ISLAMABAD EDITION Soon From LAHORE & KARACHI A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News** Agency www.islamabadpost.com.pk SIAMANA Monday, April 05, 2021 Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily Price Rs. 20 **Influence of Shanghai** Jordan: Prince **Chinese envoy** lauds Sino-Pak Hamzah under Spirit continues to grow: Vladimir Norov partnership house arrest **Detailed News On Page-05 Detailed News On Page-01 Detailed News On Page-07**

Briefs Government increasing **facilities** for patients

ABID RAZA



Sunday the government was enhancing health facilities in the wake of increasing corona cases in the country as well as in Punjab. Talking to the media during his visit to the vaccination centre here at Expo Centre, he expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements made by the health department for citizens at the vaccination centre. He appreciated the Punjab government and Health department for facilitating the senior citizens at vaccination centres across the province.

Maj. Gen. Saqib Mehmood promoted



UK move to put Pakistan in red list flayed

British MP Naz Shah writes to British FM, Pakistani ministers Asad Umar and Shireen Mazari also resent the move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The decision of the British government to put Pakistan in the Red List of travel ban countries has evoked ire of not only Pakistani people but British parliamentarians as well. Pakistani ministers Asad Umar and Shireen Mazar have termed the move very sad. Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar his his Tweet said, every country has a right to take decisions to safeguard the health of their citizens. However, the recent decision by UK govt to add some countries including Pakistan on the red list raises a legitimate question whether choice of countries is based on science or foreign policy. Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari also agreed with Asad Umar and termed the decision unfortunate.

The Member of the British Parliament Naz Shah also wrote a letter to the British Foreign Minister in which she said the decision had greatly disturbed her and Pakistani Diaspora living in her constituency.

In her letter she said, "I am led to believe that Pakistan is about to enter the "red

list". I have a large Pakistani diaspora within my constituency which is why I am writing to simply ask, what scientific data is any decision being led by?

She said earlier this month she had asked these same questions through parliamentary questions and received a holding response suggesting that more time is needed to answer the question, I am still waiting for an answer.

According to recent available data for the last seven days France, Germany and India have substantially higher numbers of infections per 100,000. These figures can be found below:

Pakistan: 13 UK:54 Bangladesh: 15 Kenva: 17 India: 24

It must also be noted that as of today the south African variant isn't a concern in Pakistan whereas this isn't the case for example in France And other countries. This begs the question why hasn't the government extended the red list to France, Germany. And India?

Continued on Page 06

Inter provincial road travel on weekends banned CanSino vaccine Shujaat Hamza



ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan taking calls from people. - DNA

PM cautions nation about virus' lethality

Talks to people on phone; says process of action against corrupt people not to stop now

ZUBAIR AHMAD

He said,"No

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday cautioned the nation about the lethal effects of third wave of coronavirus and advised to strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures (SoPs), especially wearing of masks. one can predict how much this third wave will last."

(Detailed news on Back Page)

PM felicitates Christians

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday wished a happy Easter to all Christian citizens of the country. On his twitter handle, the prime minister posted, "Wishing all our Christian citizens a happy Easter". The Christian community of the country is celebrating the Easter on Sunday. The Christian community on Sunday celebrated the Easter holiday with traditional zeal and religious fervour across the country. The festival commemorates the day followers believe Jesus was resurrected in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

A.M.BHATTI Germany: 137 ISLAMABAD: The US France: 403 President Joe Biden has not invited Pakistan for upcoming climate the change conference. He has invited 40 heads of state

of government for the mega event. The Prime Minister Imran Khan has already expressed its utmost surprise and concern, through his Twitter handle, that Pakistan had done a lot in the climate change sector.

Why Pak

not invited

for climate

moot?

Continued on Page 06

General, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) and nounced on Sunday. According to the ISPR, Lt Gen Malik has been appointed as the Chief of Logistics Staff, Pakistan Army. On November 5 last year, six major generals of the Pakistan Army were promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major Gener al Babar Iftikhar said.

PM will benefit from PDM differences

STAFF REPORT



Minister Imran Khan will benefit from differences between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Talking to media persons, the federal minister said that he is witnessing it for the first time in his life that opposition parties are issuing show cause notices to each other.

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre, the body that is leading Pakistan's fight against coronavirus, on Sunday announced a ban on travelling by road between provinces over the weekends. cial transport for two days a week (Saturday and Sunday) with effect from April 10, at 12 am, to April 25, 12:59am," said 70% occupancy. Additionally, the ban will be reviewed by NCOC on April 20.



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Command "It has been decided to ban inter provin- and Operation Center (NCOC) on Sat urday was apprised that the single dose CanSino Covid vaccine administration would commence in all the provinces NCOC in a statement. It notified cer- from Monday (5 April) onwards. The tain exemptions to the new restrictions. NCOC morning session held with Federal Goods. freight, medical and other emer- Minister for Planning, Development and gency services will be exempted. Railway Special Initiatives Asad Umar in chair to continue to operate 7 days a week with through video link and co-chaired by

Continued on Page 06

World economies shaken due to COVID-19: Shibli Faraz - Says the PML-N opposition suits to the govt because they had not any vision and strategy

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Shibli Faraz on Saturday said the world economies had shaken due to COVID-19 as it had created problems for the national economy as well.

Talking to a private news channel, he said situation of the world was not normal due to coronavirus pandemic. The Senator said decisions always be taken according to the ground realities and the



cabinet which was headed by the Prime Minister had right to give final approval of any decision. He said he would accept every responsibility which was give from Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding changes could be made in the federal cabinet in



He hoped that new Finance Minister Hammad Azhar would resolve financial issues through his capabilities and competencies, adding the government was development of the country. Replying to a question, he said the PML-N opposition suits to the government because they had not any vision and strategy, adding the vice president of PML-N Maryam Nawaz has divided the PDM just to fulfill her personal desires.

coming few days.

Another Milestone, Another Achievement

AIRLINK

AirLink Smart Phone

Production Facility

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

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

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Plea bargain is admission of corruption: NAB chief – Page 02

Iran-China deal to enhance trade, ensure regional security – Page 03

Govt asked to rationalize import tariffs on luxury goods – Page 04

Influence of Shanghai Spirit continues to grow - Page 05

Fakhar misses out on double ton as Pakistan lose 2nd ODI – Page 06

Jordan in security sweep, army cautions king's half-brother – Page 07

Why US did not invite Pakistan for climate change moot? – Page 08



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese envoy Nong Rong has highly commended the fast growing Sino-Pak cooperative partnership under CPEC, according to a report.

He said, the upcoming meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), which is the apex body on CPEC, will focus on socio-economic development, industry, and agriculture to further boost

the partnership. He was speaking at video conference that was organized to mark the 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, by Pakistan-China Institute under the banner of "Friends of Silk Road."



Nong Rong said, China has so far invested \$ 25. 4 billion in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and created more than 75,000 jobs for the Pakistanis, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said. Those who also addressed the envent included General Ehsanul Haq (retd), former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Mushahid Hussain, chairman, Pakistan-China Insti-

UN Under Secretary-General and Masood Khalid. Pakistan's former ambassador to China, ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Tehmina Janjua, former foreign secretary. The online event was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute. The Chinese ambassador thanked Pakistan for its consistent support to China during the past decades. He said the bilateral relationship was being further cemented through mutual support and high-level consultations and visits. Continued on Page 06

going to second phase of

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 05, 2021

Briefs

ATC judge killed along with wife, children

DNA

SWABI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge was on Sunday killed along with his wife and children after unidentified men opened fire on his vehicle in Swabi district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

According to police, the vehicle of the ATC judge was targeted by unidentified men near Ambar interchange in Swabi, which led to the death of the judge, his wife, and two children.

"Two security guards in the judge's convoy also sustained wounds in the attack," they said adding that the judge was travelling from Swat to Islamabad when his vehicle got under attack.

The bodies and the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities and treatment respectively. The security forces and police cordoned off the area and started col lecting evidence from the scene for forensic analysis. Aftab Khan Afridi was an ATC judge in Swat and was posted two months back. The Swat Bar Association has announced to protest against the attack on Monday (tomorrow). "No one will appear before the courts tomorrow," said the president of the Swat Bar Association.

Easter: Signifying victory of truth

DNA

LAHORE: Christian community across Pakistan celebrated Easter today (Sunday). Easter commemorates Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day of his burial after Crucifixion by the Romans. This festival falls on the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon which happens between March 22 and April 25 every year. Eastern Christianity and



LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offering fatiha on the grave of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, on the occasion of Zulfigar Ali Bhutto's death anniversary. - DNA

Plea bargain is admission of corruption: NAB chief

The officers are being conveyed about their strengths and weaknesses in order to have better performance but also told to overcome their shortcomings

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Corruption is mother of all evils and is the main challenge being confronted by the country posing a potential hurdle to the progress and prosperity of the country. National Accountability Bureau es-tablished in 1996 to eradicate corruption and recover looted money from corrupt and deposit in national exachievement. chequer.

Chairman not only vowed The incumbent chairman to ensure accountability of Honorable Justice Javed all but also successfully im-

Iqbal soon after assuming plemented his policy across the charge of Chairman the board.

NAB, adopted the policy He has persistently moniof "Accountability for All." tored the performance of NAB under the dynamic NAB Headquarters as well leadership of Chairman as all Regional Bureaus of NAB worked hard and ap-NAB. The officers are beprehended the culprits, ing conveyed about their besides recovering a whopstrengths and weaknesses ping Rs. 487 billion in three in order to have better peryears from 2018 to 2020 formance but also told to and Rs. 714 billion from overcome their shortcomthe corrupt directly and in-NAB had already fixed ten

directly which is a record months time to complete the process of initiating complaint versification, inquiries and investigations to

filing a reference. NAB has further activated prosecution and operation divisions of NAB by appointing new investigation officers and law officers and provided them training on modern lines in order to inquire and pursue all mega corruption cases vigorously in learned Courts. An accused can apply for

plea bargain as per clause 25-B of NAB ordinance. NAB receives his receipt of plea bargain request, examines the plea bargain application as per law.

The liability of the accused is determined on the basis of his looted money with markup and after determination of total liability of the accused, NAB forwards the request of Plea Bargain of the accused along with his total liability for final approval of the respective Accountability Courts. The learned Accountability Court approves the request for a plea bargain of the accused. It is not correct that NAB approves plea bargain applications of the accused. bargain means leaving the After approval of the plea corrupt elements scot free.

bargain from the learned Accountability Court. Plea bargain is deemed conviction. The accused requesting plea bargain not only confesses his guilt in writing before the learned Accountability Court but also agrees to return all looted money. Therefore it is a totally wrong impression which is being given in some sections of the media that after approval of plea bargain from learned Accountability Court, plea

Pak making progress under Imran's leadership

DNA

KHANEWAL: Federal Minister for National Food Se-curity Syed Fakhar Imam has said Pakistan was making progress under leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

While paying visit at Deputy Commissioner office here, he said the time was not far off when the the country would be ranked among developed countries in the world.

He said that prime minister himself was supervising measures to relieve masses at gross root level. First time ever in the history. it happened that action against land mafia was unleashed across the board, he remarked.

Declaring growers as backbone of the state, the minister informed that solid steps were taken to put agricultural goods under control to relieve farmers maximum level.

He assured that the government would provide relief worth billions of rupees to provide edibles at subsidized rates in upcoming month of Ramzan. Wheat purchase drive would be carried out transparently, he maintained.

District Police Officer Muhammad Ali Waseem gave briefing briefing over law and order situation, while DC Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi was present on the occasion.

Coronavirus claims 23 more lives in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 23 people died from coronavirus in 24 hours, an official of the Health Department confirmed.

The official said that out of the total 23 people, 12 were died only in Peshawar. The death toll from Covid-19 in the province has risen to 2440. A total of 1177 cases of coronavirus were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the official said, adding that the total number has reached 91,439.

However, 640 Coronavi-

CDA starts work on

this year this day falls on April 04.

Easter, also known as Res urrection Sunday, is culmination of Passion of Jesus (short final period in the life of Jesus Christ which stands for suffering and patience) and is preceded by Lent - a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and penance. In Easter traditions, Eastertide, also known as Easter Season, starts on Easter Sunday and ends with coming of the 40th day which marks the Feast of Ascension - when Jesus Christ ascended to the heavens.

As per Christian traditions, Jesus Christ was crucified by the Romans on Good Friday, buried the same day and he was resurrected from the dead on the third day i.e. Easter Sunday when he appeared among his disciples for the next 40 days before ascension into the heavens.

4 injured in road mishap

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: A passenger bus turned turtle near Khurrianwala on Sunday, leaving four passengers seriously injured.

According to police, a rashly driven bus hit another passenger bus near Khurrianwala.

Resultantly, the driver of a bus lost control and it overturned leaving four passengers seriously injured.

The injured include- Muazzam, Abdul Rasheed, Abida Bibi and Surriya Bibi. Rescue-1122 shifted the in-

jured to Allied hospital for medical treatment. Minister inaugurates desil-

ting drive Provincial Minister for Chief Minister's Inspector Team, Muhammad Ajmal Cheema has inaugurated desilting drive of Paharang drain near Chak No.195-RB here on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that this drain was 22 kilometers long and its desilting work would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs.3.4 million

Desilting of Paharang drain will resolve sewerage related problems of this area, he added.

Commissioner Assistant (AC) Sadar Umar Magbool and others were also pres ent on the occasion.

beautification of Islamabad

CDA has completed the work of curb stoning and curb stone painting of 1468 km of main roads and other highways

STAFF REPORT

Roundabout. ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration is working on road infrastructure and beautification across the city. In this regard, during the South Road, last few months, the CDA Street has completed the work 6,8, H-8 Inof curb stoning and curb terchange stone painting of 1468 and km of main roads and oth-Point er highways. Completed highways in Sector I-8 include Tipu Sultan Road, I-8 Markaz, Nusrat Fateh Ali, Rehman Baba, Street No. 1,4,8,11,45, Sangam Market, Pakiza Market,

Mehboob Ahir

Sub-Inspector Mehr Mo-

hammad Yousuf and Con-

stable Mohammad Nawaz,

in-charge of the police post

at Civil Hospital Sargodha,

said that action against

criminals in the hospital is

our top priority. Maintain-

ing law and order is one

of our top responsibilities.

Patients in the hospital and

their relatives who come to

the hospital are informed

about the use of masks in

SARGODHA:

Police committed

to serve public

Assistant

view of Corona's condition.

He further said that the

situation of Corona pan-

demic in Sargodha is very

bad. Therefore, it is very

important to wear a mask

and keep a social distance

from each other and no neg-

ligence will be tolerated in

We desperately need public

support and the support of

the journalistic community

to deal with this situation in

Corona. He added that cau-

tion should not be missed in

this regard.

Corona.



South, Sector Ring Road, vice Road F-10 & G-10 West, South, East, Ser-Sohni Road, Mazar Road and SR East in I-9 Markaz, vice Road G-11, G-9, G-10

East, Sohan Road, Rohtas Road, Mangla Road, Neelam Road, Chaman Road, AK Brohi Road, Waris Shah Road, Saddar Road, Yasmeen Road, Shaheed Millat, School Road, Kohsar Road, Post Office Road, Luqman Hakim Road, Ataturk Avenue, Shahrah-e-Jamhuriyat, Diplomatic Enclave, College Road F-6, Ibn Sina Road G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, Road, Judges Enclave, Munster Road, Enclave, Gulshan Jinnah G-5. Khushal Khan Road. Khan Parbat Curb stone working and painting of Major Roads of Parveen Park Road, 4th Avenue, Pir Sohawa, Faisal Masjid Car Parking, F and G series have been completed.

confusion hitting the fragile economy

Hasty decisions,

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said frequent transfers of important ministers, special assistants and advisors are sending wrong signals and shaking foreign as well as local investors. The sudden and unexpected decisions have not improved the situation rather contributed to deterioration therefore this practise should be

stopped, it said. The decision regarding import of cotton, yarn and sugar was changed within hours resulting in a shock and uncertainty while providing relief to hoarders which now include owners of some textile and ginning

rus patients recovered in 24 hours in Khyber Pamills, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. khtunkhwa and with this the number of people re-Hasty decision without covering from Covid-19 in proper debate will never the province has risen to help stabilise the economy 78,290, the official of the or reduce inflation therehealth department said. In Peshawar, 505 new cases of fore the matter should be coronavirus were reported considered, he added. in the last 24 hours and the

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the first finance minister of the government was removed amid negotiations with IMF, the second finance minister was removed unceremoniously amid a bond auction while third was forced to take back his statement regarding import from India within hours. Some export sectors were promised cheap energy which remained on papers which has prompted investors to hold investment

decisions, he said.

DNA PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Sunday congratulated the Christian community on the occasion of Easter and said provincial

government had taken all out

steps to extend facilities to

them. In a message on the occasion of Easter, he expressed hope that the Christian community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while performing religious services in churches would care themselves and their families in present situation of coronavirus outbreak.

"I congratulate the Easter of all our Christian citizens with heartfelt feelings. We attach great importance to all citizens regardless of their faith, religion, sect and ethnicity to freely practice their religion, culture and tradition in our country, as members of a deep-rooted civilization based on mutual respect and love, a civilization which views differ-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhary Fawad Hussain talking to media at Lahore. - DNA

CPEC progressing fast under current govt: Asad

NAZIR SIYA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Sunday said the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were progressing with fast pace during the tenure of incumbent government.

The way government handled pandemic situation and made efforts to contain the spread of pandemic COVID-19, it would also continue working day and night for the success of the CPEC, he said while addressing the reception ceremony of first consignment, carrying equipment and machinery for Century Steel at Karachi Port, for setting up of a steel mill in Rashakai Special Economic Zone. The Minister termed the occasion

as another manifestation of exceptional relation between Pakistan and China. Asad Umar said the CPEC was now entering into the most impor-

tant second phase. The projects were now not limited to infrastructure only. He informed that CRBC, a Chi-

nese firm had entered into an agreement with Pakistan under CPEC to promote foreign investments for development and marketing in Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

He said the work for the provision

of basic necessities including electricity and others at Rashakai SEZ was underway at fast pace.

He said the Century Steel, a Chinese firm with the investment of US \$ 240 million, would set up a steel mill in Rashakai SEZ which would produce about 1.5 million tons of steel.

The firm would also employ over 600 Pakistanis during construction phase while in second phase over 1000 people would be provided jobs.

Asad Umar said the bilateral relation of Pakistan and China was not new and whenever Pakistan needed a friend China was there.

Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian speaking on the occasion said due to the concerted efforts of the government of Pakistan, the economy of the country was strengthening and gaining momentum despite the negative effect of global pandemic, especially the construction sector had been witnessing faster growth and the demand for steel had increased.

Because of the brilliant efforts from both sides China and Pakistan, the first phase of the CPEC had completed, he said.

Li Bijian said, "We are quite confident to attract more and more investments in Rashakai SEZ".

The Consul General thanked the federal government particularly CPEC Authority Chairman for his support and efforts.

He said it was an honor for him to witness the reception of first consignment carrying equipment and machinery for Century Steel was only a beginning.

On the occasion, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa, representatives of Century Steel, officers of KPT and other were present.

Meanwhile in his tweet, Asad Umar said the first industrial unit was being set up in the Rashakai SEZ in KP

"The CPEC is moving practically into the exciting phase of industrial cooperation with foreign investment transferring technology & creating jobs", he added.

ences as a wealth," he said. The provincial government shares in the joys of the Christian community as they have been playing a vital role in the development of the country, he added. Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan guarantee the protection of the rights of minorities. The present government was taking concrete steps to ensure the protection of the rights of the minority community, Mahmood Khan said

He said, the present provincial government will protect the rights of all the minority communities living in the province and ensure their religious freedom in all respects.

the health department said. He also confirmed that 1306 people have died from coronavirus in Peshawar. KP CM greets Christian community on Easter

number of cases in Pesha-

war has reached to 37,464,



Briefs Operation against SOPs violators continues

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration including Regional Transport Authority (RTA) on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Anwar ul Haq has accelerated its ongoing operation against coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) violators and conducting raids at Public Service Vehicles (PSVs).

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities concerned conducted 134 raids at different routes and impounded 110 Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) besides imposing fines amounting to Rs 226,000 on those violated SOPs issued by the Punjab government to contain spread of coronavirus. The administration had conducted a large number of raids at PSVs at different routes to check implement tation of the SOPs.

Efforts afoot to cleanse capital's nullahs

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Sanitation Department of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was making concerted efforts to remove garbage and unwanted material from multiple nullahs of the federal capital, said its senior official on Sunday. Talking to media, he said heavy machinery was being used to cleanse nullah on regular basis to ensure clean and green environment in the capital city.

lahs of F series' sectors were cleaned, whereas the cleansing of other areas ravines was underway. The senior official said dumpsters of various sizes were placed in slum areas, while the teams of sanitation department were educating the residents on using those facilities to avoid littering in nullahs.

He added that the nul-



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed receiving the symbolic key of two ambulances and 20 bikes donated by World Health Organization to Municipal Corporation of Islamabad through Country Representative Dr. Piliethas. - DNA

Iran-China deal to enhance trade, ensure regional security

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The expert ment is a welcome relief. speaking at an internatio-The panelists also quesna webinar on Saturday tioned if this deal would termed the China-Iran 25lead to a win-win situation year long new cooperation for all. Beijing has not only framework a historic milesecured an alternative acstone to further strengthen the Chinese influence in the region and Middle East. It will not only extend the Chinese market for trade and economic growth but also be feared to disturb the balance of power in the MENA region. The \$400 billion financial cooperation will help Iran to dilute its isolation and enhance trade ties with China and Middle East countries. At a time when Iran is struggling with the

US\$ 600 billion. This would US sponsored restrictions and the devastating impact be a bid dent to the US interests in the region. of Covid-19, this develop-

Development Communications Network (DEvcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the theme "China-Iran new framework of cooperation - prospects for regional security and eco-

cess to hydrocarbons but has also further strengthened its influence across the Indian Ocean. This deal might come as a surprise for many given the Indian investments in Iran. China has nurtured friendly bilateral relations with Iran over the decade and have signed over 17 agreements worth USD 18-20 billion and promised to increase trade relations between the two countries in the next 10 years to

nomic growth". The panel of expert included former ISI chief and strategic analyst Lt General (Retd) Asad Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at the Chengdu Institute of World Affairs Dr. Dan Ge, CPEC Expert & CEO KPBOIT Hassan daud Butt, Research Fellow at



the Tehran International Studies and Research Institute (TISRI) Dr. Ehsan Sadeghi, Research Fellow, East-West Institute (London) Dr. Najam Abbas, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed. Among others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Azhar Aslam (London), Henry Tillman, Hussain Askary, Dr Khushboo Ejaz, Ambassador Rehmatullah Javed, Umar Khayyam, and Sarwat Kazmi.

Lt. General (Retd) Asad Durrani said the world is a chessboard where strategic moves keep on rolling for new alliances and partnerships based on the win-win strategies. The China-Iran cooperation agreement is

one of the strategic moves that would have a significant impact in the region by curtailing the US influence and increasing Chinese trade and strategic collaboration

in the region. He said China was already buying oil from Iran and with the major collaboration that was in the process for a decade would bring about a significant change in the region. It would be a deep dent to the US-India common interests in the region, and may help Iran to bring the US back to the nuclear deal that the US had already opted out unilaterally. Dr. Dan Ge termed the China-Iran deal an inevitable outcome of the decades old friendly ties between both countries.

Distt admin conducts 6000 raids, impose Rs 10m fine

RAJA PERVAIZ

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration on the directive of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Capt (retd) Anwar ul Haq launched a vigorous campaign against profiteering, hoarding and imposed fine over Rs 10 million on 5603 shopkeepers this year and 22 violators were sent behind the bars.

According to a district administration spokesman, the administration was regularly conducting raids against hoarders and profiteers. He said that fine imposed on the violators in seven tehsils of Rawalpindi district during last three months. Teams conducted over 6000 raids in seven tehsils of the district during the period and imposed fines on 5603 violators, he added.

He said the administration also lodged 22 FIRs against the violators and the profiteers were sent behind the bars during the operations. The administration had constituted teams to check profiteering, hoarding and rate lists of daily use items while on the recommendations of the teams, several cases were also registered. Following the directives of the Punjab government, teams checked hoarding and profiteering and those found violating the law were sent behind the bars while several persons found involved in profiteering, not displaying price lists and violating hygiene standards were also issued warnings, he added.

Plan underway to make Islamabad beggar-free

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)

NIFTH issues guideline for visitors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) management on Sunday issued a guideline for mu seum's visitors. According to NIFTH, the management has taken various measure to minimize the exposure to COVID-19 at museum.

The management has made Mask mandatory for visitors before entering in the museum. The NIFTH directed visitors to use hand-sanitizer before and after visit. While the temperature would also be checked before entering museum. Heritage Museum, also known as LokVirsa Museum is administered and managed by NIFTH.

2 booked on violation of marriage laws

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two persons for violating marriage laws at a wedding party and recovered fireworks from their possession, informed police spokesman here on Sunday. During course of action Westridge Police have arrested two persons identified as Nauman Ali, and Hamza on the violation of marriage laws. Police have registered separate cases against all of them. City Police Officer CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas appreciated the performance of police team adding that strict action must be taken against those involved in mischievous activities.

CPO said that operations should be carried out against those who endangered the lives and property of the people through fireworks and also against those who were setting off fireworks and selling firecrackers.

NCGSA announces Rs 15m research fund in space technology domain

ISLAMABAD: National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) has invited proposals from faculty members and researchers to conduct research with focus on sustainable socio-economic development of Pakistan through Space Science, Technology and its Applications. NCGSA; a project of High-

er Education Commission (HEC) led by Institute of Space Technology is a consortium of seven research laboratories in seven universities of Pakistan.

source, the research proposals have been invited from faculty members and researchers of Higher Education Institutions and Research and Development organizations of Pakistan. The research grant will be provided on competitive basis in the different domains resulting in sustainable products/ prototype/ solutions with potential of commercialization and leading to contribution in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The

According to an official

Remote Sensing and Ge-Information ographic Science; Small Satellite Technology; Positioning, Navigation and Timing; Astronomy, Astrophysics and Astrobiology, Space Popularization and Outreach and Space Applications and Advanced Systems. Full time faculty members/ researchers of public or private HEIs or Research and Development organizations of Pakistan are eligible to apply for the research pro-

research domains include for the research project will be up to Rs. 15 million and duration will be up to two years, the source informed. The proposals shall be academia-industry joint projects leading towards sustainable socio-economic growth. The proposals can be submitted only on prescribed format available at http://ncgsa.org.pk/ncgsa-research-fund/ with all attachments completely filled till April 23. Submissions can be done through email, hard copy and website, the source added. – Agencies ject. The funding amount



ISLAMABAD: A view of construction work of interchange at Rawal Chowk during development work in the city. - DNA

RCCI lauds decrease in POL prices, urge Govt to pass benefits

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Muhammad Nasir Mirza while lauding the move Government to reduce petroleum prices. In a statement, he said the government should ensure that the impact of the cuts must be shifted to the masses. Petrol and diesel prices have a direct impact on transportation costs. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics(PBS), the inflation rate in March was nine percent. The government will have to take emergency measures to control inflation. Ramadan is approaching and we urged the Government to take immediate steps to control the food inflation and all relevant departments must be directed to put a check on the balance between supply and demand. The president added that more than 800 million had flowed into Roshan digital account. This is a good govt scheme. This will help the government to reduce the budget deficit. However, President Nasir Mirza has expressed grave concern over the growing trade deficit. According to the Ministry of Commerce data, the trade deficit has risen to close to around \$3 billion in March this year, compared to \$1.5b in March last year. - DNA

CM Punjab taking revolutionary steps

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Revenue Malik Muhammad Anwar Khan said that Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar is taking revolutionary steps for the welfare of people and making efforts to solve their problems at their door steps. He was inaugurating Computerized Land Record Centers in Malal and Khaur and BHU Khaur Road and Dhok Mela Road. DC Attock Ali Anan Qamar , AC Fatehjang Azim Shaukat Awan and AC Pindigheb Haidar Abbas were present on the occasion. Provincial Minister Anwar Khan said that after establishment of these land record keeping centers, the land related problems of the people of these areas will be solved nearest to their home towns which will ultimately save their precious time and finances. He said record keeping centers has been established in revenue department while reforms are also being introduced to facilitate people.

police in collaboration with experts are working on an action plan to curb beggary for once and all by taking inclusive initiatives. The issue of beggary was discussed at length during a meeting, held here with Inspector General of Police QaziJameel-ur-Rehman in the chair, an official source privy to the development told media.

During the meeting, he said the experts floated multiple proposals to root out beggary and called for making the rehabilitation centers in the federal capital fully functional to ensure protection of children and women.

National Commission for Human Rights' member Muhammad Shafique told the meeting about three recognized rehabilitation centers in Islamabad including Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Center, Pakistan Center and Child Protection Center.

The source said the member pointed out absence of law for beggars' detention and their period of retention as a major issue for detaining a child or woman involved in beggary. He said on the occasion, NCRC member from ICT Dr.Robina apprised the committee about the capacity and existing facilities of the recognized rehabilitation centers in Islamabad.

Effective mechanism to monitor prices of goods

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi capt. (R) Anwar ul Haq on Sunday said that an effective mechanism was in place to monitor the prices of essential commodities in order to provide relief to the consumers during the holy month of Ramzan. Dc made it clear that quality and quantity of goods would be ensured at any cost.

He said strict action would be taken against shopkeepers and retailers who would not follow the government's directives. He directed all his subordinates to ensure provision of essential supplies for the general public at government approved rates. He said control room would also be setup to register complaints against overcharging and profiteering by shopkeepers.

MoST plan to register Pakistani scientists

This database would help update database of scientists annually and would serve as a valuable source of information for the decision makers for different purposes like promotions and award of fellowships

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry of Science and Technology has planned to register Pakistani scientists to formulate database carrying information about their respective fields and give them recognition. According to an official source, a plan to register scientists in the analogy of registration of medical doctors and engineers by the ministry is under consideration.

This database would help update database of scientists annually and would serve as a valuable source of information for the decision makers for different purposes like appointments, promotions and award of fellowships. There were around 3639 Produc-

tive Scientists of Pakistan of international repute in the country as per the last compiled data; however, the registration process will further identify more scientists in the country. Listing the scientific interventions taken during the recent years, the revealed source that as many as four centers of disruptive technologies have been established at the cost of Rs5 billion. The centers in-

will STRT OF SCIENCE & clude National Center for Artificial ing in Ministry of Science MENT OF and Technology Public Sector

Intelligence (NCAI), National Center in Robotics and Automation (NCRA), National Center for Cyber Security (NCCS) and National Center in Big Data and Cloud Computing (NCB-D&CC). Around 45 labs are affiliated with these centers. Currently, 32 mainly technology driven projects with portfolio of Rs 57 billion are ongo-

gy Parks in Small Economic Zones.

Development Programme. The source also conveyed that the ministry

since its revitalization had been focusing on Demand Driven Technology Development including import substitution industrialization, civil- military interaction for technology development, establishment of linkages among academia, Research and Development organizations and industry for technology development, encouragement of FDI in technology products manufacturing and establishment of Science and Technolo-

The ministry had also prepared a draft of Pakistan National Quality Policy (PNQP) 2021 for the establishment of standards/ quality and accreditation regime in the country, the source added.

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

Traffic warden dies from COVID-19

DNA

ISLAMABAD, The Covid-19 has started hitting wardens of city traffic police as it claimed life of a traffic war-

den here on Saturday. According to spokesman, traffic warden Hamad Ali was hospitalized for the past few days who contracted Covid-19 while on duty in Cantt Circle. Hamad was born on February 20, 1983, and was a resident of Taxila. On April 2, 2007, while enlisting as a traffic warden in the traffic police and on duty in Cantt Circle. He was a fearless, dutiful and dedicated officer and always performed his duties honestly and efficiently. Hammad Ali has left two daughters and widow.

City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Ahsan Younas said that for the safety and convenience of the citizens, Rawalpindi Police was playing its role on the frontline to implement SOPs. CPO paid tribute to those who died of Coronavirus "We stand with our families in this hour of grief". he added. He further said that the Rawalpindi police would provide best medical treatment to the officers and personals who contain Coronavirus.

Al-Shifa Trust establishes an eve hospital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Despite serious problems linked to the pandemic, the Al-Shifa Trust has completed an eye hospital in Chakwal at a cost of Rs250 million as per the schedule. The newly-built hospital is equipped with the latest facilities and have a capacity of providing treatment to 250 outdoor patients (ODP) per day, said Major General (Retired) Rehmat Khan, President Al-Shifa Trust.

Talking to a group of journalists, the president said that the construction site is

Govt asked to rationalize import tariffs on luxury goods

ICCI President said that the government should also rationalize high import tariffs on luxury vehicles as they were not being assembled in Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

of tax revenue as well. Therefore, he said that ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir the government should Ilyas Khan, President, Isreconsider this policy and lamabad Chamber of Comrationalize high import tarmerce & Industry (ICCI) iffs on luxury goods that said that the government would help in promoting had made exorbitant inbusiness activities and imcrease in import tariffs on proving tax revenue of the luxury goods to deal with country. the issue of trade deficit, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan

but this policy has not prosaid that the small sector duced any significant benof luxury goods normally efits for the economy as made a significant contrihigh import tariff on luxubution to the exchequer ry goods always increased relative to its size and the their smuggling and degovernment should factor

prived the government this into its calculations to revise the punitive charges and convert the unofficial sales into documented and revenue generating transactions.

He said that high import tariffs on luxury goods forced people to buy these goods abroad during their foreign travels, which benefited the foreign countries at the cost of Pakistan's economy. He said that the trend of shopping malls and shopping centers was now on the rise in the Tier 1 and

Tier 2 cities of the country and the presence of luxury brands in these malls was a source of drawing more customers and motivating them to buy local products as well.

However, increasing import tariff on luxury goods will cause a drop in mall traffic, reduce economic activities and consumers would also not feel happy without the availability of international brands in malls. ICCI President said that

government should the

also rationalize high import tariffs on luxury vehicles as they were not being assembled in Pakistan. He said that the reduced import tariff on luxury vehicles would meet the needs of this niche market and also help in improving tax revenue for the government.

He further said that the government should allow import of antique vehicles including 5 and 3 years old ones that would also improve tax revenue for the exchequer.

Pakistan to issue

'Covid vaccination

certificates'

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the reliance on taxes collected at the import stage was on the rise as the FBR managed to collect an amount of Rs.441 billion as sales tax from imports during the first half of the current fiscal year of 2020-21. However, he said that heavy reliance on tax collection at the import stage enhanced the cost of doing business and increased prices for end consumers, therefore, the government should revisit this policy.

ed certificate from NADRA

Citizens who have been fully

vaccinated against COVID-19

in Pakistan can now receive

mega centers.

trvwide.

locally

Mobile vendors in 'Melody' displaying fruit Chaat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The vendors, in melody market, selling fruit and vegetable 'chaat' on their decorated hygienic 'mobile vans' adopting all Covid-19 safety measures with affordable prices are gripping the attention of buyers and providing substantial relief to the people.

Colorful pick-up vans loaded with fruit and vegetable Chaat, mostly owned by young men can be seen in every nook and corner of the market with people fondly purchasing from them.

A vendor talking to a private channel said that the mobile traders had given a tough competition to the shop owners in the capital these days by offering reasonable prices and quality food to consumers.

According to 'mobile vendors' in front of Save Mart Melody market, the shopkeepers are still selling Chaat at roadside and in small markets with unhygienic conditions which are leading to severe medical complications among citizens.

PARC, Prime Cut Foods agrees to produce meat

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and Prime Cut Foods Private Limited have signed an agreement for quality meat production and marketing.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Agro-tech Company (PAT-CO) and Muhamamd Faisal Yasin CEO Prime Cut Foods Private Limited signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies at PARC headquarters, said a press release.

Dr. Tariq Sultan Secretary PATCO Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Chairman PARC, Roshan Zada, Secretary PARC and Dr. Nasir Mahmood Cheema Director (Special Initiatives) PARC were also presented in the signing ceremony. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan. Chairman PARC said under the agreement production of high quality meat and other food items would enhanced, adding that it would also help in provision of quality meat to national and international supply chains, promotion of research and development initiatives through public private partnership.



ISLAMABAD: A female vendor displaying and arranging rose petals to attract the customers at her roadside setup. - DNA

China's time tested friendship forges deep bilateral ties

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The unpredictable hard times Sajid Shah said that the and unavoidable damages

by

doses

country.

the government had in-

itially set up 189 adult

vaccination centers in

Punjab, 14 in Sindh, 280

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

44 in Balochistan, 14 in Is-

lamabad, 25 in Azad Jam

mu and Kashmir and 16 in

Gilgit-Baltistan.

in two different tranches of half a million doses by the Chinese government.

Talking to APP, Health Ministry Spokesperson AIOU signs MoU with GSCWU Bahawalpur

ministry's website and people

can also receive the print-

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and the Government Sadiq Women College University (GSWCU), Bahawalpur join hands for consignment promotion of education and research culture in the country by signing 500,000 doses produced China's Sinopharm a memorandum of understanding reached the federal cap-(MoU) the other day. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Zia ital on February 1 while another batch of 500,000 Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIOU and of Sinopharm's Prof. Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz Asif, Vice Chancoronavirus vaccine from cellor, GSWCU, Bahawalpur. As per the China reached on March agreement they affirmed longstanding 17 in Pakistan that helped collaboration between the two universithe national immunization ties in the fields teaching and research programme across the by exchanging academia as well as students. On this occasion Prof. Zia offered The vaccination process AIOU's full support to GSCWU, Bahawas initiated nationwide walpur in online education and capacion February 3 for which ty building of faculty and staff. He also

shared recent developments of the Open University, especially the development of the AAGHI LMS Portal.

He shed light on the altogether digital transformation of AIOU systems of admission, examination, finance, academic planning, etc. He, further, added that chancellor, they shifted their students to AAGHI LMS Portal. "Our students attended their tutorials, online live classes and submitted their assignments too, he added.

Prof. Saiqa Imtiaz Asif thanked Prof. Zia for his visit along with the AIOU delegation. She shared that the uni-

versity was in a developmental stage

and in need of help and support from

AIOU. Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum while reit-

said, "We will collaborate in faculty

AIOU expertise in the area of online

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Dean, Facul-

ty of Education, and Dr. Zahid Majeed,

a vaccination certificate that shows their immunization status, adding, a COVID-19 immunization certificate portal had already launched coun-

She said the certificate will confirm that the holder has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The shot being used in Pakistan currently is the Chinese-made two-dose Sinopharm vaccine. Replying a question, she also said that Pakistan is also importing China's CanSino COVID-19 vaccine in bulk to package three million doses

spanned over eighteen Kanal of land while the construction has been completed within two years and it will be operational soon.

He said that the hospital has the capacity of conducting 50 surgeries per day and have four clinics along with male and female wards. The poor will get quality eye care services free of cost while expenses would be met through donations.

Rehmat Khan added that the eye hospital in Chakwal will not only help locals in getting treatment at their doorstep and help reduce the load on Rawalpindi eye hospital.

The trust is planning to establish more hospitals in the smaller cities to eradicate blindness and to reduce the burden on the base hospital in Rawalpindi, he added.

Versatile TV artist 'Anwar Solangi' remembered

ISLAMABAD: Famous versatile television and radio artist 'Anwar Solangi' was remembered on his 13th death anniversary on Saturday to pay homages for his lifetime services.

Anwar Solangi was born on 1944 in Shahdadpur, Sindh and he began his career as a Radio Pakistan drama artist and anchorperson in the 1960s and later joined PTV, where he acted in a number of plays.

The first of these was the Sindhi-language 'Inquiry Officer' and his lucky break came with 'Dewarain' in which he played the role of Makhan Khan, PTV news channel reported.

With about 500 plays in both Urdu and Sindhi languages, to his credit, Solangi was twice awarded PTV Awards for best actor and best supporting actor.

He also acted in the Urdu film Khwahish, He also work in a ten Sindhi-language films. Anwar Solangi wrote a book under his name called Wateyoo Veh Gadroo ('Dishes of Poison'), which includes his collection of articles which were published in various newspapers, his poetry and his essays based on his personal life.

Anwar Solangi died after a long illness at the Civil Hospital, Karachi on 3 April 2008. - APP

wreaked by the conta gious disease of Covid-19 has brought almost all the developed economies across the globe on its toes who are being faced with numerous challenges to catch up the pace in ensuring immunity to the masses through vaccination.

China amid its hallowing success and might in the field of technological, economic and state-of-the-art medical advancement has once again stunned the entire globe in the field of medicine and microbiology by developing one of the most promising Coronavirus antidotes with above 70 percent efficacy and least encounters of side effects.

The government of China has continued its support to ensure early Covid-19 vaccine availability to Pakistan on priority basis for ensuring successful execution of the latter's national vaccination programme. China and Pakistan have been working hand in glove to overcome difficulties since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The government of Pakistan has also received guidelines. the first batch of it's purchased Chinese Covid-19 vaccines of CanSino and Sinopharm whereas it was provided around one million doses of SinoPharm he stated.

Forests Deptt plants saplings at 5000 kanals

RAWALPINDI: The Forest Sajid Shah said that the Department, Rawalpindi has government had launched planted saplings at over 5000 Covid-19 vaccination for kanals private land under the general public on ongoing spring plantation campaign 2021, said District March 10 while vaccinating its frontline health-Range Forest Officer, Sher care workers (FLHCWs) Afzal Raia. followed by senior citi

Talking to media he informed zens, particularly people that the spring tree plantaaged 65 years and above tion campaign 2021 had been in different phases. The launched in the division and vaccine is being providall out efforts were being ed to federating units in made to make the campaign compliance with all health a success. He informed that "PLANT FOR PAKISTAN"

The doses are transportcampaign had been inaugued by airplanes to Sindh, rated in February and the de-Balochistan and Gilgit-Bal partment had planted a large tistan to maintain the temnumber of saplings under the peratures and save time PM's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programme. – APP

in the COVID-19 pandemic the AIOU completed its academic year as per its scheduled calendar without any problem or delay as according to the vice



Experts call for business ease to revive growth all sectors of the economy

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The private sector has a critical role in the growth of the economy. There, the Punjab government is looking forward to receiving proposals from the business community prior to finalizing the provincial budget for the next financial year. Dr Erfa Iqbal, CEO, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) said this during a pre-budget digital consultation on better years. He said that we need business regulations jointly to focus on value addition organised by Sustainable Deand reliance on renewable velopment Policy Institute energy in addition to im-(SDPI) and National Textile proving research & develop-University Faisalabad. Dr Erfa added further that

ment.

and Medium Enterprise need to come up with specif-Development Authority, Mr Shaban Khalid, was of view ic suggestions about taxes, that ease of doing business business facilitation, access in Pakistan is required and to infrastructure, investments, and other related asthus, SMEDA is playing a pects of doing business. crucial role in this arena. Rector National Textile Uni-All Chambers of Commerce and Industries are requested versity, Dr Tanveer Hussain emphasized that the prosto highlight their capacity perity of a country is debuilding needs, he added. Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint pendent on industrialization. Executive Director, SDPI, In Pakistan, textile industry highlighted the fact that the plays a pivotal role despite the turn out of the exports has been low during last ten

upcoming federal budget will be formulated under difficult circumstances as government's resources are overly stretched due to pandemic-related spending. Therefore, the private sector needs to play a role in

building back better.

Regional Coordinator, Small

Rs 250m to spent on building of Agri varsity

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that Rs 250 million are being spent on construction of new building of Agriculture University Attock and soon Rs 400 million will be released for its completion.

He said this while visiting the under construction building of the university to review the pace of construction work.

On the occassion Project Director Attock Campus Dr Zuhair Husnain , ADC Finance and Planing Marziya Saleem , ADCG Asadullah Khan , PTI local leaders Rana Liaqat and Malik Ejaz of Saidan were also present .Malik Amin said that the relevant officers have been directed to ensure timely completuon of the building so that classes can be started in the month of August this year. He said , land worth Rs 80 milliin has been purchased to built new building of AIOU Regional campus and said that this campus will play vital role in providing education to almost 15 thousand students of the Attock district . Malik Amin said , Punjab govt has given approval for establishing another university in Attock and soon Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar will visit Attock to lay foundation stone of this university beside announcing other projects worth bil-

lion of rupees. Malik Amin said that this univerity will have its new set up and will have no concern with Govt Boys Post Graduate College Attock .

E-Voting Machines - The future of voting in Pakistan PM vowed that his party would get approval from the parliament for electronic

voting. He said the EVM, would not only enable millions of Pakistanis abroad to vote in elections but modern technology will make the election process transparent

ISLAMABAD: The million-dollar question of whether Pakistan opts

for electronic voting, or continues with traditional methods, hangs in balance for the time being, while work on an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) continues at a rapid pace.

Over the years the governments in the past have been reluctant to go for transparent voting systems, owing to obvious reasons, however, the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf, proved to be different, as it champions a cause, which traditional political systems despise.

Prime Minister Imran Khan in November last year announced his government's intention to introduce electronic voting to ensure free and fair general elections. In his address to the nation, he said all parties including the PTI, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had levelled allegations of the 2013 elections being rigged and said the allegation was repeated again in 2018.

He vowed that his party would get approval from the parliament for electronic voting. He said the



EVM, would not only enaabroad to vote in elections ble millions of Pakistanis but modern technology

will make the election process transparent. "The Electronic Voting Machine will counter the voter fraud claims made after losing the polls", Im-

ran Khan said. Work on the Electronic Voting Machine was initiated over a decade ago in the country but the equipment could not be used due to the reluctance of previous regimes. The National Institute of Electronics (NIE) upgraded the old equipment to make it compatible with modern communication systems. The National Institute of Electronics moved swiftly as the Minister for

Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was keen to see it up and running.

Trials for the equipment are being done under practical conditions to ensure no repeat of the failure of the Results Transmission System (RTS), which was part of the Election Results Management system for the 2018 general elections

The indigenous technology has been developed by the experts of National Institute of Electronics as per international standards by ensuring accuracy, reliability and security. Agencies

UK travel ban

HE United Kingdom has made a worrying announcement-the British High Commissioner Christian Turner in Islamabad stated that the UK added a number of countries to its travel "red list", which bans entry to people arriving from those countries unless they are British or Irish nationals. That list includes Pakistan, along with Bangladesh, Kenya and the Philippines.

This is not surprising. The third wave of the coronavirus in Pakistan is at a peak-with the country reporting 5,234 cases in 24 hours. Pakistan's vaccination programme has also faced a host of problems-the vaccination drive is still far behind that of many countries.

According to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, only 0.8 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been administered. So far, only health workers or those aged 60 and older have received the vaccine, and that too has faced some resistance from vaccine sceptics, even from healthcare workers. There is also the looming problem of shortage of the vaccine. There have been some positive developments on that aspect–Pakistan is set to receive another batch of 500,000 doses of the Chinese-developed Sinopharm coronavirus vaccine, bringing the total number of doses procured in the last 24 hours to more than a million.

As the world moves towards vaccinating its citizens, vaccination numbers will become an important measure of a country's security from the virus. Pakistan was praised in 2020 for successfully containing the pandemic from spiralling-yet now, it is not the infection rate that matters but the vaccination numbers. This is the way with every disease-Pakistan needs to speed up its vaccination drive to keep us off any further travel lists.

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Industrial growth

HE All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association's (APCMA) data states that the cement industry reported a monthly growth of 44.30 percent for the month of March, 2021-the highest it has ever been. This entails that domestic use and exports have gone up substantially, deeming the strategy of providing incentives to the sector successful as a result. According to the information released, a total of 5.373 million tonnes of cement was dispatched in March alone. When compared to last year's 3.722 million, this is an extraordinary achievement. Now, further improvement can come in the form of addressing and resolving the concerns of the APCMA members about access to cost-effective energy resources. Even consolidating gains at this point is important considering that the incentive strategy is still in its initial phase and the potential to reap dividends is high as the rate of exports has spiked tremendously. If the end goal of transforming this sector into one of the many profitable sectors of the economy is to be achieved, a greater focus must be placed when determining what step to take next.

Rising international trade ensures that there is a steady flow of revenue through which our government can embark upon developmental projects domestically. Harnessing almost twice the level of productivity, as in the case of the cement sector, must be encouraged across the board-especially sectors of the industry relating to construction raw materials. Through associating the raw material industry to the success of the cement industry, much more can be accomplished to improve our potential exports and economic standing as a whole.

Influence of Shanghai Spirit continues to grow

Vladimir Norov



The SCO members consistently adhere to the principle of openness in cooperation with all interested countries and int'l organizations, and adhere to the goals and principles of the UN. The interaction between the UN and the SCO has already become a successful example of effective cooperation between a global and regional organization. UNSG António Guterres has stressed the SCO is a strong partner of the UN, a leader in regional diplomacy

ential and responsible participant in the modern system of international relations. In recent years, through the joint efforts of all parties, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has successfully created a solid legal framework and effective mechanisms for multilateral cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime, and ensuring information security, as well as strengthening trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

A fundamentally important feature of the organization is that, while fully preserving and respecting the autonomy of its members in their internal affairs and foreign policy, partnership within the SCO is based on active and cooperative interaction, joint determination of areas of overlapping interests and equal importance of opinions.

Mutual understanding, equality and coordination are the key elements defining the SCO. The organization does not pursue the goal of forming a military-political alliance, is not targeted against any third countries, and does not support ideological and confrontational positions in addressing international and regional development problems. The SCO members consistently adhere to the principle of openness in cooperation with all interested countries and international organizations, and adhere to the goals and principles of the United Nations. The interaction between the UN and the SCO has already become a successful example of effective cooperation between a global and regional organization. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed the SCO is a strong partner of the UN, a leader in regional diplomacy and a promoter of cooperation in addressing the most pressing peace and security challenges facing Eurasia. The SCO Development Strategy 2025, adopted in 2015, aims to ensure the successful implementation of its programs and plans for the development of multilateral cooperation in the economy, finance, investment, trade and transport project activities are being implemented. Work is ongoing to expand scientific, technical, humanitarian and cultural exchanges, as well as cooperation in the health and tourism sectors.

CO has firmly established itself as an influ- The multifaceted interaction among the SCO members is promoting the stable development and welfare of the entire Eurasian region. The creation and formation of the SCO came during a period of world history when a clear trend was emerging of the redistribution of the global balance of power, primarily due to the strengthening of new centers of development in the Asia-Pacific region. The historic decision adopted 20 years ago on June 15, 2001 by the founding countries to establish the SCO was an important step toward the active promotion of peace and joint development in the region. The SCO's emphasis on the Shanghai Spirit of mutual consultation, mutual trust and mutual benefit has deepened the good-neighborly, friendly and partnership relations among the member states.

The era of political, economic and financial dominance of the West, stretching over the past 500 years, is gradually coming to an end. Public recognition of this objective reality can even be found in the speeches of leading Western politicians, in particular, the statement of French President Emmanuel Macron on Aug 27, 2019, at the traditional Conference of Ambassadors, which is organized every year at the Elysee Palace when he said that: "We are definitely witnessing the end of Western hegemony in the world". At the same time, this process is unfolding against the backdrop of escalating global political and economic tensions, with some countries adopting growing unilateral protectionist measures, and other challenges to the globalization of international trade. The COVID-19 pandemic, as we can see firsthand, has only exacerbated these tensions. In the two decades of its existence, the SCO has firmly established itself as an influential and responsible participant in today's system of international relations and has become Asia's main continental forum for security and sustainable development. The latter became particularly noticeable after 2017, when India and Pakistan joined the organization. With the entry of these two countries, the SCO has acquired a transcontinental character, and in terms of total potential, the organization now encompasses the total population of almost 44 percent of the world's population, territory, natural

resources, and almost one-fourth of the world's GDP. It has become the largest international trans-regional organization in the world.

The SCO has transformed into an influential organization, whose voice is more and more considered in the international arena, and with which more and more states seek cooperation. Including its members, observers and dialogue partner states, the organization comprises 18 states, from Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf to Central and South Asia. In addition, the SCO region represents a huge market for mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation, and the implementation of joint projects covering almost all sectors of the economy.

That is why the SCO has proven to be the best platform for bridging national strategies, cross-border projects, and multilateral integration initiatives, including the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as national development strategies of member countries and China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In addition, to various aspects of geopolitical, geo-economic and civilizational factors, the active participation in the organization of China and Russia has brought the SCO to the forefront of international politics. The enormous political, defense, economic and cultural-civilizational potential, and impressive geographical scale of the SCO from Southeast Asia to Eastern and Northern Europe is a guarantee of the organization's active and creative participation in shaping a multipolar world. Over the past 20 years, the organization has been able to build one of the world's largest systems of successful alignment of national and regional interests in various areas of development, as well as multifaceted regional cooperation with a focus on guaranteeing political stability, strengthening security, expanding economic cooperation, joint development and the prosperity of nations. The author is secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily. If The Writer is the Secretary General of SCO

Coronavirus restrictions -

Attiya Munawer



The government is right in its view that we cannot afford a lockdown, but at a time when the threat of a pandemic has become more alarming than expected, there is no choice but to take very serious and urgent measures. Only a strict lockdown for a few weeks with strict implementation of Coronavirus SOPs can stop the pandemic

HE rapid spread of the third and most dangerous wave of coronavirus, the steady increase in the number of patients and the trend of citizens not following the precautionary measures (SOPs), the government has announced more stringent measures in the interest of the people to control this global pandemic. Possible steps are being taken by the governmentin this regard, with the re-imposition of sanctions andfor the first time cases of violation of SOPs are being registered. The third wave of coronavirus is being described as more dangerous and is spreading rapidly, affecting a large number of children as well as adults. Earlier, children were considered safe from coronavirus, so not much attention has been paid to the development of vaccine for them, but now vaccine for children is in the process of preparation. Vaccine doses are not available in Pakistan according to the number of adults. Some countries have gifted vaccines to Pakistan which are in very limited quantities. The government will have to ensure the supply of vaccines as well as preparations.

When the Coronavirus catastrophe came to light last year, many countries were completely shut down, curfew-like sanctions were imposed, and we also had similar lockdown demands, which the Prime Minister continued to oppose. It was stated that the complete lockdown would force many people to go on hunger strike. The government was content with a partial lockdown and in the meanwhile a large amount of money was allocated for the welfare

(The complete lockdown)

serving people. Federal and Provincial Governments have made every effort to implement the SOPs issued by the NCOC. There have been complaints of cooperation and non-cooperation in this regard. However, as the situation in Pakistan being better than many other countries, many countries appreciated Pakistan's initiatives and have achieved remarkable results by partially locked down in the same manner.But it is not requisite that only the steps taken in the past be effective in overcoming this third wave of Coronavirus, a new strategy will have to be devised using the previous steps.

Certainly, the government is doing everything possible to stop the spread of the coronavirus, but what is being done is 'not necessary, there is no room for further action. The government has experts' and besides them there are people who can make better suggestions and wherever good opinions come from, it should be used. The Pakistan Medical Association has termed the government's measures and strategy to control corona virus as inadequate and ineffective. The PMA meeting in Lahore demanded the government to stop the spread of coronavirus, including Lahore, complete lockdown in major cities and implementation of Corona SOPs should be ensured. The government is strictly following SOPs, but is pursuing a policy of avoiding lockdowns, even though the President and the Prime Minister have been affected by the third wave of Coronavirus. Despite being affected, the Prime Minister says that we do not have the resources to close the country but when it comes to

of the unemployed and distributed to the de- the survival of human lives then such tough decisions have to be made.

> Both the government and the people seem to be in a state of turmoil. In view of the threat of a third wave of coronavirus, the people want to follow the SOPs, but the economic situation forces them to violate it.

> The government is also saying that we cannot afford severe lockdowns, but lockdowns are also being announced in areas with a positive case rate of more than 12%, so there is a need to get out of this dilemma with a clear and unequivocal policy to prevent and combat the third wave of coronavirus. The growing number of corona cases poses a serious threat that the available medical facilities will fail to cope with the large number of patients in large cities like Lahore where already life-saving equipment and facilities are running out, and delays in making quick and drastic decisions by the government could mean a major medical crisis. The government is right in its view that we cannot afford a lockdown, but at a time when the threat of a pandemic has become more alarming than expected, there is no choice but to take very serious and urgent measures. Only a strict lockdown for a few weeks with strict implementation of Coronavirus SOPs can stop the pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic is also demanding from the government, concerned agencies and the general public that everyone should play their role responsibly for the prevention of this coronavirus because a single failure in the prevention of Corona can be a prelude to great loss.

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs

Brazil surpasses 330,000 COVID-19 deaths

DNA

DNARIO DE JANEIRO: Deaths from COVID-19 in Brazil surpassed 330,000 on Saturday after 1,987 new fatalities registered, bringing the country's death toll to 330,193, the Ministry of Health reported. Besides, 43,515 new cases were registered, bringing the nation al count to 12,953,597. Brazil is currently the global epicenter of COVID-19, ranking second in terms of deaths and cases worldwide, after the United States. Sao Paulo, the most populated state in Brazil, has also been hardest hit by the virus with 2,520,204 cases and 76,750 deaths, followed by Rio de Janeiro, with 657,139 cases and 37,629 deaths. Brazil has been experiencing a new wave of COVID-19 since January, which has in recent weeks overwhelmed the healthcare systems in most of the 27 states of the country. As of Friday, Brazil has vaccinated over 24 million people against COVID-19. Among them, 18.8 million, or 8.9 percent of the population, received the first dose and 5.2 million, or 2.49 percent, received both doses.

France claims EU green light for more aid

PARIS: The French government said Sunday it has reached a deal with the European Commission allowing it to inject fresh money into flagship airline Air France, whose finances are creaking under the impact of coronavirus restrictions. The agreement follows weeks of negotiations with the EU's executive, which must ensure that state aid does not give companies an unfair advantage. "We have an outline agreement with European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager about new financial aid for Air France," Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on the RTL/LCI/Le Figaro olitical broadcast "Le Grand Jury". Air France, of which French government the owns 14.3 percent, will have to give up "a certain number" of slots at Orly, Paris's second-largest airport after Charles de Gaulle, in return for the green light from Brussels, Le Maire said. - APP



JOHANNESBURG: Pakistani player Fakhar Zaman playing short in 2nd ODI match against South Africa. Zaman scored 193. – DNA

Fakhar misses out on double ton as Pakistan lose 2nd ODI

SPORTS DESK

for the hosts.

Pakistani pacers.

JOHANNESBURG: Fakhar Zaman missed out on a double ton as Pakistan lost to South Africa by 17 runs in the second ODI in Johannesburg on Sunday. The three-match series now stands level at 1-1.

South Africa innings: Babar Azam, having won the toss again, decided to bowl first again. Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Hasnain shared the new ball, whereas Quinton de Kock and Aiden Mark opened the innings

est

to Faheem over extra cov-The start to the South Afer in the 9th over before rica innings wasn't unlike targeting the same area their last one, with both the next ball and depositing a catch into the hands their openers kept quiet by of Asif Ali.

Captain Temba Bavuma Things came alive in the 8th over when Markram and De Kock were then cracked Hasnain for a pair pegged back, with runs of boundaries before nickat a premium and South ing one back. The ball was Africa 76-1 after 15 overs. heading to Shadab Khan The hundred for the hosts in the first slip but Rizwan came in the 20th over, came swooping in, getting with the duo still at the or so figure.

having made 80, played a Haris Rauf deliver on to his stumps as Pakistan broke the 114-run partnership.

Bavuma cracked Rauf for a four to bring up his maiden ODI half century as the team captain.

Rassie van der Dussen's stroke-filled 60 off 37 came to an end when Hasnain had him caught. Bavuma missed out on his hundred in the 47th over, getting holed out for 92. In the end, David Miller's unbeaten 27-ball 50 at the death helped South Afri-

ca to 341-7.

The run chase: Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq opened the innings for the tourists. Imam perished at the start in the innings, forcing Babar Azam to join the run chase early.

Zaman and Babar took the story to 71 before Arnrich Nortje removed the captain as well as Mohammad Rizwan in the 11th over. Nortje struck once more, taking the wicket of Danish Aziz, while Tabraiz Shamsi took care of Shadab Khan as the hosts tightened their grip on the match.

A 66-run partnership beished 324-9. SA fined for slowover rate

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 05, 2021

SPORTS DESK

CENTURION: South Africa men's cricket team have been fined 20% of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against Pakistan in the first ODI. The Match Referee imposed the sanction after Proteas were one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration on Friday.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma has pleaded guilty for the offense levelled by Andrew Pycroft of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, and therefore there was no need for a formal hearing. Umpires Marais Erasmus,

Adrian Holdstock, Allahudien Paleker and Bongani Jele had leveled the charge against the hosts. Remember, Pakistan won the first ODI of the three-match series by three wickets at Su-perSport Park, Centurion.

PM cautions nation about...

From Page 01

The government had so far placed small restrictions to control it, he said and warned that "God forbids, if it spreads, the government will be forced to take harsh decisions." In that case, he said, the poor segments of society would be affected, and the government wanted to save them economically. The prime minister responded to different questions during a live broadcast conversation with the general public. Imran Khan said the poor people all over the world had been worst affected due to the lockdowns. According to an estimate, 150 million people across the globe were forced to live under the pov-

erty line, he added. He said his government had saved the vulnerable segments of society during the previous corona waves. Allah Almighty, he said, had saved Pakistan from the most difficult time so far as the deadly virus had devastated the economies of Europe, the United States and Brazil. The prime minister referred to the dismal sit uation in India and certain European countries where despite vaccination, the governments were forced to impose lockdowns. "I urge you (the people) to wear masks whenever you go out," he stressed.

a hand to the ball but evencrease. At the halfway tually dropping what was mark, the hosts were 132rightfully Shadab's to take. 1 and on course for a 300 Markram (39), growing in In the 31st over, De Kock, confidence, hit a pretty six Pakistan wins Triangular

UK move to put Pakistan in red list...

From Page 01

Given the data it would be fair for me to conclude the following:

The government doesn't have a coherent strategy in dealing with the red list

The government isn't se rious about protecting the British public as its applying decisions led by politics not data Contrary to what the government is saying, it is clearly not making decisions led by science/dat Further, it is knowingly and consciously discriminating against Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora community. She asked the minister can vou confirm whether vou have attended any of the most recent 'Covid O' meet ings as clearly your presence is very important to understand the international context and direction of travel?

CanSino vaccine from today

From Page 01

National Coordinator NCOC Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman Khan. The Forum emphasised that all Covid Vaccination Centers should ensure to facilitate above 65 years age individuals who already have been allowed walk-in vaccination facility. The Forum was informed that keeping in view the increasing Covid-19 disease spread, 594 more oxygen beds have been added to dedicated Covid health facilities with special focus on Swat and Peshwar. The Forum also decided to enhance monitoring mechanism to check violation of preventive COVID SOPs. The Forum also discussed the establishment of call centres at District level to pursue registered senior citizen for vaccination to further enhance the efficacy of this reach-out drive.



Akshay Kumar

tests positive

MUMBAI: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar said Sunday

he has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the latest

said last year that he drinks cow urine daily to stay healthy - a practice some Hindus believe has medical benefits, including against the coronavirus. He tweeted that he is now under home quarantine and has "sought necessary medical care". Saturday also saw Indian spin star Axar Patel announce he had tested positive and was in isolation ahead of the start of the lucrative Twenty20 IPL tournament. - DNA

SPORTS DESK

DHAKA: Pakistan have won the final of the tri-nation blind cricket tournament by beating arch-rivals India by 62 runs.

India could only manage 112 for seven in the allotted 15 overs in pursuit of Pakistan's 175. India's Sunil Ramesh scored 39 while Pankaj made 23 runs. Pakistan's Sajid Nawaz picked two wickets while captain Nisar Ali bagged one wicket.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 174 for the loss of three wickets. Captain Nisar Ali played an unbeaten inning of 69 runs while Zafar Iqbal made 24-ball 48. In-



dia's Ajay Kumar took two wickets. It must be noted that hosts Bangladesh was the third team in the tri-na-

Blind Cricket Tournament

tion tournament. The tournament was rescheduled to a two-day affair after rising cases of COVID-19 in Dhaka.

tween Fakhar and Asif Ali

gave Pakistan a glimmer of

hope but as always the lat-

ter vanished when the team

From that point on, Fakhar

was a man on a mission as

he single-handedly kept

Pakistan in the hunt and

could have went on to com-

plete a second ODI double

ton, if it wasn't for a freak

run out in the final over.

He ended his innings with

192, just eight shy of what

would have been his sec-

ond ODI double century.

Pakistan eventually fin-

needed him the most.



total

the

LONDON: Liverpool's Mohamed Salah skips over Arsenal's Gabriel Magalhaes during the Premier League match between Arsenal and Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium in London, Britain. – DNA

Chepngetich breaks halfmarathon record

SPORTS DESK

NAIROBI: Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich has smashed the women's half-marathon world record in a time of one hour, four minutes and two seconds.

On Sunday, the marathon world champion sliced almost half a minute off the previous best mark of 1:04:31, set by Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh in February last year.

Chepngetich, 26, was followed across the line in Istanbul by Ethiopian Yalemzerf Yehualaw (1:04:40) with Kenya's Hellen Obiri third (1:04:51) - the fastest debut half-marathon in history

Winning the race for a third time after 2017 and 2019, she pulled clear of Yehualaw in the final stages to seal her place in the record books.

This was the first time three women have finished inside 65 minutes in a single half-marathon.

World record-holder Kibiwott Kandie won the men's race in a course record of 59 minutes and 35 seconds.

Kandie held off the challenge of compatriot Geoffrey Kamworor to claim victory by three seconds, with Roncer Kipkorir finishing third.

Fashion show held to introduce Pak costumes

Pakistani fashion costumes with their strong local style and ornate decorations attract Chinese visitors. According to CFA: "Different from fashion in the usual sense, Pakistani costumes combining contemporary fashion with national traditional characteristics brought a new view and a visual feast to Chinese audiences

DNA

BEIJING: As the China Fashion Week drawing to close, a special fashion show, 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China: Introducing Best of Pakistan Fashion Trends, has intrigued Chinese fashion insiders to learn about Pakistani costumes. "We should value not only

Zhang Qinghui, Chairman of China Fashion Association (CFA), said at the event. To celebrate the 70th an-

especially our friends,"

niversary and enhance communication between Pak-China in fashion sector, this show was held by CFA and Pakistani Embassy in China.

As many as 14 Pakistani famous fashion brands, including Maheen Khan, our own culture, but also Tabassum Mughal, Umthe cultures of others, sha, Kalah, Sundus Talpur,



in online AW 2021 China Sanabbas, Shamsha, Aleena Fareena, Diners, Sadaf Fashion Week to introduce Malaterre, Delphi, Sameer Pakistani fashion trends and shows to China, China Sain, GOGI, and ZAAVIAY, were invited to participate Economic Net (CEN) re-

ported on Sunday. Pakistani fashion costumes with their strong local style and ornate decorations attract Chinese visitors. According to CFA: "Different from fashion in the usual sense, Pakistani costumes combining contemporary fashion with national traditional characteristics brought a new view and a visual feast to Chinese audiences.

AW 2021 China Fashion Week is a part of cultural exchange between Paki-

stan and China. Through Pakistani models dressed in elegant and colourful garments, we hope the unique Pakistani fashion can be recognized by more Chinese people, then enhance the Sino-Pak communication in this field." Zhang Qinghui also presented a Partner Certificate to Counsellor Awais Ahmed Khan on the occasion, and called for further cooperation and communication with Pakistani fashion industry.

Chinese envoy lauds Sino-Pak...

From Page 01

He said, no Pakistani worker was laid off during the pandemic from any CPEC project. He said Pakistan was the first country to get a donation of Chinese COV-ID-19 vaccine and said the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will narrow trade deficit and deepen economic cooperation.

He also said 100 million Chinese had benefited from the elimination of rural poverty in China. Former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Ehsanul Haq (retd) termed "security cooperation as a significant core area of Pakistan-China relations". He said "75-80% of Pakistani defence equipment comes from China and Pakistan accounts for 35% of China's military exports". Former Under Secretary General of the UN and president of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, ambassador Sha Zukang said "Pakistan is the most important country in the region for China" and he said "Pakistan-China relations will blossom in today's world, where changes not seen in a century, were occurring".

Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram termed "China the pivot of Pakistan's foreign policy" and "this pivot will remain" and Pakistan is the strongest defender of China's territorial integrity.

He said "Pakistan-China policies are completely aligned in South Asia, in the Indian Ocean, in Central Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region".

Former ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid said "China's rise is an established reality" and he also narrated how 50 years ago, "despite China's own difficulties during the Cultural Revolution, China provided invaluable support to building Pakistan's heavy industrial base worth almost \$300 million".

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Two rockets hit near Iraq airbase hosting US soldiers

DNA

BAGHDAD: Two rockets hit near an Iraqi airbase hosting US soldiers north of Baghdad on Sunday, three days ahead of a new "strategic dialogue" with Washington, a security source told media

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the strike, which caused no casualties or property damage, but the US routinely blames Iran-linked Iraqi factions for such attacks on its troops and diplomats.

Sunday's was the 40th attack against American interests - including troops, the Baghdad embassy or Iraqi supply convoys to foreign forces - since US President Joe Biden took office in January.

Two Americans and an Iraqi civilian have been killed in the attacks

An Iraqi civilian working for a firm maintaining US fighter jets for the Iraqi airforce was also wounded in one attack

Ukrainian soldier killed amid fresh tensions

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: Russian-backed separatists accused Ukrainian forces of killing a child in a drone attack on Saturday, as Kiev reported the death of one of its soldiers in a mine explosion.

Kiev has been battling pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Donetsk and Lugansk regions since 2014, following Moscow's annexation of the Crimean peninsula

Reports this week swirled of Russian troop movements and an escalation of armed clashes, while Moscow and Kiev's Western allies exchanged warnings.

Self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)



GILGIT: Chinese nationals in a group photo at Chinese Yadgar-e-Shuhda to mark National Mourning Day organized by Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit-Baltistan to pay tributes to martyrs of Pak-China Economic Corridor Karakoram Highway at Daniyor. - DNA

Jordan in security sweep, army cautions king's half-brother

Abdullah had appointed his half-brother Hamzah crown prince in line with Hussein's dying wish, but in 2004 stripped him of the title and gave it to his own eldest son Hussein

Jordanian royal aide was among several suspects arrested Saturday as the army cautioned a half-brother of King Abdullah II against damaging the country's security.

Videos posted online showed a heavy police deployment in the Dabouq area near the royal pal-aces as the Washington Post said Prince Hamzah bin Hussein, who is also a former crown prince, was "placed under restriction" as part of a probe into an

AMMAN: A top former king. "The move followed the

discovery of what palace officials described as a complex and far-reaching plot," it said, quoting a senior Middle East intelligence official

Hamzah is the eldest son of late King Hussein and his American wife Queen Noor. He has good relations officially with Abdullah and is a popular figure close to tribal leaders. Abdullah had appointed his half-brother Hamzah

alleged plot to unseat the crown prince in line with Hussein's dying wish, but in 2004 stripped him of the title and gave it to his own eldest son Hussein.

The Washington Post said the alleged plot "included at least one other Jordanian royal as well as tribal leaders and members of the country's security establishment".

Department US State spokesman Ned Price said Washington was "closely following" the reports. "We are ... in touch with Jordanian officials. King

Abdullah is a key partner of the United States, and he has our full support," he said

"The kingdom stresses its full support for the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan... and for the decisions and measures taken by King Abdullah II and Crown Prince Hussein to safeguard security and stability," it said. Jordan's Joint Chiefs of Staff head, Major General Yousef Huneiti, denied media reports that Hamzah, who holds no official poOfficial news agency Petra named Bassem Awadallah, chief of the royal court in 2007-2008, and Sherif Hassan bin Zaid among an unspecified number of suspects arrested.

Sherif is a title given to those close to the royal family in Jordan. The pair were detained for "security reasons" after a "close" operation, Petra said, quoting

Awadallah, a former finance and planning minister educated in the United States. was close to the king but

India's daily COVID-19 infections hit 6-month high

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, April 05, 2021

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 12,485,509 on Sunday with 93,249 new cases reported from across the country, the highest daily number since September last year.

According to the latest figures released by federal health ministry, 513 people have died from COVID-19 since Saturday morning, taking the total death toll to 164,623.

There are still 691,597 active cases in the country, while 11,629,289 people have been discharged so far from hospitals after medical treatment.

There was an increase of 32,688 active cases during the previous 24 hours, out of which the maximum cases were reported from the south-western state of Maharashtra.

The number of daily active cases has been on the rise over the past few days, as another wave of COVID-19 looms large in India.

In January, the number of daily cases in the country came down to below-10,000. India's nationwide vaccination drive was kicked off on Jan. 16, and nearly 76 million people have been vaccinated across the country.

Myanmar rebel groups back anti-coup protests

DNA

YANGON: Ten of Myanmar's major rebel groups threw their support behind the country's anti-coup movement Saturday, fanning fears that a broader conflict could erupt in a country long plagued by fighting between the military and the ethnic armies. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, triggering an uprising that the junta has sought to quell

with deadly crackdowns. According to a local monitoring group, more than 550 people have been killed in the anti-coup unrest, bloodshed that has angered some of Myanmar's 20 or so ethnic groups and their militias, who control large areas of territory, mostly in border regions. On Saturday, 10 of these rebel groups met virtually to discuss the situation, condemning the junta's use of live ammunition on protesters. "The leaders of the military council must be held accountable," said General Yawd Serk, leader of the rebel Restoration Council of Shan State Last week, the junta declared a month-long ceasefire with ethnic armed groups, though exceptions might be made if "security and administrative machinery of the government... are encroached on".

a security source. sition, had been arrested.

France urges Iran to be

claimed that a five-year-old child was killed and a woman injured on Saturday in a Ukrainian drone attack.

A report by the DPR's news agency has not provided any images of the aftermath of the attack allegedly carried out in the village of Oleksandrivske some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the front line.

The claim cannot be independently verified as both international monitors and the Ukrainian defence ministry have not responded to AFP's requests for a comment.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian soldier was killed when an explosive device went off near the village of Shumy north of the separatist's de facto capital Donetsk, the army said.

Kenya hits back at UK travel ban

NAIROBI: Kenya on Saturday announced mandatory quarantine for passengers from Britain, in response to being placed on the country's so-called red list. which Nairobi rejected as ' discriminatory".

The UK government on Friday banned visitors from Kenva due to concerns over the circulation of a variant of the coronavirus which originated in South Africa. In a lengthy statement, Nairobi said the decision would have "deep and far-reaching consequences" on trade. travel and security co-operation between the two close allies.

"The decision seems to be motivated by a discriminatory policy against certain countries and peoples,' Kenya's foreign ministry said in the statement.

In return, Kenya announced that all passengers arriving, or transiting through the UK, will face 14-days mandatory quarantine at a government facility, at their own expense.

They will also have to pay to take two Covid-19 tests. Kenvan nationals are exempt from the new rules. Kenya highlighted that London could have offered to share vaccines which it "has in bigger quantities than it currently has use for", condemning vaccine nationalism and hoarding by nations around the globe. - APP

ion of a RwandAir flight, an Ethiopian Airline flight and a Turkish Airlines flight after several passengers on the routes recently tested positive for COVID-19.

China suspends 3

inbound flights over Covid

BEIJING: China's civil aviation regulator has announced

Five passengers tested positive on RwandAir flight WB9500 on March 21, and the flight will be suspended for two weeks starting April 5, said the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). Ethiopian Airlines flight ET684 will be suspended for two weeks starting April 12 after five passengers tested positive on the March 23 flight.

A total of 14 passengers tested positive on Turkish Airlines flight TK72 on March 24, and the flight will be suspended for four weeks starting April 19.

On Dec. 16, 2020, the CAAC updated its reward and suspension mechanism introduced in June last year to further contain the spread of COVID-19.

According to the latest CAAC policy, a flight suspension will be extended from one week to two weeks if the number of passengers testing positive reaches five. - APP

DNA PARIS: French Foreign Min-

ister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday called on Tehran to be "constructive" during talks with world powers next week in Vienna.

The European Union is pushing to bring US President Joe Biden's administration back into the nuclear accord to limit Tehran's ambitions.

The United States will not take part directly in the diswhich will cussions. also involve China, Germany, Russia, and Britain.

But for the first time since former leader Donald Trump pulled out of the Iran agreement in 2018, a US delegation will be present. The 2015 nuclear accord saw Iran granted relief from international sanctions in ex-

change for accepting limits on its programme aimed at easing fears it could acquire atomic weapons. Biden has promised to rejoin

the agreement on condition that Iran first returns to re-

specting commitments it abandoned in retaliation for Trump pulling out and reimposing swingeing sanctions. Le Drian spoke to his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Saturday and "welcomed the coming resumption in Vienna of discussions on the nuclear dossier". He also "encouraged Iran to be constructive in the discussions ... to identify in the coming weeks what needs to be done for a full return to respecting the agreement," Le Drian said in a statement.

'constructive' at nuclear talks "France will take part in a pragmatic and at the same time demanding way.

has also been a controver-

Before becoming royal

court chief in 2007, he was

head of the king's cabinet

He had been a rising figure

in Jordan playing a key role

in pushing for economic re-

forms in the cash-strapped

country until he resigned

Awadallah stepped down

after coming under pub-

lic criticism over alleged

interference in controver-

sial political and economic

sial figure in Jordan.

in 2006.

in 2008

issues. – APP

"I called on Iran to refrain from any further violation of its current commitments in the nuclear field likely to damage the dynamics of a resumption of discussions," he added. Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif tweeted that during the conversation he "called on France to honour its commitments under the accord, and to cease abiding by illegal sanctions imposed by the US"

running to street hawkers

and fashion brands to buy

face masks. The increasing

number of cases in third

wave of Coronavirus has in-

creased the demand for face

masks, said a report aired

by a private news channel.

According to street vendors,

with the pandemic leaving

many furloughed or unem-

ployed, people have looked

for the alternate forms of in-

come. The relative simplici-

ty of creating a mask has en-

couraged many to try their

hands in the mask market.

Vendors selling masks are

another addition in the ever

growing tribe of roadside

business, said a vendor sit-

ting in capital market.

Face masks become booming business during Covid pandemic' across the world, people are

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With masks becoming a necessity for everyone, majority local fashion brands and street vendors elsewhere in the country including federal capital have started using their skills to make protective 'face masks' to attract the customers during the ongoing Covid pandemic. A variety of softer, washable and triple-layer designer face mask collection are available at all leading apparel outlets and local street vendors are doing brisk businesses as the demand of face mask rises. Amid coronavirus scare

KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan calls on Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Leader of Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan and discussed the way forward in the Afghan peace process. - DNA

Over 50 dead after flash floods in Indonesia

The deluge and subsequent landslides caused dams to overflow, submerging thousands of houses and leaving rescue workers struggling to reach survivors trapped in the aftermath

DNA

JAKARTA: More than 50 people were killed after flash floods and landslides swept through eastern Indonesia and neighbouring Timor Leste on Sunday, authorities said, warning the toll could rise further. Floods sparked by torrential rain wreaked havoc and destruction on islands stretching from Flores Island in Indonesia to Timor Leste, a small nation east of the Indonesian archipelago.

The deluge and subsequent landslides caused dams to overflow, submerging thousands of houses and leaving rescue workers struggling to reach survivors trapped in the aftermath.

"Four sub-districts and 7 villages have been impacted. After verifying the data with our team in the field, we found that there are 41 people dead." Indonesian Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesperson Raditya Jati told journalists, revising down earlier figures.

"27 people are still missing and nine people are injured." he added. Mud inundated homes, bridges and roads in the East Flores municipality, where rescuers struggled to

reach a remote and badly-hit area because of rains and strong waves. In neighbouring Timor Leste, 11 were killed by floods in the capital Dili, authorities said. "We are still searching for the areas

impacted by the natural disasters," Secretary of State for Civil Protection for Timor Joaquim Jose Gusmao dos Reis Martins told journalists. The death toll and the number of injured victims could still rise, authorities warned.

East Flores deputy regent Agustinus Payong Boli estimated there were 60 casualties in his municipality. "The majority of them, 55, are in Lemanele village. Many people died

here because the village was hit by both landslides and flash floods," he told AFP, providing numbers not yet confirmed by national authorities. Images from Lemanele showed engulfed houses, debris covering entire roads, fallen trees and damaged power lines.

In Lembata, an island halfway between Flores and Timor, parts of affected villages were displaced down a mountain slope and near the coastline, according to an AFP journalist on the scene.

Road access has been cut off and local officials were forced to deploy heavy equipment to reopen the roads

Injured victims have been evacuated to neighbouring villages that were unaffected by the flash floods, as well as local hospital and health facilities.

Images from Lembata showed barefoot locals wading through mud evacuating victims on makeshift stretchers surrounded by collapsed houses. Separately on Sunday, two people were killed in major floods in Bima city in the neighbouring province of West Nusa Tenggara, according to the disaster agency.

Dams in four sub-districts also overflowed, submerging nearly 10,000 houses in Bima following a nine-hour downpour, said Iati.

Fatal landslides and flash floods are common across the Indonesian archipelago during the rainy season. January saw flash floods hit the Indonesian town of Sumedang in West Java, killing 40 people.

And last September, at least 11 people were killed in landslides on Borneo

The country's disaster agency has estimated that 125 million Indonesians - nearly half of the country's population - live in areas at risk of landslides

The disasters are often caused by deforestation, according to environmentalists.

Libya receives Sputnik vaccine

FOREIGN DESK

TRIPOLI: More than 100,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine have arrived at Tripoli's Mitiga airport, the first shipment to reach Libya.

Some 1,000 new coronavirus cases are announced daily by the National Centre for Disease Control, posing a challenge to a health sector ravaged by years of conflict.

"It is the first drop of rain. Thank God, we are able to supply the first batch of corona vaccine." interim Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said in a tweet on Sunday.

"The rest of the shipment will arrive in succession."

A box of the vaccine was shown being unloaded from a cargo plane in a social media post by the health ministry, saying it would be moved to the ministry's warehouses before distribution. In February. the disease control centre launched an electronic registration campaign for vaccinations for those aged over 18.No details on the numbers of those registering have been disclosed. Libya has a population of about 6.5 million. The country has recorded almost 200,000 infections since the outbreak of the pandemic, including 2,684 deaths.







Briefs

Arrangements finalized for Daska by-polls

DNA

LAHORE: Secretary of Election Commission of Pakistan Dr Akhtar Nazir has chaired a meeting to finalise arrangements for the bye-election in NA-75 Daska, and to ensure peaceful, fair, transparent and impartial conduct of by-elections in the constituency.

The meeting, held on the directions of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja at Quaid-e-Azam Divisional Public School Daska, was attended by the divisional and district officers.

The Election Commission of Pakistan secretary told the officers that the mistakes committed during the last by-election should not be repeated.

Secretary of Election Commission of Pakistan Dr Akhtar Nazir said that the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab and relevant wings of Election Commission will remain open on Saturday and Sunday.

Meeting to decide on school closure

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The decision related to closure of schools will be taken after a meeting of the health and education ministers at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday. This was said in a post on Twitter by Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood.

The minister said that keeping in view the deteriorating coronavirus situation in the country, the NCOC meeting will also discuss the exam situation.

"Education and Health Ministers will meet at the NCOC Tuesday to decide

Why US did not invite Pakistan for climate change moot?

Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh have been invited by the US President Joe Biden to attend the summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The US President Joe Biden has not invited Pakistan for the upcoming climate change conference. He has invited 40 heads of state of government for the mega event. The Prime Minister Imran Khan has already expressed its utmost surprise and concern, through his Twitter handle, that Pakistan had done a lot in the climate change sector.

However, if we go the world definition of climate change and environment protection, we still lag far behind in this area. Mere planting trees is not climate change or environmental protection. It is rather a wide subject that covers diverse areas mentioned below.

President Biden invited 40 world leaders to the Leaders Summit on Climate he will host on April 22 and 23. The virtual Leaders Summit will be live streamed for public viewing. The Summit will recon-

vene the U.S.-led Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, which brings together 17 countries responsible for approximately 80 percent of global emissions and global GDP. The President also invited the heads of other countries that are demonstrating strong climate leadership, are especially vulnerable to climate impacts, or are charting innovative pathways to a net-zero economy. A small number of business and civil society leaders will also participate in the Summit. Key themes of the Summit will include:Galvanizing efforts by the world's major economies to reduce emissions during this critical decade to keep a limit to warming of 1.5 degree Celsius within reach. Mobilizing public and private sector finance to drive the net-zero

countries cope with climate impacts. The economic benefits of climate action, with a strong emphasis on job creation, and the importance of ensuring all communities and work-

transition and to help vulnerable

ers benefit from the transition to a new clean energy economy. Spurring transformational tech-

nologies that can help reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, while also creating enormous new economic opportunities and building the industries of the future.

Showcasing subnational and nonstate actors that are committed to green recovery and an equitable vision for limiting warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, and are working closely with national governments to advance ambition and resilience. Discussing opportunities to strengthen capacity to protect lives and livelihoods from the impacts of climate change, address the global security challenges posed by climate change and the impact on readiness, and address the role of nature-based solutions in achieving net zero by 2050 goals.

Further details on the Summit agenda, additional participants, media access, and public viewing will be provided in the coming weeks.

The President invited the following leaders to participate in the Summit:

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Antigua and Barbuda, President Alberto Fernandez, Argentina , Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Australia , Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, Bhutan, President Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canada President Sebastián Pinera, Chile ,President Xi Jinping, People's Republic of China, President Iván Duque Márquez, Colombia President Félix Tshisekedi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Denmark, President Ursula von der Leven, European Commission. President Charles Michel, European Council.President Emmanuel Macron, France, President Ali Bongo Ondimba, Gabon, Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India, President Joko Widodo, Indonesia Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, Israel, Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Italy Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Jamaica, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Japan, President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya, President David Kabua, Republic of the Marshall Islands, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand, President Muhammadu Buhari, Nigeria, Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Norway, President Andrzej Duda, Poland , President Moon Jaein, Republic of Korea, President Vladimir Putin, The Russian Federation, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Spain President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey, President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, United Kingdom, President Nguyen Phú Trong, Vi-

Terrorist killed in operation

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces on Sunday conducted area Sanitization Operation in Dewagar, North Waziristan, on reported presence of terrorists. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release, one terrorist, Zahid ud Din resident of Dewagar, North Waziristan was killed during intense exchange of fire. Terrorist, Zahid ud Din was an active member of TTP in Dewagar and Kharseen areas, the statement added. He remained actively involved in target killings, terrorist activities against Security Forces, extortion and planting IEDs. – DNA

Covid-19 infects 5,020 more people

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Sunday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 60,072 with 5,020 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,367 people recovered from the disease dur-

ing the last 24 hours. Eighty one coronavirus patients have died during past 24 hours, 74 of whom were under treatment in hospital and seven out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in the Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the total 81 deaths occurred during last 24 hours, 24 of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment.

Some 55,605 tests were conducted across the country on Saturday, including 9,347 in Sindh, 27,914 in Punjab, 8,681 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Sindh suspends on-campus classes till grade 8

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The Sindh Education Department has decided to suspend physical classes till grade 8 of all schools in the province from April 6. The classes will remain suspended for 15 days, said Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani in a tweet.

He said children's education will continue through online classes, homework and other means during this period. Earlier, media had reported

that the provincial government was considering to close schools till class 8 as coronavirus cases continue

to increase in the country and Sindh. Sources say a proposal was given to announce a closure of schools till class eight in a meeting of the steering committee of the Sindh Educa-

tion Department, which was held under Ghani's chair. During the meeting, two proposals regarding closure of schools in the province came up. Last month, Sindh Health

Minister Dr Azra Pechuho had suggested to the NCOC that schools should be only be closed if at least three people - students or teachers - test positive for coronavirus.



ISLAMABAD: Representative to PM on religious harmony and middle east, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi meeting with Chairman of Reut-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad. - DNA

whether to open or further close educational institutions. The exam situation will also be discussed," the federal minister wrote. He added: "Whatever is decided will be a collective decision of the country's health and education authorities and NCOC."

CAA issues new travel advisory

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has extended the travel ban imposed on 22 countries due to coronavirus till April 20. The decision was made by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) due to increased risks of the third wave of coronavirus. A new travel advisory has been issued in this regard.

With the increase in the number of countries included in Category C of the Travel Guide, a new list of has been released. It maintains a complete ban on travelers from countries without NOC to Pakistan. Arrivals from 22 countries, including South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania, are subject to the NCOC. Pakistani passport, Nikop and POC card holders will also not be able to return to Pakistan from these countries.

SBP to implement benefiting policies

ISLAMABAD: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Dr Reza Baqir on Sunday said that SBP would implement those policies benefiting economy of Pakistan. Monitory policy adopted by SBP is supporting the economy of Pakistan, he said in an interview with a private television channel. Commenting on approaching International Monitoring Fund (IMF), he said: "We had to seek support of IMF because of weak economic condition." During COVID 19, he said the government had to lift loan from IMF amounting to 250 billion rupees. He said the SBP and the ruling party had successfully managed to cope the difficulties arisen due to spreading virus. – APP

No trade with India till Kashmir settlement: Qureshi

SAIFULLAH

MULTAN: Foreign Min-Shah Mahmood ister Qureshi has said that there will be no trade with India till the restoration of special autonomous status of Kashmir.

The Indian government revoked it in August 2019 by repealing articles 35A and 370 of its constitution. Qureshi said his government has a clear stance that India should step forward to resolve the issues. He was

The foreign minister said

resolve all issues in the region. Qureshi's statement comes days after Pakistan's Economic Coordination Comspeaking to the media in mittee gave a green signal Multan on Sunday. to import cotton and sugar

from India

FM greets Christian community on Easter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday greeted the Christian community on the occasion of Easter. The foreign minister tweeted "Wishing all those celebrating a very Happy Easter". The Christian community of the country is celebrating Easter on Sunday. - DNA

Pakistan has never refused But the cabinet rejected to engage with India to the proposal following an uproar by some opposition members. Islamabad suspended trade and diplomatic ties with New Delhi following the revocation of Kashmir's special status. Pakistan and India have

22 Indian soldiers killed after ambush by Maoists NEW DELHI: At least 22 In- They were killed in firing

etnam.

wars on Kashmir. The two militaries often engage in skirmishes along the heavily militarized Line of Control and the Working Boundary.

The two nuclear-armed neighbours, however, resumed the ceasefire agreement last month after a "hotline contact" between their directors general of military operations. About Afghanistan, he said the international community was appreciating Pakistan's role for sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan would keep facilitating the peace process in fought two of their three Afghanistan, he said.

of its kind in four years. Officials said on Sunday that security personnel belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force's elite CoBRA unit, the District Reserve Guard, and the Special Task Force were attacked on Saturdav in the tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh state during an anti-in-

surgency operation. "We can confirm that 22 of Indian force members have been killed by Maoist fighters," said a senior government official in Raipur, the capital of mineral-rich Chhattisgarh

dian security personnel were that lasted for four hours in the border district of Sukma, killed and 30 injured in an am-540km (340 miles) south of bush by Maoist rebels in the Raipur. Om Prakash Pal, a central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, the deadliest incident senior police official in Raipur said combing operations to trace one missing security force member was being con-

ducted. The death toll was the worst for Indian security forces battling the far-left guerrillas since 2017.

On Saturday, senior police officer DM Awasthi said hundreds of police and paramilitary soldiers raided a hideout in Bijapur district after receiving intelligence that a large number of rebels had gathered there. At least five security personnel were killed in the incident. – APP

would take all-out measures

to facilitate the farmers as de-

velopment of the agriculture

sector was among its prior-

ities. He further explained

that the agriculture sector

of the country was being

faced with multiple issues

including water scarcity, low

quality seeds and pesticides

and it was badly neglected by

Habib further explained that

government had also formu-

lated different fruitful poli-

cies, which would become

especially important in the

wake of climate change and

PML-N government.

(KP), 7,498 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 938 in Balochistan, 389 in GB, and 838 in AJK.

Around 613,058 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 687.908 cases were detected that also included the perished, recovered and under treatment COVID-19 patients so far, including AJK 13,321, Balochistan 19,734, GB 5,052, ICT 60,911, KP 91,439, Punjab 231,073 and Sindh 266,378.

> PTI MPA resigns from Sindh Assembly

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA Kareem Gabool resigned from his provincial assembly seat of PS-100 over what appeared to be 'unaddressed complaints' from the party's provincial representatives and district leadership.

Gabool had previously made headlines two days before the March 3 Senate elections when he had announced to not vote for the PTI's candidates.

In his resignation addressed to the Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh, Gabool maintained that, "On every floor of party, I always said my voice up there. My constituency of (PS-100) (NA-242) MNA Mr Saif Ur Rehman always ignored me and people of my constituency and he always did whatever wanted for the he development work of the people.

"I, therefore, obey the party policies. Several times, I recorded my statement with my parliamentary party. I personally, [a] lot of times, informed Governor Sindh Mr Imran Ismail, Karachi President Mr Khurram Sher Zaman, GS Karachi Mr Saeed Afridi and Parliamentary Leader Mr Bilal Ghaffar [about the situation].

along well with Pakistani employees: Bai Yan ISLAMABAD: Chinese enterprises in Pakistan get along well with Pakistani employees and local people,

who has been working and living here since 2010. She lauded this cooperative and friendly relationship in terms of people-to-people exchanges, while talking to Gwadar Pro. For example,

she said, her company often celebrates the Pakistani traditional holidays with employees and local people. When talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Bai said pro-

jects under the framework of CPEC have boosted the economic development of Pakistan and provided more job opportunities for locals. Sharing her experience livng in Islamabad, she said Pakistanis are friendly to

her all the way. Bai recalled that when she first came here in August, the local scorching heat weather hit her first. "I hadn't experienced such a torrid summer," she said. However, the livable environment and green plants everywhere made her fall in love with the city. – **DNA**

PTI to turn country into economic giant, says Farrukh Habib

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Railways, Farrukh Habib Sunday said government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan would turn the country into economic giant with promoting seed development and research for agriculture sector. Talking to a private news channel , Farrukh said that the country was fast moving on the path of progress and prosperity due to the prudent policies and decisions taken by the incumbent gov-



ernment. He said that government was focusing on agricultural research and development to promote export-focused production that cannot be avoided anymore as it is vital

for agro-based industrial de-

velopment. The government was only in struggle to make Pakistan a geo-economic hub of the region, he mentioned. He said the government water shortages.

NCOC issues guidelines for Ramadan The guidlines said if the government feels the SOPs are not being implemented, or the number of cases rise to a dangerous level, it can revise its policy

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has issued its revised guidelines to contain the spread of the coronavirus. "According to a press release,

these guidelines have been issued as per unanimous declaration from the President in consultation with Ulema for arrangements for Taraweeh prayers in Mosques

and Imambargahs," read a post on Radio Pakistan.

The country's nerve centre on coronavirus has urged administration of mosques and Imambargahs to hold Taraweeh prayers in their yards. The guidlines said if the government feels the SOPs are not being implemented, or the number of cases rise to a dangerous level, it can revise its policy. The government said it will also have the right to change its policy for areas that are severely affect-

ed by the virus. Mosques and Imambargahs have been asked not to use carpets or rugs. Prayers will be offered on the floor and if people want, they can bring their prayer mats to the places of worship.

The guidelines call on people to avoid gathering before and after the prayers, also saying that if there is a courtyard in the Masajid and Imambargahs, prayers will be offered there and not inside the halls.

Similarly, citizens older than 50 years, adolescent children, and those suffering from flu, cough, etc should avoid to come to mosques or Imambargahs for prayers and Taraweeh prayers, said the NCOC.

The NCOC advised people to offer their prayers at homes and ordered that floors of mosques and Imambargahs should be cleaned with chlorine solution in water. "The rows of the praying individuals should be aligned so that there

is a distance of six feet between individuals," said the press release. The NCOC said that mosques and Imambargahs should constitute committees consisting of responsible individuals who will ensure adherence to precautionary measures.

The NCOC has asked the citizens to avoid offering prayer on the roads and footpaths. It also barred citizens to hold ablution (Wuzu) in the Mosques, adding that they should do Wuzu at their homes.

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said Bai Yan, a Chinese lady,

Chinese enterprises get