT, ICT and patronize immense growth of digitalization of economy in the near future. Moreover, it would enhance its agriculture productivity. It would give new innovative outlook to his tourism industry. It would fasten elements of research, higher education, science & technology and saver living in the country. It would start a new concept of living with nature by implementing smarter cities in the country. Moreover, it would further enhance inter-cities & rural connectivity and would be beneficial for the generation of new jobs in the country. All in all the largest economy of the South East Asia, Indonesia is poised to lead the region also in terms of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the near future for branding a prosperous, independent, innovative and modern Indonesia in the very near future.

Pak-Russia relations will change the region

Attiya Munawar



There is no denying the fact that relations between Pak and Russia have been strained for a long time. India has always used these relations against Pakistan. Russia was a superpower compared to the US in the case of the Soviet Union

N view of the Iran-China agreement, the grow-In view of the ing proximity between Beijing and model, and the recent developments in the region, Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan is a matter of special significance. It is the first visit by a Russian foreign minister to Pakistan in nine years. There is a lot of talk in the national and international media that Pakistan's focus is now on the East. This process of looking towards the East is positive for Pakistan. Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China, Turkey and Central Asian countries together form a new political bloc. Russia, on the other hand, has made a concerted effort to reshape and expand relations with Pakistan. This development could be a game-changer for both Pakistan and South Asia. Critical strategic dynamics and policy changes in South Asia could change the perceptions that drove Pakistan into an anti-Russian camp during the Cold War between Russia and the United States.

There is no denying the fact that relations between Pakistan and Russia have been strained for a long time. India has always used these relations against Pakistan. Russia was a superpower compared to the United States in the case of the Soviet Union, so India stayed close to it but when the United States through Pakistan smashed the Soviet Union in the background, India stepped up its efforts to move to the US camp. India is a big market, so the United States also wants good relations with India. India extended a hand to the United States for relations, then the United States welcomed it at the expense of Pakistan since thenthe United States in relations with Pakistan has grown cold. While India has made it possible to pursue its interests by getting closer to the United States, it has not spared any effort to fill the ears of the United States against Pakistan. This has led to a breakdown in the warmth of Pakistan-US relations. The United States cut off aid to Pakistan and began to make unreasonable demands on Do more. Pakistan has been threatened to teach a lesson in the Trump era while on this occasion, Pakistan has patiently continued its efforts to keep the relations and the situation normal, which is why the US-Taliban peace agreement was signed, but India and the Afghan administration are trying their best to sabotage this agreement. This peace agreement is still in force, but its future is in question. At present, in view of the changing situation in the region, the United States has also come closer to India as it needed a parasitic country in the region to compete with China. At the behest of the United States, India continues to be at loggerheads with China and other neighbors. On the other hand, Russia's distance from India has become a major reason for Russia's closeness to Pakistan. Russia and Pakistan have gradually come so close that the Russian Foreign Minister is on a long visit to Pakistan. Earlier, Russian forces had conducted exercises in Pakistan now Russia is also becoming part of the CPEC. It had a dream to reach the hot waters which Pakistan had thwarted by force, but now an atmosphere of friendship and reconciliation, Pakistan is welcoming Russia to use the port of Gwadar.

Russia's announcement to provide Pakistan with modern special weapons in the fight against ter-

rorism in response to Pakistan's goodwill message is a significant development as Pakistan has long had its weapons needs from the United States and Western countries. Since then, it has stepped into the field of automatic armaments with the cooperation of China and is rapidly moving towards self-sufficiency. There was almost no cooperation with Russia in this area but for the past few years, the procurement of modern weapons including helicopters has progressed while India under US auspices, is stockpiling arms in the region. Pakistan has relied on China's cooperation to compete with India. If Russia moves forward to meet Pakistan's needs for modern weapons, it will be a great help in maintaining the balance of power in the region.

The warmth in Pakistan-Russia relations will make a significant difference in the regionbut the US-India alliance could pose further threats to peace, especially in South Asia. To address this, the major powers and countries of the region must unite, which has become a natural environment. For lasting peace in the region, a defense bloc comprising China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey should be formed which may include Malaysia and Saudi Arabia as the opportunity arises. Pakistan is one of the most important countries in the region yet Pakistan's foreign policy is no longer the rarity and breadth that its role demands. Unlike in the past, Pakistan's changing foreign policy is important as is the relationship with distant friends from neighboring countries far more important which can improve the situation in the region and make Pakistan's role more prominent and important.

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs

06

USAID completes **106 schools** in Sindh

ATHAR SUIF

ISLAMABAD: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with the allocation of US \$ 159.2 million has completed 106 schools in 10 districts of Sindh, affected by the 2010 flood which were imparting education to more than 50,000 students.

The eight year project titled USAID-Sindh Basic Education Programme (SBEP), started in 2013, has completed this year under which the schools were equipped with latest facilities in seven districts of Northen Sindh that include Sukkur, Khairpur, Larkana, Dadu. Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Kashmore and three districts of Karachi i.e Karachi Malir, Karachi South and Karachi West.

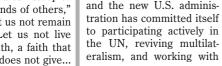
Pope Francis celebrates mass of 'mercy' with prisoners

DNA

ROME: Pope Francis made a rare Sunday outing from Vatican grounds to celebrate a mass on "divine mercy" with prisoners, refugees and health workers.

The service was held in a church just off St Peter's Square, in front of a reduced congregation of about 80 people, due to coronavirus restrictions. Among them, there were inmates of two Roman prisons and one youth detention centre; refugees from Syria, Nigeria and Egypt; and nursing staff

from a nearby hospital. In his homily, the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics stressed the importance for Christians of serving others. "Sister, brother, do you want proof that God has touched your life? See if you can stoop to bind the wounds of others,' he said. "Let us not remain indifferent. Let us not live a one-way faith, a faith that





MADRID: Karim Benzema of Real Madrid celebrates after scoring a goal against FC Barcelona in La Liga match. – DNA

Pakistan looks forward to cooperate with US: Munir

The United Nations, he said, has always been an important body for Pakistan because its dispute with India over Jammu and Kashmir was referred to the Security Council in 1947

DNA

NEW YORK: A top Pakistani diplomat has expressed the hope that the United Nations under the new Biden administration, will revive Army War College. its active engagement at the United Nations to enable the world community to effectively respond to global challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, terrorism and promoting Sustainable Development goals (SDGs). "Everyone at the UN is very tion of landpower. happy that America is back, and the new U.S. adminis-Ambassador Akram told the tration has committed itself army officers participating to participating actively in in the seminar that the U.S.

ring with

U.N. had contributed to the other member states to promote the goals and obdiminution in the importance jectives of the UN Charter," of the world body. In his pres-Munir Akram, Pakistan entation, the Pakistani envoy permanent representative explained the key features and to the UN, said in a virtual functions of the United Naseminar organized by US tions and its affiliated organs in the maintenance of interna-Pakistan, he said, looked tional peace and security, as forward to cooperating with well as Pakistan's active role the United States at the UN at the UN, especially in the

on all key issues. Based in peace-keeping operations. Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the The United Nations, he US Army War College edusaid, has always been an cates and develops leaders important body for Pakifor service at the strategic stan because its dispute level while advancing knowlwith India over Jammu and edge in the global applica-Kashmir was referred to the Security Council in 1947.

The 15-member Council pronounced itself on the dispute, calling for a plebmove, over the last four years, iscite, under the UN aus-

of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future, and to decide whether they wish to join Pakistan or India, it was pointed out.

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), has been stationed since 1948 to monitor the ceasefire between the two countries. Pakistan has contributed over 200,000 peacekeepers in over 46 UN peacekeeping missions, and promoted actively the role of the UN peacekeeping for the preservation of international peace and security. At the present moment, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan has a stake in a number of current issues that are before the United Nat

He said Kashmir became a focus of attention when India abrogated its autonomy in 2019 and divided the occupied region into two parts, prompting Pakistan to raise it's voice against these illegal measures.

"The situation between India and Pakistan in Kashmir remains a threat to international peace and security,' the Pakistani envoy said.

After a large number of ceasefire violations by India along the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region, he said guns have fallen silent and hoped that they would remain silent. On Afghanistan, he said,

Pakistan had facilitated an agreement between the United States and the Taliban for raised in the Security C

an orderly and responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan, and for negotiations between the Afghan parties to achieve a political settlement.

On terrorism, he said, Pakistan had collaborated with the United States to destroy al Qaeda and related terrorist organizations, and suffered over 80,000 casualties in this 'war on terrorism.' Pakistan had succeeded after major military operations to clear its frontier territories of terrorist organizations. "However,' he said, "We continue to face the problem of terrorism today, which is externally sponsored by our neighbour -India - from the ungoverned spaces in Afghanistan," adding that this issue has been

Matsuyama chases **Masters** triumph

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 12, 2021

DNA

AUGUSTA (US): Hideki Matsuyama, trying to become the first Japanese man to win a major golf title, held a four-stroke lead as Sunday's dramatic final round of the 85th Masters began. Matsuyama stood on 11-under 205 after 54 holes at Augusta National, seizing command with a Masters career-low seven-under par 65 on Saturday, the only bogey-free round of the event. England's Justin Rose, Australian Marc Leishman and Americans Xander Schauffele and Will Zalatoris shared second on 209 with Canada's Corey Conners on 210 and three-time major winner Jordan Spieth seventh on 211. Japan's Chako Higuchi won the 1977 LPGA Championship and Hinako Shibuno won the 2019 Women's British Open but the nearest Japanese men have come to a major win was Isao Aoki's runner-up effort at the 1980 US Open and Matsuyama's share of second at the 2017 US Open.

'Terrorist act' at Iran nuclear...

From Page 01

The Iranian nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has been in intensive care since Donald Trump pulled the US out of it. Mr Trump said the accord was based on "a giant fiction that a murderous regime desired only a peaceful nuclear energy programme" and reinstated crippling economic sanctions in an attempt to compel Iran to

negotiate a replacement. Iran, which insists it does not want nuclear weapons, refused to do so and retaliated by rolling back a number of key commitments under the accord. It has since accelerated the breaches in an attempt to increase pressure on the US. They have included operating advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium, resuming enrichment to 20% concentration of the most fissile II.235 isotope and huilding a stockpile of that material.

receives but does not give ... Having received mercy, let us now become merciful," Francis added.

Blinken warns China over Taiwan

DNA

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday warned an "increasingly aggressive" China not to attempt to change the status quo around Taiwan. saying to do so would be a "serious mistake." "What we've seen, and what is of real concern to us, is increasingly aggressive actions by the government in Beijing directed at Taiwan, raising tensions in the (Taiwan) Straits," Blinken told NBC's "Meet the Press."

He added that the US has a long-standing commitment to Taiwan "to make sure that Taiwan has the ability to defend itself, and to make sure that we're sustaining peace and security in the Western Pacific."

Blinken would not be drawn on whether the US would respond militarily to any Chinese action involving Taiwan. But he added: "All I can tell vou is it would be a serious mistake for anyone to try to change the existing status quo by force."

Saudi Arabia postpones 2nd Covid jabs

DNA

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health (MoH) said it has postponed second dose appointments for coronavirus disease (COV-ID-19) vaccines in order to ensure more of the Kingdom's residents can receive their first dose.

According to the MoH, all second dose reservations will be rescheduled as of Sunday April 11 and will resume at a later time. The ministry added that due to a global shortage in vaccine manufacturing and delivery, they've provided more room for first timers, especially those in high risk categories, to receive theirs. Over 6.1 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Kingdom so far.

PSL 6 to resume from June 1: PCB

LAHORE: The remaining matches of the HBL PSL 6 will be held from June 1, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday. The PCB announced that the tournament will resume after the players and officials undergo a seven-day quarantine stay at one hotel and following three training sessions, the PSL will resume from June 1.

DNA

To ensure all those who will be part of the bio-secure bubble remain safe from the infection this time, the PCB said it it in the final stages of appointing "a globally-recognised safety management company that specialises in providing Covid-safe technology solutions, bio-secure monitoring & management, as well as response and reaction to positive tests". Earlier, a two-member

fact-finding committee had been set up by the PCB chairman, which gave its presentation to the Board of Governors (BoG) and had reviewed the bio-secu-



HBL Jubice Erighto] Oppo Research 🔆 👯 TTRANS BAL 1152 PCB Hall of Fame. Among rity protocols, bylaws and arrangements for the HBL the first six inductees into Pakistan Super League 6. the Hall of Fame are Im-The PCB chairman had also ran Khan, Wasim Akram, Wagar Younis, Hanif Moasked the panel to make recommendations on how hammad, Zaheer Abbas to better ensure implemenand Javed Miandad. tation of a bio-secure envi-

"There will be three more ronment for future events. inductions each year from 2021 with the inductees to The BoG expressed their disappointment at the findbe chosen by an independings of the panel and recent panel and announced ommended that remedial on 16 October, day one of actions be taken at once Pakistan's inaugural Test to rectify them. The BoG in 1952," read the PCB's approved the launch of the press release.

amid deadly virus surge DNA LIMA: Some 25 million Peruvians are set to turn out Sunday to vote for a new president

Peru votes

amid the country's deadliest week of coronavirus pandemic and a surge in new infections. Voting is mandatory in the country of 33 million, which saw an average of 279 daily deaths over the past week and 384 fatalities in 24 hours reported Saturday - the third daily death toll record this week. Over 11,200 new cases were recorded Saturday. Unlike its neighbor Chile, which was also due to hold elections Sunday but delayed them over the pandemic, Peru's govt decided to press ahead. More than 1.6m people have tested

positive for the coronavirus in Peru to date, and more than 54,000 have died. South American continent is battling a surge in infections fueled by new virus variants believed to be more contagious. Six of the 18 presidential candidates have contracted the virus, including former football goalkeeper George Forsyth - one of the leading contenders according to polls - who was forced to cut short his final week of campaigning.

US defense secy in Israel amid Iran talks

TEL AVIV: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Israel Sunday on the first high-level visit from the new US administration, after talks restarted on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Austin's visit comes just days after Washington said it had offered "very serious" ideas on reviving the hobbled agreement that is staunchly opposed by Israel. Austin's first scheduled stop on the two-day trip was a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz. Israel under hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a fierce critic of the Iran nuclear deal, dating back to when it was being negotiated during Barack Obama's administration. Netanyahu applauded when Trump withdrew from the deal and imposed sanctions on Tehran, which responded by stepping back from several of its commitments under the deal. In the latest breach of its undertakings in the troubled agreement, Tehran announced on Saturday that it had started up advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges.

President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated a cascade of 164 IR-6 centrifuges for producing enriched uranium, as well as two test cascades - of 30 IR-5 and 30 IR-6S devices respectively - at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant, in a ceremony broadcast by state television. An "accident" took place at Nantaz on Sunday but caused no casualties or damage, the Fars news agency reported. In an address marking the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Israel would not be bound to a nuclear deal that would enable the Islamic republic to develop nuclear weapons. "An agreement with Iran that would pave the way to nuclear weapons - weapons that threaten our extinction - would not compel us in any way," said the veteran right-wing premier. Biden has said he is prepared to return to the agreement, arguing the deal had - until Washington's withdrawal - been successful in dramatically scaling back Iran's nuclear activities. – DNA

Pak hands over aid to Kyrgyzstan

From Page 01

out the issue of receiving humanitarian aid from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. On April 10, 2021, the first batch of humanitarian aid was sent to Kyrgyzstan weighing 816 kg. A charter flight on the Islamabad-Bishkek route of the Aviatrafik airline carried the goods. The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan has expressed its gratitude for the support by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in this crucial time.

Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan was personally present at the airport to oversee the handing over of the goods. Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy excellent relations. Both countries have been cooperating with each other on bilateral as well as multilateral forums.

PM opens ECOSOC *DfD*...

From Page 01

Special high-level The segment of the ECOSOC Forum is being held in response to a decision of the UN General Assembly.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has been in the forefront of the international efforts to provide developing countries with the fiscal space and liquidity to respond to the current Covid induced economic recession. The Prime Minister advanced the "Global Initiative on Debt Relief" for developing countries in April 2020 and, in January 2021, he proposed a 5-point financial action plan encompassing debt relief, creation and redistribution of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the IMF, larger concessional assistance, mobilization of climate finance, and end to illicit financial flows from the developing countries.

In his address, the Prime Minister will call on the international community to take bold and urgent decisions to respond to the challenges posed by the Covid crisis, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and climate solutions.

Jordan king, prince in first appearance since crisis FM Ayman Safadi then charged that a group of plotters had linked up with foreign parties to destabilise Jordan, but declined to identify them. After mediation talks, however, Hamzah voiced his loyalty to the king

DNA

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah appeared in public Sunday alongside his half-brother Prince Hamzah, state TV showed, their first joint appearance since a palace crisis involving the prince rocked the kingdom.

The images showed a group of Hashemite royals at a mausoleum where their ancestors are buried, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the desert kingdom. The palace Twitter account published a picture of the group at a cemetery with the caption "HM King Abdullah II, HRH Crown Prince Al Hussein... (and) Hamzah bin Al Hussein... visit tomb of HM the late King Abdullah I". All were dressed in civilian clothes, apart from Hussein, the heir to the

throne, who wore military dress. Jordan was marking 100 years of national survival Sunday as a resource-poor country in a war-ravaged neighbourhood, but the palace crisis and the coronavirus pandemic have overshadowed celebrations. The government had accused Hamzah – a former crown prince who was sidelined as heir to the throne in favour of Abdullah's son Hussein in 2004 – of involvement in a conspiracy to "destabilise the kingdom's security". At least 16

people were arrested. But Abdullah said Wednesday that Hamzah, who has signed a letter pledging his loyalty to the king following mediation by an uncle, was safe in his palace under his "care". In an address read out in his name on state television, the king added that "sedition has been nipped in the bud". Jordanian political ana-



lyst Labib Kamhawi told AFP the appearance of the king and Prince Hamzah together "sends a clear message that the crisis file within the royal family has been closed". "It shows the Royal family is united." But, he added, the fact that Prince Hamzah stood behind the king and his uncle prince Hassan and Crown Prince Hussein... and not beside the king means he

is now a normal prince, not on the level of a king or his crown prince". Hamzah had been appointed crown prince and heir to the throne in 1999 in line with his father's wishes, but Abdullah stripped him of the title in 2004 and named his own eldest son Hussein in Hamzah's place.

Hamzah in a video message published by the BBC on April 3 claimed he had been placed under house arrest and accused Jordan's rulers of corruption and ineptitude. Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi then charged that a group of plotters had linked up with foreign parties to destabilise Jordan, but declined to identify them. After mediation talks, however, Hamzah voiced his loyalty to the king.

"Prince Hamzah pledged before the family to follow in the steps of the ancestors, remain loyal to their mission, and to put Jordan's interest, constitution and laws above all considerations," the king said Wednesday. A probe into the events continues, the king added. The crisis laid bare divisions in a pro-Western country usually seen as a bulwark of stability in the Middle East. Jordan borders Israel and the occupied West Bank, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It hosts US troops and is home to millions of exiled Palestinians and many Syrian refugees. The king's address followed or-

ders issued by Amman prosecutor Hassan al-Abdallat that banned the publication of any information about the alleged plot in order to keep the security services' investigation secret. The UN human rights office said Friday it was concerned about a lack of transparency surrounding the alleged plot.

Π7

BUSINESS / WORLD



Pak Embassy organizes virtual tour of Lahore

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINTON: The Pakistani embassy Friday organized a virtual tour of Lahore that showcased to the American audiences the city's rich history, culture and cuisine in an effort to bring out the tourism potential of Pakistan.

In his opening remarks at the webinar, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan said that the event was the third episode in the Embassy's Webcast series introducing Pakistan's top historical and cultural sites. He said the on-line trip highlighted Lahore's gardens, monuments, mosques, shrines and culinary delights. Lahore's rich history and culture, the warmth and exemplary hospitality of its people and its exquisite cuisine make it a must travel destination for all tourists. In his keynote address, Director General Walled City Authority, Lahore, Kamran Lashari underscored Lahore's significance as the cultural capital of Pakistan. He spoke about Lahore's glorious past and how it has evolved over the centuries. A documentary was also screened focusing on the important role played by the Walled City Authority, La hore, in restoring the past glory of the area.

Pak to apply China's AI in cervical cancer screening

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan will promote the implementation of the AI-assisted diagnostic technologists in cervical cancer monitoring, said Moin ul Haque, the Pakistani Ambassador to China. According to Gwadar Pro, Haque made the remarks while visiting Wuhan Landing Medical High-tech Co., Ltd. (Landing) that has developed diagnostic devices and a novel service model to offer more accurate and affordable screening services. Haque visited the company's "AI plus Big data" cervical cancer monitoring cloud platform and laboratory. Dr Sun Xiaorong, President of Landing, briefed the ambassador about the application of AI-assisted diagnostic technologists in cervical cancer monitoring and the implementation plan for Pakistan. At a seminar on China-Pak cooperation on cervical cancer screening held at Landing, Haque said that the short of professionals and laboratories in cervical cancer monitoring is a common problem faced by developing countries. Fortunately, Landing, a highly specialized company, emerges. The Pak-China cooperation in cervical cancer monitoring assisted by AI technology, will make the Chinese self-developed and innovation sci-tech achievement benefit more coun tries and regions participating in the "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)".

Briefs Next month best for Pakistani mango to enter China market

"If Pakistan mango exporters grasp this period, profits can be large. The consumption capacity in China is very high"

DNA

Sunday.

of June," said Ni Zhangguang mango expert at ISLAMABAD: The Coming the Tropical and Subtropmonth the best timing for ical Economic Crops Re-Pakistan mango to enter search Institute, Yunnan the Chinese Market, says a Academy of Agricultural report published by China Sciences. Economic Net (CEN) on "If Pakistan mango ex-

porters grasp this period, "One of the advantages of profits can be large. The Pakistani mangoes is its consumption capacity in long harvest period from China is very high.' Ni Zhangguang and his May to September.

There are relatively low team started the promomango supply in Chinese tion of mango planting market from the end of in Yunnan in the 1980s,

April to the beginning which has made a great contribution to the local poverty alleviation.

"We introduced new mango varieties and adopted cultivation techniques to help improve the production and the quality of the products.

After our efforts, the price of mango rose from RMB 0.3 per kilogram to RMB 6 per kilogram , and the yield per mu increased 600 kilograms to from 1,000 kilograms. "Our

'technology plus

demonstration zone' mode can be adopted in Pakistan." Ni Zhangguang told the CEN that it is a good way to encourage the farmers to learn new technologies initially. "The demonstration zones

were under standardized management. The production, sale and price of mangoes were excellent. Seeing the benefits, farmers took the initiative to purchase mango seedlings and requested to learn techniques."

Ni Zhangguang and his team have been to Pakistan once for the research of mango breeding. "The potential of Pakistan mangoes is huge," he said "Pakistan is rich in natural resources and has suitable climatic conditions for mango planting. Pakistan also has wide mango vari-

When we were there, Pakistan friends gave us seeds of Sindhri and Chaunsa for trial planting in Yunnan. They now begin to blos-

som and bear fruits." Ni Zhangguang suggested that China and Pakistan should cooperate in the mango industry through talent exchange, joint project research and joint construction of demonstration zones

"Combining Pakistan's rich mango variety resources with China's cultivation and integrated pest control technology, it is promising to jointly create a top-class mango product," he added.

Uzbekistan.

Turkev confirms 52,676 new Covid cases

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 12, 2021

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkey on Saturday reported 52,676 new COVID-19 cases, including 2,497 symptomatic patients, as the total number of positive cases in the country reached 3,798,333, according to its health ministry. The death toll from the virus in Turkey rose by 248 to 33,702, while the

total recoveries climbed to 3,301,217 after 32,539 more cases recovered in the last 24 hours. The rate of pneumonia in

COVID-19 patients stands at 3.1 percent and the number of seriously ill patients is 2,739 in the country, said the ministry.

A total of 302,735 tests were conducted over the past day, with the overall number of tests in Turkey reaching 41,297,580.

The country started mass vaccination against COV-ID-19 on Jan. 14 after the authorities approved the emergency use of the Chinese Sinovac vaccine. More than 10,896,000 people have been vaccinated so far.Turkey reported its first COVID-19 case on March 11, 2020.

Erdogan calls for solution to Ukraine tensions

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday called for a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the "worrying developments" in eastern Ukraine between Kiev and Moscow. "We believe that the cur-

rent crisis must be resolved peacefully by diplomatic means in line with the territorial integrity of Ukraine and international laws," Erdogan said at a joint press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky in Istanbul.

"Our main goal is that the Black Sea continues to be a sea of peace, tranquility, and cooperation," Erdogan stressed, saying that his country does not want the tension to escalate.

For his part, Zelensky said Turkey's support for the



at Baku, Azerbaijan. Experts from 10 countries, including Pakistan are participating. - DNA

Greek PM demands swift probe into journalist's murder

FOREIGN DESK

rapidly condemned by the Eu-ATHENS: Greek Prime Minropean Commission and the ister Kyriakos Mitsotakis Council of Europe commison Saturday demanded the sioner for human rights. "swift resolution" of a probe "Murdering a journalist is into a crime journalist's mura despicable, cowardly act," der already condemned by Commission chief Ursula von leading EU officials, political parties and media unions. Mitsotakis had summoned his police minister Michalis Chrysochoidis to a Saturday meeting on the case, the PM's office said. Giorgos Karaivaz, who worked for private TV station Star and also ran the news blog bloko.gr, was shot several times Friday as he exited his car outside his house in the southern Athens district of Alimos. witnesses said. He had just returned home from work. A police source told AFP the 52-year-old journalist had been shot by two men on a ly newspaper journalists said motorbike. Seventeen bullet in a statement.

stan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel Chairman and FPCCI ex-president Mian Anjum Nisar has asked the government to enhance liaison with the business community who are the real stakeholders with a view to broaden tax base and enhancing tax-to-GDP ratio, as the number of active taxpayers has declined by 30% to just below 2.2 million. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the FBR's reforms initiatives were not bearing fruit, as the revenue collecting agency could increase the number of sales tax return filers by just 8 percent in first six months of the current fiscal year, mainly due to 40 percent rise in the type of those filers, who haven't paid any tax. implying that bad governance and weak tax management of the tax department still persist. There is an urgent need of reforming and simplifying the taxation system with the consultation of real stakeholders, besides addressing the issue of



He urged the authorities to introduce new tax incentives and extend the period of existing ones for attracting new foreign direct investments in line with the potential of the country. With a view to wipe out corruption there needs to develop local software and Apps with simplified system in Urdu so that interaction of human resource uld be reduced. suggested the BMP

casings were recovered from DNA the scene. The murder was

FBR liaison with businessmen to widen tax base: Mian Anjum

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Paki-



eties.

India's Delhi shuts all schools

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DEHLI: The Delhi government on Friday announced the suspension of all ongoing examinations in schools in the wake of the sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in the national capital. Announcing the closure of all schools (government and private), Delhi Chief Minis ter Arvind Kejriwal tweeted that "In the wake of surge in COVID-19 cases, all schools (government and private) in Delhi shall remain shut til further orders.

Meanwhile, an official circular issued by the Directorate of Education of the Delhi government said that all examinations in schools shall remain suspended till further orders.

"In view of the sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in Delhi, all schools are hereby informed that conduct of all academic and examination activities through physical mode shall remain suspended with immediate effect till further orders," read the government circular.

der Leven tweeted Friday "Europe stands for freedom. And freedom of press may be the most sacred of all. Journalists must be able to work safely. My thoughts are with the family of George Karaivaz. I hope the criminals are soon brought to justice," she said. Karaivaz had worked for some of Greece's leading newspapers and TV channels in a 32-year career. "(He) was one of the most experienced crime reporters in the field... and was held in high regard by colleagues," the Esiea union of Athens dai-

double taxation through integration of provincial and federal government laws and harmonization of FBR and Punjab Revenue Authority, he added.

It is unfortunate that just 30 percent of the total sales tax return filers are paying taxes while 70 percent of the filers have paid nil tax. The government's new measures seem to be inadequate to convince people to file tax returns due to arm-twisting by the FBR, creating unnecessary controversy due to continuous raids on business premises.

Chairman.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that only direct taxes can improve tax collection, as the existing tax system is heavily skewed toward indirect taxation. He said the sustainable solution to Pakistan's problems lies in the structural reforms, as we can see very large inefficiencies in tax collection, which needs to be removed.

So, the tax compliance must be improved and tax base should be broadened, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but by a systemic approach. It is a matter of concern that people want to pay additional tax on a business or personal economic activity but are not willing to become part of the tax system.

Iran says not to halt activities until

U.S. lifts sanctions

TEHRAN: Iran will not stop parts of its current nuclear ac-

tivities until the United States lifts anti-Iran sanctions and

returns to the 2015 nuclear deal, commonly known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran's Deputy

His country will not halt or even reduce the pace of its cur-

rent nuclear activities in particular its uranium enrichment,

including the 20-percent enrichment, Araqchi was quoted

This will continue until an accord is reached under which

the United States will be obliged to lift all of its sanctions

against Iran, he said, adding that the whole U.S. sanctions

should be lifted in one step. Aragchi, who also represents

Iran in the ongoing talks with the remaining parties of the

nuclear deal, noted that there are signs that Americans are

On Friday, the diplomatic representatives of Iran, Britain,

China, France, Russia and Germany, resumed talks in Vi-

enna with the lifting of sanctions on Iran and nuclear imple-

as saying by the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Friday.

considering the removal of all sanctions.

restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is "extremely important.'

The Ukrainian president's visit was within the framework of the 9th meeting of the Turkey-Ukraine High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

The two countries explored cooperation opportunities specifically in the defense industry, free-trade agreement, and tourism during the council meeting co-chaired by Erdogan and Zelensky.

Meanwhile, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar had a separate meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Andriy Taran. – APP

Kyrgyz vote on constitution boosting presidential powers

FOREIGN DESK

BISHKEK: Voters in Kyrgyzstan went to polls Sunday for a constitutional referendum widely expected to see incumbent leader Sadyr Japarov's powers expanded while allowing him to run for office a second time.

Japarov, a 52-year-old populist, has brushed aside political opponents since coming to power on the back of an October political crisis in which he was first released from jail by supporters, beginning a dizzying rise to the leadership.

He confirmed his dominance by posting a landslide victory in a presidential election in January that also saw voters indicate a preference for presidential over parliamentary rule in a parallel vote, boosting his drive to overhaul the basic law.

Two of his opponents on the ballot and a former prime minister were arrested in the weeks after the vote as Japarov and his allies further cemented their control.

The new leader's proposed constitutional amendments promise a presidency in line with impoverished Kyrgyzstan's Central Asian neighbours, ending a decade-long experiment with a mixed system. Local critics have dubbed the draft document a "khanstitution" for its expansion of presidential powers of appointment at the expense of parliament, which will be downsized from 120 to 90 lawmakers if the changes pass.

mentation measures on top of the agenda. - APP Myawaddy Bank's biggest On Saturday a local monitorsaid medical treatment had local media.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) enters the second phase, an increasing number of advanced Chinese agricultural technologies represented by maize-soybean strip intercropping are being brought to Pakistan to help improve local people's livelihood, promoting the friendship in a practical way

DNA

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: A security guard

was wounded in a bomb blast

outside a military-owned bank

in Myanmar's second-biggest

city Sunday morning, as the

civilian death toll from the

junta's brutal crackdown on

dissent topped more than 700

The country has been in

turmoil since the military

removed civilian leader Aung

San Suu Kyi on February 1.

at the weekend.

BEIJING: China-Pak agricultural cooperation proved as a great source deepening people-to-people bond, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Saturday.

According to the report, " China and Pakistan will ring in the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in the coming month. As China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) enters the second

phase, an increasing number of

advanced Chinese agricultur-

al technologies represented by

maize-soybean strip intercrop-

ping are being brought to Paki-

stan to help improve local peo-

friendship in a practical way. "Agricultural cooperation is closely linked to people's livelihood as

an ample supply of high-quality meat, eggs, milk, rice and flour, etc. can make Pakistani people healthier. This is the most fundamental way

of deepening the friendship because that benefits Pakistani people directly," said maize-soybean strip intercropping study leader Professor Yang Wenyu of China's Sichuan Agricultural University. Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, widely recognized by farmers, governments, scientific research institutions and enterprises in Pakistan, is flourishing across the country

this year. "In Pakistan, a great number of people depend on animal husbandry for their livelihood. Soybean, the premier protein choice for livestock, poultry and aquaculture production globally, is rarely planted in Pakistan while the demand for soybeans keeps rising.

Pakistan is China's brotherly friend so we started to help Pakistan revitalize soybean production," Yang told China Economic Net.

He is providing generous support for this technology's development in Pakistan both technically and financially.

Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology fits Pakistan's

conditions to a tee. "Intercropping doesn't occupy extra land. Moreover, Pakistan's high temperature and strong sunlight make it less likely to succeed in sole cultivation of soybeans. In the intercropping system, maize can shade and cool soybeans to realize high yields," Yang analyzed the success of applying this technology to Pakistan.

"To further boost soybean production, Chinese seeds, machinery and herbicides related to this technology are going to arrive in Pakistan soon," Yang added. Maize-soybean strip intercropping's progress in Pakistan also drives student and faculty exchanges between the two countries.

By 2020, under the MOU signed between Sichuan Agricultural University and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University in 2018, 47 Pakistani students have got scholarships from Sichuan Agricultural University.

"The overwhelming majority of my overseas students are from Pakistan. Pakistani students are studious as well as patriotic. My postdoctoral Muhammad Ali Raza who is promoting maize-sooybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan on behalf of our team is really hard-working.

He had an opportunity to study in the U.S. but he chose to work in his motherland to develop this technology," Yang appreciated Pakistani students a lot.

been denied to the injured.

Overall the Assistance Asso-

ciation for Political Prison-

ers has verified 701 civilian

The junta has a far lower

number: 248, according to a

Despite the bloodshed, pro-

testers continued to rally in

University students and their

professors marched through

the streets of Mandalay and

the city of Meiktila on Sun-

day morning, according to

deaths since the putsch.

spokesman Friday.

parts of the country.

China-Pak agri cooperation strengthens ties

ple's livelihood, promoting the

es that have faced boycott fles, as explosions were heard pressure since the coup, with in the background. many customers demanding The United Nations office in Myanmar tweeted late Saturto withdraw their savings. There has been heavy bloodday that it was following the

Myanmar's post-coup civilian

death toll crosses 700

Myawaddy Bank's biggest branch in Mandalay was targeted on

Sunday morning and a security guard was injured in the explosion

ing group said security forces

gunned down and killed 82

anti-coup protesters the previ-

ous day in the city of Bago, 65

kilometres (40 miles) north-

AFP-verified footage shot ear-

ly Friday showed protesters

hiding behind sandbag barri-

cades wielding homemade ri-

bloodshed in Bago, where it

east of Yangon.

branch in Mandalay was tar-

geted on Sunday morning and

a security guard was injured

in the explosion, according to

There was a heavy security

presence in the area following

The bank is one of scores of

military-controlled business-

letting in recent days.

local media.

the blast.







Briefs PTI's Malhi concedes defeat

DNA

DASKA: Ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) candidate who lost Saturday's by-election in a nail-biting contest in NA-75 Daska, has accepted his defeat and congratulated his winning rival PML-N's Nosheen Iftikhar. In a video message posted on his Twitter account on Sunday, Malhi said, "I thank the people of Daska who have participated and contested this election with me for so long.

Congratulations to Nosheen Iftikhar who won." Malhi also congratulated the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) which conducted a clean and transparent election.

In the video message, he thanked his party, voters and supporters who stood with him in thick and thin and fought the huge battle against the mafia. "We will come back with a thumping majority," he vowed and wooed his voters asking them not to worry as per the PTI supremo Imran Khan's directives.

"I especially want to thank the ECP. You have conducted the elections in the peak of COVID-19 and with great efforts you managed this elections." Malhi said let all take a break and then come back to the much-needed work to bring a change. He said he is ready to sacrifice

his life for the country. Malhi vowed he would remain among his voters, supporters and party men irrespective of the election results.

ECP lauds admin, police for fair polls in NA-75

SAIFULLAH ISLAMABAD: The Election

'Pak-Italy Friendship bridge' inaugurated for Chitral people

Ms Emanuela Benini, Director AICS, Pakistan, is immensely pleased that the infrastructure has been given the name 'Pak-Italy Friendship bridge'



STAFF REPORT

CHITRAL, A suspension bridge was inaugurated in Khairabad District, Chitral to solve the problem of rural isolation that has been affecting the community especially during the time of heavy rainfall. Due to adverse conditions and limited mobility, residents were deprived of crucial socio-economic opportunities. The bridge has been constructed in partnership

PM invites

Bill Gates

for climate

change

Minister Imran Khan has

invited Bill Gates to work

together to save the world

from the dangers of climate

change. In a letter written

to Microsoft co-founder

Bill Gates, Prime Minister

Imran Khan said that Paki-

stan is on the front lines of

the climate challenge and is

Prime

ISLAMABAD:

stan.

with Pakistan Poverty Al-Kol, Camp, Wardhap Payeen leviation Fund (PPAF) and will directly benefit fromthis development.

Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) under the Village Khairabad in Union Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) by Italian Agency for Development Corporation ((AICS) Paki-Khairabad is comprised of cut off. With the construction of Jeepable bridge in the village, accessibility has been massively improved

for the residents

ties in the district." Mr Shams

given the name 'Pak-Italy Friendship bridge'. She said, "AICS is aspires to lay the Badruddin,

er Chitral, Mr Hassan Abid appreciated the Italian government, PPAF and SRSP for supporting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in the development of the district. He said "Communication-related infrastructure plays the most critical role in the development of

any area and thus, this newthe local community to have ly built bridge could prove easier access to health and educational facilities in the to radically transform the District Chitral and this can lives of the local residents." lead to better socio econom-Construction of the bridge ic conditions in the region." was the top priority of Deputy Commissioner Lowthe village organization in Khairabad. Even the nearest bridge was 4 kilometres away thus it was cumbersome for the villagers to access it. Through PPR's timely intervention of Rs 17.6 Millions, hundreds of people will now be able to commute with ease and strive towards a better life.

PM fulfilled promise of fair elections: Firdous

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister of Punjab on Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday said that Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has fulfilled his promise of holding fair and transparent elections.

In a statement, the special assistant said that it's the part of politics whether you win or lose in the polls. The reservations on Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) are still intact, she added. The reaction came after PML-N candidate Nosheen Iftikhar won the by-election in NA-75 Daska and secured 111,220 votes, whereas PTI's Ali Asjad Malhi obtained 92,019 votes.

The polling that started at 8am continued till 5 pm without any break. 360 polling stations were setup for the 4,94000 registered voters in the constituency. Out of which, 47 polling stations were declared sensitive by the ECP

To deal with any untoward situation, Rangers and police were deployed in the constituency with Pakistan Army soldiers on standby.

China-CNTIC signs contract for 220kV **Grid Station**

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: China National Technical Import and Export Corporation (CNTIC), a subsidiary of Genertec, signed a contract to augment 220kV Grid Station Shikarpur (Sindh) with National Transmission and Despatch Company Ltd. (NTDC) this week.

Acccording to Gwadar Pro, Shikarpur project, the first electricity project CNTIC contracted to build in Pakistan, is just a beginning and they will sign more grid projects in 2021.It means there's a new Chinese play er in the domestic power construction camp. It's a landmark for both sides. Zhao Yu, General Manager of Power Grids Division of CNTIC told the Gwadar Pro that in order to improve the also presented the CGSS availability, reliability and efficiency of national transmission grid, they created the National Transmission Modernization I Project. Shikarpur station, one of the most important key parts of this huge plan, will decisively improve grid construction in Pakistan." "For CNTIC, Pakistan is a friendly neighbour of China who has provided favourable conditions and policies for Chinese constructors. At present, as Pakistan's economy is booming, the demand for electricity for industry, agriculture and residents is increasing year by year.

Azerbaijan Foreign Minister talks about post-conflict development

News Desk

BAKU: An International Conference on, "New Vision for South Caucasus: Post-Conflict Development & Cooperation" jointly organized by ADA University and the Center of Analysis of International Relations was held at

Council Drosh 1 has close to 450 households however, after recent flash floods. the community's connection to main centers were

5 sub-villages (Khaiabad Khas, Thok Jal, Dhap, Junali, Camp) while there are 3 more connected villages of Kol, Wardhap and Ward-

hap Payeen. More than 450 rector AICS, Pakistan, is households of Khairabad. immensely pleased that

stone for a strong developmental network in Pakistan and this bridge is the first step towards it. The bridge will enable the local community to have better access to health and educational facilities just like other communi-

the infrastructure has been

Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan also addressed the international conference and briefed the participants regarding the post-conflict development of Azerbaijan

Memento to him

Ms Emanuela Benini, Di-Group HeadInfrastructure, PPAF, said "Such developmental projects would allow

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday has lauded the administration and police for conducting fair and transparent polls in National Assembly (NA) constituency NA-75.

In a statement, the ECP spokesman said that by-election in Daska was held in peaceful environment. Paki stan Army and Rangers also played vital role in handling the situation on the polling day, he added.

The spokesman further hailed the services of polling staff.

Earlier, PML-N candidate Nosheen Iftikhar won the by-election in NA-75 Daska and secured 111,220 votes, whereas PTI's Ali Asjad Malhi obtained 92,019 votes. The polling that started at 8am continued till 5 pm without any break. 360 polling stations were setup for the 4,94000 registered voters in the constituency. Out of which, 47 polling stations were declared sensitive by the ECP.

PML-N vote bank soars in Daska by-election

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The voters turnout in Saturday's by-election for NA-75 Daska was not-much-encouraging 43.33 percent, but the PML-N's votebank has registered a jump.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar has won the Daska by-election, beating Pakistan Tehreek e-Insaf's Ali Asjad Malhi by a comfortable margin of 16.642

As per unofficial results of the 360 polling stations, Nosheen Ifti-khar won the hard-fought contest by securing 110,075 votes against Ali Asjad Malhi who bagged 93,433, while Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan's Khalil Sandhu received 8,268 votes. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) there were a total of 494,003 registered voters in the NA-75 constituency, including 273,006 males and 220,997 females. Of the 360 polling stations, 47 were declared sensitive. Voters turnout re mained at 43.33 percent.

amongst the top countries 'continuously impacted" by climate change over past two decades but at the same time it is a very low contributor to the issue, adding less than one percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions. - DNA

Baku, Azerbaijan. Leading international think tanks and experts from 10 countries participated in the international conference. The Islamic Republic of

Pakistan was represented by Mr. Khalid Taimur



BAKU: Executive Director CGSS Col Khalid Taimur presenting a souvenir to Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. - DNA

Supreme Court forms three larger, six regular benches

IBRAR KHAN

Ahmed would hear cases regarding narcotic substance ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice and to consider protocol reof Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed garding traditional Vs scienhas constituted three largtific modes to prove crime. er benches and six regular On Tuesday, a 10-member benches at the principal larger bench headed by seat Islamabad to hear a Umar Ata Bandial and comnumber of important cases prising Justice Maqbool during the next week, start-Baqar, Justice Manzoor Ahing from Monday. mad Malik, Justice Mazhar On Monday, a five-member Alam Khan Miankhel, Juslarger bench headed by the tice Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice CJP and comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice

Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Mazahar Alam Khan Miankhel and Justice Munib Akhtar would hear case regarding environmental pollution in I-9/1, Islamabad due to Indusrial Estate. On Wednesday, a five-mem-

ber larger bench headed by Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel, Justice Khan Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice

Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Yahya Afridi and Justice The first bench is com-

Judicial

Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Mrs

Sarina Isa, Supreme Court

Bar Association, Sindh

prised of Chief Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan while the second bench is comprised of Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed.

The third bench is comprised of Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar. Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Sardar Tariq Masood will be members of the fourth bench, while the fifth bench will consist of Qazi Muhammad Amin Justice Maqbool Baqar and Ahmed and Justice Amin-Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Ud-Din Khan would hear Miankhel. petition filed by SC judge

The sixth bench will comprise of Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan

High Court Bar Association and others regarding pro-The benches will hear many ceedings of the Supreme important cases includ-Council against ing service and pension matters of government employees, educational in-

stitutions matters, labour cases. appeals against death sentences and life imprisonment, appeals against acquittal of accused in murder and corruption cases, bail appeals in NAB cases, election petitions different politicians, of post-arrest bail plea filed by former Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah and NAB appeals seeking cancellation of bail of Syed Khursheed Shah's

family members according to NAB on receipt of multiple complaints against the petitioner Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, MNA that he is richest man in the Sindh beyond his known sources of income.

The NAB conducted inquiry and investigation whereby collected the evidence against him and filed a Reference in NAB Court Sukkur.

PM's stance on vulgarity wrongly interpreted: Ashrafi

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Affairs Hafiz Muhmmad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said on Sunday the stance of Prime Minister Imran Khan about vulgarity had been wrongly interpreted by some segments of society.

Addressing a press conference, he said that some elements launched a baseless campaign against the prime minister by angling his statement and attempted to show as if prime minister had committed a crime.

He said that Imran Khan was head of an Islamic democratic country and he rightly declared vulgarity as a major cause of sexual assault or rape.

He said the prime minister did not declare woman responsible for rape, adding that some elements elaborated the stance of prime minister incorrectly and tried to portray that Imran Khan was against women.

Ashrafi said that American think tanks had already said that vulgarity was the reason of rape and the Islamic world also supported the stance.

He said that Muslims would practice their religious duties under the SOPs during the coming holy month of Ramazan, adding that some political friends after failing in their sit-in or long-march, alleging the government that it would shutdown the mosques during the holy month. Ashrafi made it clear that the government was not going to shutdown any mosque or Madrissah.

Journalist shot dead in Karak

KARAK: A local journalist was shot dead by unidentified persons on Saturday evening in the Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkwa, police confirmed.

The incident occurred in the Batani Khel area, within the jurisdiction of Karak Police Station. The victim was identified as Waseem Alam, the joint editor of local newspaper, Sada-e-lawaghir.

According to the FIR, registered on behalf of the victim's mother, Alam was returning home on his motorcycle when he was targeted near the Batani Khel Government School. He was subsequently rushed to the hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

An official of Karak Police Station told Dawn.com that the investigation was under way, adding that that one of the suspects was the victim's own father. "His father was not present at the hospital nor did he attend the funeral," said the official, adding that the father had been living with relatives and not with his own family for some time. The journalist's mother has, however, not named anyone as a suspect in the FIR. "We have not found any clue so far that suggests that the slain journalist was killed for his journalistic work," the official added. - Agencies

Govt to reopen Swiss cases against Zardari On the sugar scandal probe, Sheikh Rasheed said a campaign against Shahzad Akbar is being run, though the probing agency, FIA is under my command, he added

NAZIR SIYAL KARACHI: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed on Sunday announced to reopen Swiss cases against Pakistan People's Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari. "Broadsheet inquiry commission has recommended reopening the Swiss cases," Sheikh Rasheed said while addressing a presser in Karachi. He said the past government gave away \$60 million in the Swiss cases.

Commenting on the Das-

ka By-poll results, Sheikh

Rasheed termed it as a

victory of the democracy.

The interior minister said the peaceful conduct of the Daska by-election should be appreciated.

Sheik Rashid said that the PTI candidate was defeated by a thin margin and we are proud that Imran Khan has a sizable vote bank in Daska till this day. He denounced the impression that narrative of Imran Khan no longer enjoys public support and said votes secured by Asjad Ali Malhi in the Daska by-election were proof of Imran Khan's narrative being alive. "The number of votes gained by PTI's candidate shows that the narrative of PM Imran

Khan is still popular among



the masses," he maintained. "We have won even after losing the polls as Malhi gained bagged more votes as compared to past. Wrestlers enter the ring [to contest] but der my command, he added. only one emerges the win-He said the premier is fightner", the minister said. ing the mafias in the country

On the sugar scandal probe, Sheikh Rasheed said a campaign against Shahzad Akbasis, he added. bar is being run, though the probing agency, FIA is un-

to ensure the provision of relief to the general public. 42 per cent of the fencing work along the Pak-Iran border has been completed and Insha Allah the fencing will be completed by June 30, this year, he went to say. Sheikh Rashid said that government is trying to control inflation and the prime minister is fighting a battle against all mafias in the country. PM Imran Khan is monitoring inflation in the country himself on a daily

Referring to internal difference of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), he said that it was the PTI s luck that it had to deal with

such an inept opposition. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has also announced that more NADRA and Passport offices will be opened in Karachi and E-Passport will also be inaugurated from Karachi by June this year. He said over three hundred thousand visas have been issued and twelve thousand visas rejected during his tenure. Sheikh Rashid said FIA Cvber Crime is being strengthened and the new capable youngster will be recruited. Reply to a question, Sheikh Rashid said that the process of fencing the Afghan border will be completed by June this year and work is underway on the border with Iran.