

leadership. Díaz-Canel, who would boycott trade with the West if any turns 61 on Tuesday, is a relative youngster compared to members of the generation

Minister of State HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh of UAE during his official visit to the country. Both the leaders discussed promoting bilateral relations,

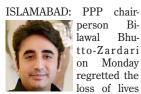
that accompanied Fidel Cas tro in his battle against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and then staved on in power for decade after decade while cementing a Soviet-style political system. He was born a year after the revolution in the west-central city of Santa Clara.

#### Bilawal slams govt over protests

#### SAIFULLAH

Bi

Bhu-



in the recent clashes that took place in various cities across the country. Pakistan has been rocked by violent protests over the past couple of days as supporters of a proscribed organisation have held protests across the country, leading to clashes with police officers. The clashes have left four police officers martyred and over 600 injured. Offering his condolences over the martyrdom of law enforcement personnel in the recent clashes and the deaths of citizens, the PPP chairperson said these clashes reflected the government's failure to resolve tensions peacefully.



Sino-Pak friendship is like a fruitful tree: Nong Rong – Page 02

Abrar ul Haq appeals to people to donate blood - Page 03

> FTO registers highest cases of 3388 in year 2020 – Page 04

CoVID-19 control: Can Pakistan learn from China? – Page 05

Top European football clubs announce Super League - Page 06

Iran says open to direct talks with Saudi Arabia - Page 07

Kyrgyzstan on road to progress under new leadership: envoy – Page 08 Pakistan bans inbound travellers from India **M**AHNOOR **A**NSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday imposed a ban on travellers from India through air and land routes for the next two weeks, citing the spread of a new variant of the novel coronavirus in the neighbouring country. A statement issued by the

National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said the decision was taken during a meeting of the forum today, presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar. The forum was briefed about the spread of the new Indian variant of the coronavirus - a double-mutant variant - which was considered responsible for

**Continued on Page 06** 

# Pakistan reports 5,512 new cases

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

**Continued on Page 06** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 5,512 new infections on Monday, rising the national tally to 761,437 as the country grapples with the third wave of coronavirus resulting in stricter restrictions by the authorities.

As per the official data by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 60,162 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours from which 5,512 tests returned positive.

About 73 more succumbed to coronavirus during the past 24 hours, taking the country-wide death tally to 16,316. In a provincial breakdown, Sindh has reported 272,729 cases, Punjab 270,338, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 106,500, Islamabad 70,079, Balochistan 20,940, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 15,524, and Gilgit Baltistan 5,176. About 662,845 people have recovered across Pa-

kistan from coronavirus.

its earlier decision, largely viewed as a snub in Pakistan, the United States has now extended a formal invitation to Pakistan to participate in the global climate summit scheduled to take place virtually on April 22 and 23. According to media reports, sources familiar with the development said that Pakistan had expressed reservations over the US decision, emphasizing that it was one of the most affected countries in South Asia on the climate change index, and had done a lot to minimize the climate effects. As per sources, the Foreign Office has informed the Prime Minister Office

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Backtracking

of the latest development. Upon receiving the message of the Foreign Office, Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed his Adviser on Climate Change Ameen Aslam to represent Pakistan in the virtual climate summit and effectively portray Pakistan's achievement at the forum.

2020 Dubai, His Exc Sheikh Nahyan Mabarak Al Nahyan, on Monday. Acknowledging Sheikh Nahyan's contributions to bilateral relations between the two countries, the Foreign Minister termed him as a

Minister of Tolerance and

Coexistence and Commis-

sioner General of EXPO

**Continued on Page 06** 

mutual cooperation between Pakistan and UAE in vari ous sectors. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), FM Qureshi and HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh agreed that immense trade and investment opportunities existed between Pakistan and UAE.

DUBAI: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi meets

The two also agreed to frequently exchange trade delegations. The Foreign Minister FM also stressed utilizing avenues of Economic Diplomacy.

### PM Imran Khan to visit Saudi Arabia

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Saudi Arabia either before Eid or immediately after it, Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Pakistan said on Monday. During his visit, PM Imran Khan will have a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. According to the Saudi Arabian Ambassa-



Said Al-Malki, PM Imran

Khan's trip to the kingdom

has been confirmed but the

dates will be announced later. Last month, Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with Saudi Arabia's crown prince, who had invited the prime minister to visit the kingdom. PM Imran had accepted his offer. The phone call was made hours after the premier had penned a letter to MBS, lauding the launch of the "Saudi Green Initiative" and "Green Middle East" initiative.

### Kyrgyzstan on road to progress under new leadership Pakistan is a friend indeed; CASA-1000" regional project will allow for the export of surplus hydroelectricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and finally to Pakistan: Ambassador Erik Beishembiev

#### ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Erik Beishembiev has said majority of people of Kyrgyzstan has voted in favour of a presidential form of government. According to the results of the Central Election Commission Sadyr Zhaparov received 79% of the votes at the presidential election.

Referendum on the political system of the country with voters asked whether they would prefer a presidential system, a parliamentary system, or opposed both, ended with 81% of votes in favor of presidential form of governance. The ambassador made this announcement during a press conference held at the Kyrgyz embassy on Monday.

The ambassador further said, that following parliamentary elections of October 4 last year, which were marked by numerous violations of the election law, falsifications and vote buying, leading to annulment of the election results and changes in the political leadership of the country. this Embassy had organized first briefing on October 23, 2020.

He said today he will give briefing about further development of political and socio-economic situation in the Kyrgyz Republic. Following the resignation of President Sooronbay Jeenbekov in October 2020 and appointment of Sadyr Zhaparov as Prime-minister and acting President, presidential elections alongside with a referendum on the form of government were held on 10thJanuary 2021. Shortly after the parliament approved and President signed decree on appointment Mr. Ul-

ukbek Maripov as new Prime Minister and as well as members of his cabinet of ministers. Recently, on April 11thof the current year, a constitutional referendum and local elections were held in Kyrgyzstan. According to the Central Election Commission 79.3 percent voted in favor of the new constitution, with just 13.6 percent voting against it. The ambassador further said, only 30 percent of Kyrgyzstan's eligible voters needed to participate for the April 11 referendum to be declared legitimate. Preliminary results show 37.1 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots in the referendum. International observers found no any violations of the law during plebiscite. Talking about the international reaction, Ambassador Erik said, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization declared that referendum

was held in the atmosphere of openness and transparency with active participation of civil society representatives and creation of favorable conditions for voters to make their own and informed choice.

Commonwealth of Independent States Parliamentary Assembly noted that referendum on the new Constitution of Kyrgyzstan

position of the Prime Minister is 20 EMBASSY OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Erik Beishembiev talking to a select group of media people, on Monday. – DNA

transformed to the head of the cabinet of ministers and presidential administration.

The new law, he said, also reduces the number of seats in the Parliament from 120 to 90 and establishes a constitutional court. The new constitution will enter into force after its signature by the President and official publication.

To a question the ambassador said, currently, transitional period of change of leadership and reforms has mainly completed, we have a new President and a new Constitution. We expect to finalize in full reforms after the new parliamentary elections planned in September 2021.

'Today Kyrgyzstan is continuing to dynamically develop as a country with diversified and liberal economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan'.

After election as President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov paid official visits to Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, launched Central Asia - South Asia "CASA-1000" regional proiect that will allow for the export of surplus hydroelectricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and finally to Pakistan, as well as major investment project on development of

Kyrgyzstan's second-largest gold deposit Jerui with annual output eventually reaching 5.5 tons. Gold reserves at the deposit are estimated at 88 tons. These major developments show that international community and investors have trust in the new government of the Kyrgyz Republic. On January 29, 2021 President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov signed a decree on the protection of property and support for entrepreneurs and investors. The document was adopted to provide constitutional guarantees for the protection of property, stimulate sustainable economic growth, to exclude unjustified state interference in the economic activities of business entities, as well as to increase investor confidence, create a favorable investment climate and business environment. Ambassador Erik further said, in the 2020 Doing Business report published by the World Bank, Kyrgyzstan ranked 80th out of 190 countries, which represents that country is making significant progress on payment of taxes (the government has reduced the tax burden on repatriation of profits by foreign investors to conform to the tax rate for domestic investors) and getting credit.

(Continued on Back Page)



meets international standards.

The new constitution replaces

previous mixed presidential-par-

liamentary system with a presi-

dential one. The President is the

head of the state, highest official

and heads the executive branch

of power. His term is limited to

two five years periods instead of

a single six-year term before. The

# NATIONAL



Tuesday, April 20, 2021

### **Briefs**

#### **Police on** high alert to maintain law & order: IGP

#### ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani on Monday said that any attempt or activity for spoiling peace would not succeed as the police were fully alert to protect the lives and property of the citizens and maintain the writ of state.

He said that no organization, group or its activists deserved any concession to take the law into their own hands or damage the property of citizens under the guise of protest and strict legal action would be taken against such miscreants.

He said that under the guise of protest, vehicles, property or lives of people would not be allowed to be damaged and roads be blocked, adding that violators involved in such acts of violence would be brought to book in any case.

He directed the police officers to perform their duties with more responsibility and diligence to maintain law and order while senior officers should review the security arrangements at sensitive places by going out to the field and monitor the sensitive points.

#### **UN-GCNP** promotes **Urban** Forests

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The UN Global Compact Network Pakistan has complimented and felicitated Pakistan Cables, a member of the Network, for taking the initiative to develop an Urban Forest by planting 40,000 trees on 2.50 acres in their new unit in Nooriabad industrial estate. At the same time, GCNP has called upon its own members as well as large trade and industrial Associations and Chambers to follow the example set by Pakistan Cables and motivate members to plant trees in their premises as their contribution towards ecological corporate social responsibility. This statement was issued by Nuzhat Jahan, Secretary General UN-GCNP, after a meeting held in the GCNP office to discuss ways and means to promote the urban forestation method developed by Akira Miyawaki of Japan. Nuzhat Jahan also informed the meeting that there are only 22 developed urban forests in the country. Of which, 17 were developed in Karachi alone. However, Pakistan Cables' Urban Forest was the largest among them and also it was the first of its kind in an industrial land. "it should be the responsibility of Industrial Town Associations to adopt the concept of Urban Forests within their industrial estates and at the same time convince and advocate with industries, especially multinational and large, to join the campaign to plant as many trees as possible", she added.

# Sino-Pak friendship is like a fruitful tree: Nong Rong

#### STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Friendship is grow like a lash green tree and giving both shaltar & furits, this is was stated by Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Mr. Nong Rong while informally exchanging views after launching Pak China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 at Civil Officer's Mess Peshawar this afternoon organized by Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Chapter. Ambassador Nong Rong who was visiting first time Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province since taking over the ambassadorial responcibilities was warmly received Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Local Government & Rural Development Mr. Akbar Ayub Khan, Secretary Local Council Board Mr. Khazir Hayat Khan, Director-General Peshawar City District Government Mian Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Patron PCFA Tasleem Hussain, President PCFA Mr. Yousaf

FA-Khyber officer bearers. Ambassdor Nong Rong plant a tree to formally launch Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 drive as a part of PCFA-Khyber's plan to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China Diplomtic Relations. The initiative was appreciated by the Ambassador Nong Rong and was informed that this plantation will be across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province during 2021-the year marking 100 successful

Ayub Khan alongwith PC-



vears of Commist Party of Ayub Khan in strengthening China, which play vital role in China's economic development & social prosperity and become a living example for rest of the world. While speaking on the occasion Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for LG&RDD Mr. Akbar Ayub Khan welcome the Ambassador Nong Rong on his first visit of Province and shows confidence that this examplery relationship with grow and CPEC will bring economic prosperity across the country. Minister Akbar Ayub Khan mentioned about the vital role of his late grand father President Field Marshal

the Sino-Pakistan relations which were highly valued by the Chinese Leadership. Mr. Akbar Ayub Khan appreciate the efforts of Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in further strengthening these relationship and urged that we should put all efforts to translate these friendly relationship for benefits of peoples like how China bring economic prosperity for the masses across China and recently control the COVID 19 successfully we should learn from the experience of China for the greater

benefits of our country. He also appreciate the efforts of PCFA Khyber for Launching Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 drive and mentioned that as per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan & Chief Minister Mahmood Khan we are committed to further envirement friendly activities by plantations across the Province. While welcomeing Ambas-

sador Nong Rong, PCFA Khyber Chapter President Mr. Yousaf Ayub Khan recalled his & his family role in developing & strengthening the Sino-Pak relations in 1960s era. He said the this is high time to further speed-up these relations in to next level of economic cooperations and social interactive coordination to cultivate the fruits of these friendship for the betterment of region. He said that PCFA-like always leave no stone unturn to further strengthening these friendly interactions. He recalled his visits to Xinjiang -China in 1997-98 as leader of delegation to participate in Urumqi South-East Asian Trade Fairs which play key role in development economic & business activities across Asia.

Speaking on the occasion,

Secretary-General Sved Ali Nawaz Gilani said that this Association was established in 1970 as Pak-China Students Friendship Association and was having the Red Book of Chairman Mao then play an active role in twining of Peshawar Urumqi, Abbottabad-Kashgar as sister cities in 1985 & 2007 respectively and recently at Provincial level we have launched a Eassy competation to celebrate 70th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations with support of Culture Section of Chinese Embassy started from 5th April to 5th May

2021.

#### **Mehboob** Ahir

SARGODHA: Commissioner Sargodha Division Farah Masood has directed that strict implementation of Corona SOPs should be ensured in office activities to avoid the current dangerous wave of Corona virus. In this regard, all staff should show a sense of responsibility. He added that strict implementation of SOPs is needed to fight the Corona pandemic. Protecting the rights of employees is our number one priority, so ensure the implementation

#### NAB wants Hamza's bail cancelled

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) to get the bail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hamza Shahbaz canceled.

The NAB has asked the apex court in its appeal to annul a decision of the Lahore High Court (LHC) granting bail to the Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly on Febru-

The accountability watchdog pleaded that the LHC neglected the facts in the case as his case does not pertain to hardship. "Granting bail to Hamza Shahbaz will create a hindrance in the NAB inquiry," the plea read while demanding to cancel the LHC order.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on February 24 granted post-arrest bail to PML-N leader and Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shahbaz in the assets beyond means case. A two-judge bench of the high court directed him to furnish two surety bonds worth Rs1 million each to secure the bail. The court ordered that Hamza be set free if he is not required to be detained in any other case.

The court approved his bail after hearing arguments of his lawyers and the NAB prosecutor. The prosecutor requested the high court to dismiss the PML-N MPA's bail stating he amassed more assets than his sources of income justified besides being involved in money laundering. He added Hamza Shahbaz Sharif's was not an ordinary case.

#### Citizens protest outside Lal Haveli

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security arrangements have on Monday beefed up outside Lal haveli in Rawalpindi after citizens staged protest and raised slogans against Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

On the other hand, an FIR has been lodged at the

#### DC visits fruit, vegetable market, monitors auction process and other officers of the increase unnecessarily. He

#### **ISHFAQ MUGHAL**

Deputy FAISALABAD: Commissioner Muhammad Ali said that the bidding process of fruits and vegetables in the vegetable markets is being monitored so that the prices can be kept stable. He said this in a visit to fruits and vegetable mar-

said that the rate list should Market Committee were be issued immediately after also present on the occathe bidding process and the sion. Earlier Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali standard items should be sold at fixed rates. The Depinspected different Ramzan uty Commissioner asked Bazars. He went to Jinnah the Assistant Commission-Colony and Kaleem Shaers to visit the vegetable heed Ramzan bazars and went to different stalls and market in the tehsils regularly in the morning and checked the availability of afternoon hours and monessential items.

a tree in front of UAF Vice Chancellor Office. ADC Headquarter Muhammad Khalid, Principal Officer Public Relations and Publications (PRP) UAF Dr Jalal Arif, Principal Officer Estate Management Dr. Muhammad Javed Director PHA Abdullah Nisar, Dr Adnan Younis and others attended.

Commissioner for implementing **Corona SOPs** 

#### PHP issues 7758 tickets

#### BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Road traffic crashes are the biggest menace and leading cause of death now in Pakistan. SP Punjab Highway Patrol, Region Faisalabad Mirza Anjum Kamal told the media while giving the detail of issued tickets and imposition of fines. He elaborated that total 7758 challan tickets have been issued since from January to March 31,202. Total fine Rs 4,726,650 is imposed on traffic violators in the Region Faisalabad. In order to mitigate the Road traffic accidents, 58 cases were registered against the reckless drivers. As many as 58 vehicles were impounded and 58 drivers were arrested as well. While talking about the cancellation of License and route permits of vehicles involved, he said that 32 route permits have been taken for cancellation. However, when asked about public complaints. He said that public especially road users are very happy due to traffic management. Road shows and establishment of road camps helps people to know about traffic rules and ongoing awareness cam-

paigns.

ket GM Abad early in the morning while reviewing the auction process of different vegetables and fruits. He reviewed the bids for tomatoes, lemons, garlic, onions, green chillies, apples, bananas and other essentials item and asked the market committee officials to continue monitoring the bidding process so that the price of an item does not

itor the process of auction and keep abreast of prices. He reviewed the implementation of Corona SOPs and directed to ensure the use of face masks. He also spoke to the buyers while checking the arrangements on the farmer platform. Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Extra Assistant Director Agriculture Muhammad Usman Measures to promote tree plantation

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali on Monday said that all possible measures were being taken for ensuring and promoting tree plantation under Clean and Green Pakistan.

He along with University Agriculture Faisalabad of (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Tanvir planted

The DC said that trees were a beautiful masterpiece of nature and local administration was taking all tangible measures to make the campaign successful through joint efforts. He said that district administration was implementing tree plantation campaign in a true manner, adding that public participation was also imperative to achieve the results.

of the SOPs outlined by the government. There will be no compromise on the lives of the people.

#### Secy RTA directs to implement SOPs

Secretary Regional Transport Authority Farooq Haider Aziz has directed the owners of public transport to ensure implementation of Corona SOPs in buses and wagons. He said that the third wave of corona which has started is of a severe nature. Therefore, implementation of SOPs in passenger transport bases should be ensured to avoid spread of Corona.

#### Police for public service

Shamshir Ali Joya, SHO of Jhal Chakian Police Station, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Mohammad Hasnain Shah, Faisal Manzoor Mohammad Ijaz and Mohammad Saleem while talking to Islamabad Post correspondent said that the media should help police to identify criminal elements. "I and my entire team will take full action against criminal elements," he said. We do public service as worship and our doors are always open for the public.

Nawan Kot Police Station in Lahore under terrorism sections regarding abduction of DSP and other police personnel.

The case has been registered on complaint of the police station's ASI Muhammad Iqbal. According to the FIR, outraged demonstrators stormed into the police station with petrol bombs and bottles of acid.

The protesters vandalized the police station and kidnapped the DSP and other officials after setting it on fire, 300 armed workers also attacked the Rangers.



ISLAMABAD: Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting assumed his office in Islamabad. - DNA

# Violence doesn't solve issues

#### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council said on Monday that Pakistan Ulema Council owns a very explicit and clear stance from day one that violence does not solve issues and problems.

In a joint statement, the leadership of PUC said violence has only harmed Pakistan and the people of Pakistan.

Pakistan Ulema Council does not support violence from any side and Pakistan Ulema Council is willing and dedicated for cooperation for protection of Namoos-e-Risalat at every forum with respective endeavors.

Legislation and effective Maulana Asadullah Farooq. measures at the world Maulana Obaidullah Gorm-

level for the protection of ani, Maulana Muhammad Namoos-e-Risalat is the Ashfaq Potafi, Allama Taonly solution on a permahir-ul-Hassan, Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, nent basis and Pakistan Pir Asad Habib Shah Jama-Ulema Council is committed and dedicated for coli, Maulana Noman Hashir, operation at any level and Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, forum in accordance with Maulana Abu Bakar Sabri, Maulana Aslam Siddiqui, the undertaking of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Maulana Aseed-ur-Rehman Leadership of Pakistan Saeed, Maulana Abdul Ulema Council including Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Chair-

Hakim Athar, Maulana Hassan Ahmad Hussaini, Mian Rashid Munir, Maulana man Pakistan Ulema Coun-Saadullah Ludhianvi, Mufti cil, Special Aide to Prime Muhammad Omar Farooq, Minister for Religious Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Aqeel Zubair said Harmony and Middle East in a statement that what and other office bearers happened in Pakistan durof the Pakistan Ulema Council including Maulana ing the last three or four Abdul Karim Nadeem, Aldays is very sorrowful and lama Abdul Haq Mujahid, reprehensible.

The protection of Namoos-Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Qazi Matiullah Saeedi, e-Risalat is the responsibility of every Muslim, every Muslim is Ashiq-e-Rasool

and even a Muslim with minimal faith cannot bear Maulana the blasphemy to the honor of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W).

Leadership of Pakistan Ulema Council said that from day one Pakistan Ulema Council has been of the view that violence does not solve problems.

Talks between the government and Tehreek-e-Labbaik should be successful. For completion of suggestions as pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his Monday's speech, Ulema-Mashaykh of Pakistan and Religious scholars are ready to cooperate with the government to implement the suggestions for legislation at world level and for ef-

levels.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Directorate of Parks (East)
<b>OPEN AUCTION NOTICE</b>

#### FOR RIGHTS OF COLLECTION OF CAR PARKING FEE AT LAKE VIEW PARK (PHASE-I), ISLAMABAD

CDA intendeds to auction the following work for the period of 02 (two) years through open auction.

	S. No	Name of work	TOR Price (non-refundable)	Registration Fee (non-refundable)	Security Deposit	Last Date of Registration of Firm	Date & Time of auction
	1	Rights of collection of Car Parking Fee at Lake View Park (Lots "A" & "B") Islamabad, (for 02 two years)	Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only)	Rs.25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only)	Rs.10,000,000/- (Rupees ten million)	05-05-2021	06-05-2021 at 11:30 AM in Conference Room of Parks Dte. F-9 Park Islamabad.

The Set of detailed TOR (Terms of Reference) can be obtained from the office of Drawing & Disbursing Officer Parks (Horticulture), CDA located at Mehran Gate No.1, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad on cash payment @ Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand) per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of auction against written request which should be on letter head pad have Name, Address, Telephone (Land Line) Numbers and signature of the bidder along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, Sole proprietorship / partnership deed. No TOR's will be sold on the date of auction.

The auction will be held in Conference Room of Directorate of Parks located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park, Islamabad on 20-04-2021 at 11:30 AM.

- Main Terms and Conditions for participating in bidding process are as under; 4.
  - Registration of individuals / firms / company will be made on submission of documents i) mentioned in TOR, and deposit on account of registration fee of Rs.25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) along with call deposit amounting to Rs.10,000,000/- (Rupees ten million only) shape of pay order in favor of DDO Parks (Horticulture), CDA on account of security deposit.
  - The defaulters / absconder of previous auction are disqualified from this auction. ii)
  - iii) The deposit of call/earnest money should be generated only from firm's accounts.
  - iv) The General / Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court.
  - The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/Semi Government v).
  - vi). The bid Security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder.
  - The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least three number vii) of work in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of TOR's.
  - viii) The right of collection fee will be for duration of (02) two years, as per given below schedule:

S. No	Description	Rate (in Rs)
1	Motor Cycle	Rs.10/- (Ten)
2	Car / Taxi	Rs.20/- (Twenty)
3	Bus / Coaster / Van	Rs.30/- (Thirty)
4	VVIP & Govt; Number Plate Vehicles	Free

The Successful bidder shall deposit 35% of the highest bid amount in shape of pay Order in favor of DDO Parks (Horticulture), CDA within two days, otherwise call deposit shall stand forfeited

The successful bidder will furnish a bank guarantee equals to 65% of the bid amount before taking over possession of site or entire amount in advance

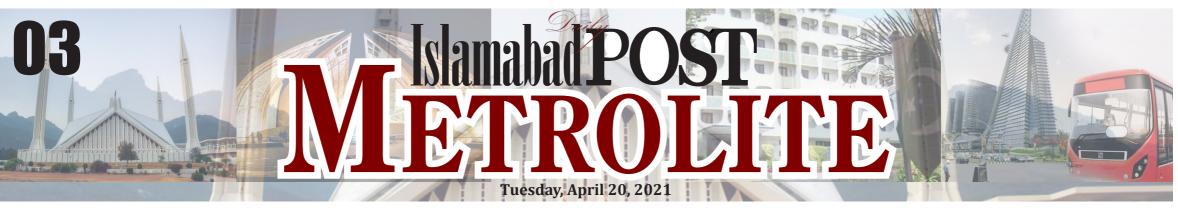
CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason. 7.

Dy;	Director	Mega	Parks(	East)
			Dte; of Parks, CD	

PID (I) No.5730/20

fective action at respective

	e



### **Briefs IHC issues** stay order in extradition case

# Abrar ul Haq appeals to people to donate blood PRCS chairman calls for urgent interventions to ensure uninterrupted supply

#### MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to respondents on an intra-court appeal and issued stay order on magistrate concerned order in extradition of a Pakistan citizen PiranDitta to the Unitted Kingdom (UK).

A division bench comprising IHC Chief Justice AtharMinallah and Justice Baber Sattar heard the case.

It may be mentioned here that earlier a single member bench dismissed the bail petition of PiranDitta who filed an intra-court appeal against the decision.

The petitioner has challenged the decision of inquiry magistrate dated November 9. He is accused of killing lady police personnel on November 18, 2005 in UK. He is currently in Adiala Jail.

#### Two dacoits held; snatched cash recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad SabziMandi Police has arrested two persons involved in dacoities and recovered snatched cash, mobile phone and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said.

According to details, SSP (Operations) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer directed all police officials to ensure effective policing measures in the city and trace those involved in dacoity cases. Following their directions SP (Industrial-Area) Liaquat Hayat Niazi constituted a team under the supervision of DSP Mubarik Ali included Station House Officer SabziMandi Police Station. Sub-Inspector Liaquat Ali along with other officials which successfully busted two members' dacoit gang involved in snatching valuables at gun point. They have been identified as Zahir-Ullah s/o JantaGul and Bukhtair resident of Afghanistan. The police team also recovered snatched cash, mobile phones and illegal weapons from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, they confessed their involvement in incidents of looting people in various areas of city. Separate cases have been registered in SabziMandi police station against the nabbed persons and further investigation is underway from them. DIG (Operations) Afzal Ahmed Kausar and SSP (Operations) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer has appreciated this overall performance and directed all police officials to ensure effective policing measures in their respective areas. - APP

of blood amid severe shortage precipitated by Covid-19 pandemic

#### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman AbrarulHaq on Monday appealed to the people to come forward and donate blood to help save lives amid serious shortage of blood due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement, the PRCS chairman said over 16,000 people have lost lives to Covid-19 in the country, however hundreds of thousands more are at risk due to blood shortage. He said lives of patients suffering from leukemia,

thalassemia, hemophilia, anemia or those undergoing critical surgeries or having been injured in road accidents depend on timely and adequate supply of blood. AbrarulHaq said the pandemic has brought voluntary blood donations to a virtual standstill, adding that the closure of educational institutions, which have been a major source of blood collection, has also severely impacted the blood donations. He said the PRCS Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) housed at the National Headquar-

ters in Islamabad would usually

collect 500-1000 donations in any



given month, which have now fallen to around few dozen units only. He said around 90% of PRCS blood supply has been threatened by

cancelation of community blood drives due to Covid-19 pandemic. "Estimates suggest that only 28 out of 10,000 people donate blood in Pakistan. Out of these, only 11 percent of donations are by people who don't have a friend or family in immediate need," he further said, referring to little inclination among people in Pakistan towards voluntarily donating blood.

The PRCS chairman said majority of blood donors fears that they might contract coronavirus during the blood transfusion process. He said adequate safety precautions are observed at the PRCS RBDC as well as mobile blood collection camps and chances of anyone contacting coronavirus during the transfusion process are equal to zero. He also called for a robust awareness campaign to ward off people's concerns in this regard. Abrar ul Haq said the PRCS has developed short-, medium- and longterm strategies to further increase its blood collection capacity and outreach to meet the growing demand in the country. He said it is time for urgent interventions to ensure uninterrupted supply of blood, especially for those whose life depends on regular blood transfusions.

#### Drive against fake number plates starts

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has started a move against vehicles and motorcycles bearing fake number plates plying on various roads of the city. In a statement issued here, Chief Traffic Officer RaiMazhar Iqbal said that the operation has been started against vehicles bearing fake number plates or revolving blue light, tinted glasses and without number plates vehicles to curb crime rate in the city.

He said the city traffic police has been strictly directed to act against fake number plates and revolving lights vehicles without any fear or undue favor.

'The vehicles would be impounded in police stations if they failed to display original number plates,' he warned, adding that stern action would be taken against those who have installed revolving light on their vehicles impersonating as police officers.

CTO directed traffic wardens work with commitment and dedication to maintain flow of traffic. He made it clear that strict action would be taken against those who were found negligent in performing their duties.

#### IESCO issues power suspension programme

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development worĸ.

cording to IESCO Spokes-

man, the power supply of

different feeders and grid

stations would remain

suspended for the period

From 06:00 AM to 10:00

AM Burma, Waheedabad,

Sadran Road, Tarlai, H-8,

Nisar-



### **SECP** Chairman for revamping **REIT Regulations**

#### **RAJA PERVAIZ**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Aamir Khan reiterated the resolve to reform Real Estate Investment Trusts' regulatory framework in the country. The initiative was aimed aim to move towards disclosure-based issuance, providing requisite support for growth of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) schemes, reducing entry barriers and attracting PPP-based infrastructure projects into the realm of RE-ITs. He made these remarks while addressing a consultative roundtable, organized to discuss draft amendments to the REIT Regulations, 2015, said a news release.

A departmental presentation, delivered at the occasion, explained the major reforms proposed with regard to revamping of conventional REIT model, allowing REITs to invest either in Real Estate directly or through investments in Special Purpose Companies, introducing the concept of public private partnership-based infrastructure projects under the REIT umbrella, etc. Additionally, the regulatory amendments include facilitating REIT companies with removal of a number of approval processes and rationalizing requirements for submission of various documents. An engaging discussion followed the presentation that covered the entire spectrum of REITs and its regulatory and operational framework.

FarrukhSabzwari, Commissioner, Specialized Companies Division elucidated that the draft amendments were being proposed on the back of an extensive stake-

#### IESCO detects 1139 suspicious connections

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Power pilferage teams of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) have detected 1139 suspicious connections across all five circles of the company during April so far. Giving the details, IESCO Chief Ch. Abdul Razaq said 1105 meters were found slow while 32 consumers were getting direct power supply. On account of slow meters and power theft, 0.9 million units were charged to them besides imposing Rs 18.03 million fine, he said. The CEO said applications were also submitted in the local police stations for legal proceeding against the power pilferers.

He said ensuring continuity of power supply during Holy month of Ramadan and prompt action against power theft were also their top priority. The IESCO Chief appreciated the field formations efforts and said power theft campaign would continue till complete elimination of this menace. The IESCO Chief also requested valuable customers to be a part of this National campaign and call on complaint and monitoring cell No. 051-92952933-6 or help line 118 if they found an yone electricity theft.

ISLAMABAD: President, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Khan, Administering oath to Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja as Acting Chief Justice of High Court AJK. - DNA

# ANF seizes 4277.912 KGs narcotics

ident of Lahore

hore to Sharjah.

Furthermore, the meeting

a platform that will provide

long-term opportunities for

Pakistan to enhance connec-

tivity with Eurasian coun-

tries focusing on sustainable

goal development, human

capacity development, pros-

pects of enhancing business,

Additionally, the EIRC will

be working actively to de-

velop and strengthen link-

ages between academia and

industries to produce work

that will be in line with the

modern requirements. Real-

izing the need to penetrate

trade, and investment.

#### Khayam Abbasi

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force Pakistan has seized 4277.912 Kg narcotics valuing US \$ 152.771 Million internationally, arrested 26 culprits including two foreigners, one lady and impounded 14 vehicles while conducting 24 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. Police Station Regional Di-

rectorate ANF, Quetta recovered 1690 Kg Hashish from (30 polythene Sack) near Dry Rainy Nullah situated at KuchlakPashin bypass District, Quetta. In another operation, Police Station Regional Directorate ANF, Quetta, Balochistan. recovered

1710 Kg Hashish from (30 Polythene Sack) near Dry Rainy Nullah situated near Killi Daman Tehsil Gulistan District Qilla Abdullah. Police Station ANF Lahore

raided near PSO Petrol national namely Innocent Pump, Saggian bypass road, Ejike from Sialkot Airport,

Sialkot on the suspicion of Lahore intercepted a motorcycle and recovered 4.800 ingested narco filled cap-Kg hashish from personal sules in his stomach. The possession of arrested acaccused has been admitted to Hospital where he delivcused Muhammad Asif resered 101 Cocaine filled cap-Police Station ANF, Lahore sules (weighing 1.012 Kg). raided at Bus Stop Canal road In third operation, Police Station Sialkot interceptnear Mall road underpass, Lahore intercepted a Car ed a consignment of 3 x Cartons of Cricket Bat & Honda Civic and recovered Ball from Courier Service 4.800 Kg Opium & 12 Kg Hashish from secret cavity Sialkot and recovered 2 Kg of the seized vehicle & per-Opium being sent to Canasonal possession of arrested da which was tactfully conaccused Ayaz Muhammad cealed in 10 x Cricket Bats. &Zarain Khan residents of In fourth operation, Police Swat. Police Station Regional Station Sialkot raided near Directorate, Lahore arrested Barila Sharif Darbar District Pakistani national Muham-Gujrat intercepted a motormad Shabbir resident of Mucycle and recovered 3.300 zaffarabad at Allama Iqbal In-Kg Hashish from personal possession of arrested acternational Airport (AIIAP), Lahore and recovered 1 Kg cused Abdul Majeed resi-Heroin which was tactfully dent of AJK. In fifth operaconcealed in trolley bag. tion, Police Station Mianwali The accused was trying to raided near Kalabagh road, smuggle drugs from Laintercepted a Motorcycle and recovered 10 Kg Hash-In another operation, ANF ish from personal posses-Sialkot arrested a Nigerian sion of arrested accused Muhammad Irfan&Zar Khan residents of Mianwali.

### Model Courts award sentences to 7 accused

DNA RAWALPINDI: In order to provide speedy jus-

tice and clear the massive backlog of cases, the Model Courts Monday awarded death sentence to one while Rigorous Imprisonment (RI)was awarded to 6 accused in cases of murder and drugs smuggling. Director-General Supreme Court Monitoring Cell Sohail Nasir said, that the model courts set

up across the country decided 166 cases. Model Criminal courts disposed of 33 cases including 13 cases of murder and 20 narcotics. Similarly, the civil model courts decided 76 family and rent disputes while model magistrate's courts disposed of 57 cases. The fine of Rs 67, 21,493 was also imposed on various accused in different cases.

holder consultation exercise over the past eight months. The draft amendments incorporate majority proposals by the stakeholders during the prior consultation exercise for both the conventional and infrastructure REIT models. However, SECP is open to any further feedback/improvements, which is why it is pertinent for the stakeholders to submit their comments in this final consultation round, for timely consideration and early finalization of the regulations. The draft amendments have been placed on the SECP website for inviting comments. It is expected that once promulgated, the amendments would usher a new era of unprecedented growth in the REIT sector and the PPP infrastructure space.

### ICT to computerize land record: NA told

#### **IBRAR KHAN**

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Interior Shaukat Ali on Monday informed the National Assembly that work was being carried swiftly to computerize all land record in Islamabad Capital Territory and Federal Areas.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Sajida Begum and others regarding non-availability of open, fair and transparent system of mutation (land/ property) in ICT and Federal areas, he said land was very precious in the capital. Utmost care and proper procedure has to be adopted for transferring the land from one person to other, he added. He said land was

Highway, Iqbal Town, Fazia, NPCC-II, Jamalwal, Megan, PAF Murid, Gharial, MC M, TDCP, PC Hotel, Kohala, I-14/3 Feeders From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rama, Syed Kasran, Capt. Shaheed, ManglaCantt, Gadari, MES-II, Sector A,B,C,F, Shahpur, Song, Mangla Metal Feeders being transferred under From 09:00 AM to 01:00 Revenue Act 1967 after PM Industrial, Industrithorough scrutiny. Both the al-2, Crystal, Siraj Steel buyer, seller and concern Mill, Sector A,B,C,F, officials of revenue depart-Shahpur, Song, Feeders ments were present during From 09:00 AM to 02:00 transfer of land, he added. PM Dhudial Rural Feeder He suggested, the process and surrounding areas. could be made easy if Deputy Commissioner was empowered to complete the process within 10 days. However, he said proper legislative was needed in this regard. Shaukat Ali requested the chair to refer the matter to the concern

> hunt programme music edition.

The first Jury award won by Muhammad Ali, second Jury award by Komal Soomro and third award won by Arif Uris Bhatti. The results announced by Director General PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed in a video message, she felicitated the winners of the competition.

She said PNCA would also provide opportunities to the winners and special nominees in its upcoming functions.

PNCA has started this programme for the promotion of classical and semi-classical to folk, modern tunes and pop singing among the younger generation and to groom their hidden talent at the National Art Gallery. Renowned professionals'

artists in different specialized music fields were taking auditions of registered participants at PNCA.

She said that PNCA Talent Hunt programme was attracting number of youth.

The meeting aimed at finalizing domains in which the EIRC will be working which include Academic and

#### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: An online meeting was held between the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), University of Sialkot, Area Study Center (Russia, China, and Central Asia), University of Peshawar, and University of the Punjab, Lahore.

During the meeting, the modalities of the Eurasian Industrial Research Center (EIRC) were discussed. The EIRC is being jointly established by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies, University of Sialkot, Area Study Center (Russia, China, and Central Asia), and University of the Punjab, Lahore.



regional chambers, intra-regional chambers will also be established to facilitate connectivity between various chambers present in Pakistan and regional chambers. Moreover, during the meeting, it was also decided that

EIRC will act as a policy-influencing platform and facilitate the formulation of effective policies which will eventually contribute to developing better connectivity between Pakistan and Eurasia. The online meeting was

attended by the following: Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Chaudhary, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Sialkot, Mr. Khalid TaimurAkram, Executive Director, CGSS, Prof. Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China, and Central Asia), University of Peshawar, Brig Mansoor Saeed (Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS, Dr. FoziaHadi Ali, Director, Regional Integration Center, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Mr. Tariq Khattak, Member Board of Experts, CGSS, Mr. Hamza Jan, Lecturer Economics and Coordinator for international Rankings, QEC, University of Sialkot, Prof. Dr. Navid Jamil Malik, Director, Fac-

for Pak to enhance connectivity with Eurasian countries focusing on sustainable goal development ulty of Engineering and

standing committee so modal-

ities could be prepared after

Meanwhile, Parliamentary

Secretary Narcotic Control

Sheikh Rashid Shafique told

the house that ANF, Rang-

er, police and other law en-

forcing agencies were fully

active against drug mafia.

detailed deliberation.

Architecture, University of Sialkot, Dr. Zeeshan Anwar, Head, Department of Business Administration, FMAS, Mr. Faisal Waheed, Director, Faculty of Fashion and Textile Design, University of Sialkot, Mr. Arshad Jameel Sandal, Sitting Chairman, Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association. Sialkot, Mr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh, Former Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Inaam Afzal Khan, former Vice President and Chairman FCCI Standing Committee on Information Technology, Dr. Hassan Waseem, Director Academics, University of Sialkot, Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, CGSS.

# Modalities of the EIRC discussed in a CGSS webinar

Socio-Economic areas. EIRC has been established to act as a platform that will provide long-term opportunities

aimed at finalizing the domains in which the EIRC will be working which include Academic and Socio-Economic areas. EIRC has been established to act as



# **TWIN CITIES**



SC issues

notice to NAB over a

bail matter

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

# **Briefs**

### **Covid positive** patients in Attock surged to 1822

#### FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: The number of confirmed novel coronavirus (Covid-19) positive patients in Attock surged to 1822 as 19 more patients were detected on Monday, it was officially said. District focal person for Covid-19 Kashif Hussain has informed among newly positive patients 13 belongs to Attock city, three to Hazro, two to Pindigheab while one to Jand.

He informed that the number of active patients in the district is 341 and in which 335 are home isolated while six others are hospitalized. He informedthat as many as 13 suspected patients are also admitted in district headquarters hospital in which 2 are in critical condition. He informed that the number of suspected patients in the district raised to 31,084 while screening of as many as 34,336 persons was carried out across the district in which 28.584 were tested negative. Responding to a question,

he said that the results of as many as 738 suspected patients are awaited. He informed that so far

1,426 persons have recovered from the virus in the district so far.

Another school closed down in Attock after teacher tested Covid-19 positive: The authorities in Attock on Monday sealed a school and screening of students and other teachers were carried out as one of the teacher of the school was tested positive of novel coronavirus (Covid-19). According to official sources, one teacher Government girls' high school Kallu Kallan intehsil Hazro was tested Covid-19positive.

**OGRA** hears petitions seeking licenses

DNA

# FTO registers highest cases of 3388 in year 2020

#### Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) said that 80.03 percent FTO'S decisions were straightaway accepted by the taxpayers and FBR

#### **ZUBAIR AHMAD**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) of Pakistan on Monday said that 3388 cases registered and carried forward in year 2020 which was highest number of registered cases in last five years since 2015. According the annual report issued by Federal Tax Ombudsman Pakistan here, amount of refund by FTO is worth Rs 8242.45 million was much highest as compare to previous four years by 2015.

During 2020, 3332 fresh complaints were registered apart from 1 inspection and18 Own Motion cases, report said.

After adding 383 carry forward cases the total complaints summed up to 3888

#### 4 held for looting houses

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has arrested the criminals involved in looting houses in guise of domestic servants, said the police on Monday. The police also recovered gold from their possession, a police spokesman said.

According to the details, SSP Ata ur-Rehman constituted a special police team under the supervision of DSP Hakim, ASI Rana Tasneem Ahmed, Bashrat Usman which succeeded to bust four criminals later Identified as Azher Iqbal s/o Yousaf, Muhammad Nadeem s/o Abdul Haq, Haseeb-Ur-Rehman s/o Saif-Ur-Rehman, resident of Jaranwala District Faisalabad and M Aslam s/o Allah ditta resident of Sargodha Road District Jhang and recovered gold ornaments worth Rs26,00000 from their possession.- APP

as compared to 3171 compli-60 days allowed under FTO ant registered in 2019. Durordinance, 2000.

ing 2020, 3555 complaints were disposed off while in 2019, 2633 complaints were disposed off. Federal Tax Ombudsman

(FTO) said that 80.03 percent FTO'S decisions were straightaway accepted by the taxpayers and FBR. According to report 98.06

percent of the recommendations of the FTO were up -held in representations. Implementation status has been improved, 87.20 percent recommendations were implemented during 2020.

The report informed that stuck up refunds of RS. 8242.45 million Were facilitated by FTO to taxpayers. Average time taken to dispose of a complaint during

Throughout the year 2020, office of FTO continued its

policy of self-assessment and benchmarking to improve service delivery, the report said.

It indicates that the number of Complaints in the category of Income Tax constitute 65.16 percent which is more than all other Taxes put together. The report said that a dynamic outreach campaign was planned by the Federal Tax Ombudsman and advisors all over the country. But despite Covid-19 FTO held its official meetings with important stakeholders and advisors at various cities.

The grievances of taxpayers were heard and information about taxpayer grievance redressal system of the FTO

The SMS service was purchased and integrated with CMIS software to send SMS messages to stakeholders. FTO's quarterly newsletter were being published regularly and disseminated to government offices, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and selected embassies of Pakistan abroad. News stories relating to the performance of FTO Office are regularly being released to major newspapers/news channels of Pakistan and included in the Quarterly Newsletter of FTO's Office. As part of awareness campaign, hanging information boards, duly reflecting functions of FTO's Office, have been placed at all the FBR formations, offices of CC/I in major cities as well as

Office was disseminated.

the country. Presence of facility of filing online complaints on the website of the FTO Office and availability of dedicated android application 'Wafaqi Tax Mohtasib' for mobile phones, available on Play Store are the measures which have increased the accessibility of public to FTO Office.

According to report 683 complaints were filed through online system and 18 through mobile application.

mobile application The itself had been downloaded 24858 times during 2020 and is expected to be availed more during 2021. The new version of FTO website has been launched and this results in improving easy and better accessibility of FTO office to com-

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday issued notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) over a plainants and taxpavers. post-arrest bail petition filed The report said that a study by accused Muhammad Ali relating to Knowledge, Ap-Panwahar. titude and Practice (KAP) A three-member SC bench survey under a development comprising Justice Umar project of FTO Secretariat Ata Bandial, Justice Sajjad titled "Public Awareness Ali Shah and Justice Munib and Advocacy Project about Akhtar heard the case. Dispute Resolution Mechanism" was assigned to Pakistan Institute of Devel-

finical year (2020-21).

ficial work.

up the important data of of-

An internal software audit

activity was carried out to

improve CMIS functionality

According to the NAB, Muhammad Ali Penwhar in collusion with staff of different opment Economics (PIDE). branches of NBL, UBL at However, due to present Naushahro Feroz and with lockdown/Covid-19 situathe help of staff of District tion across the country, it Accounts office, had comcould not be performed. mitted corruption, fraud Now it is planned to carry and misuse of authorities out during the upcoming which caused huge financial loss to the Government Differential backup of data ex-Chequer. scheme was created to back

During the course of proceedings, the counsel for the petitioner said that his client was in jail since 2016. The NAB reference had so far recorded the statements of only 30 witnesses, he added.

The court issued notice to NAB after hearing the arguments of Penwhar's lawyer. The counsel pleaded the court for early hearing of the case.

Justice Bandial said that the bail application would be heard before Eid.

#### Residents urge to remove water after rain

#### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As the prevailing weather suitable for dengue larvae breeding, Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Abdullah Monday asked the residents to remove stagnant water to stop mosquitoes' breeding after rain and submerged water.

Presiding over a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements, the ADC said though no dengue case had been detected in the year 2021, there was a need to remain vigilant to prevent the spread of dengue larvae during the season. He

directed the health officials

to devise an effective micro

plan keeping in view the

changing weather condition

to eradicate dengue. The

ADC urged the public to

ISLAMABAD: Cheque of Rs. 200,000/- issued by Pak Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd. for Umrah package, being handed over by Sohail Altaf, CEO Central Motors to Commodore Ilyas Vice Chief Executive Bahria Town. - DNA

AIOU uploads admission info for Wearing 2 masks may double protect against Covid-19



ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday held a virtual public hearing on petitions seeking licences for construction and establishment of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) re-gasification terminals including all allied facilities at Port Qasim, Karachi

The hearing was conducted by OGRA chairman Masroor Khan via video-link in Karachi. The authority's Members Gas, Oil and senior officials were also present on the occasion, a news release said. Two petitioners Tabeer Energy Private Limited (TEPL) and Energas Terminal Private Limited (ETPL) had applied under OGRA (LNG) Rules, 2007 for grant of license. The companies wanted to get

licenses as LNG Developers for purchase of LNG, re-gasify it through own terminals and supply the commodity to domestic market and fulfill their own requirements.

#### HEC to start Grand Challenge Fund 2021

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) invites research proposals from Pakistani faculty members of public and private universities for HEC funding under the Grand Challenge Fund (GCF) Research Grant Programme 2021.

The amount of funding for GCF awards is Rs 15 to 225 million for a maximum project duration of three years the official sources told APP on Monday.

They said that HEC announced May 23 as the deadline for project outline submission. For further information, the faculty members are advised to visit www.hec.gov.pk/site/GCF. According to officials, the Grand Challenge Fund is a key element of the Higher Education Development in Pakistan Project supported by the World Bank and implemented by HEC.

Grand Challenge Fund is anticipated to promote research excellence in strategic sectors of the economy and will provide funds to selected institutions based upon a competitive, peer-reviewed evaluation of proposals, the sources added. - APP

### matric, F.Sc

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has uploaded admission confirmation information for the programs offered in spring 2021 semester including matriculation and intermediate on its website (www.aiou.edu.pk). According to Director Admission, the candidates who have

applied for admissions in these programs may verify their admission from the admission confirmation link

Similarly, information regarding admission rejection can be obtained from the admission objection link. All those candidates who do not find any info regarding their admission are instructed to download duplicate admission form from the website and post it to Admission Dept of the university on urgent basis. He has informed that continuing students are required to append admission fee deposit slip with the duplicate form while fresh candidates are required to attach their relevant educational certificates and passport size photograph with the duplicate form. The deadline for the submission of duplicate form is April 30, 2021. All those candidates whose duplicate admission forms will be received after the deadline will be granted admission in the coming semester and their fee would be, accordingly adjusted, the Director said. - DNA

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Wearing two tightly-fitted face masks can nearly double the effectiveness of filtering out SARS-CoV-2-sized particles, preventing them from reaching the wearer's nose and mouth and causing COVID-19, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, shows that the reason for the enhanced filtration is not so much adding layers of cloth, but eliminating any gaps or poor-fitting areas of a mask, Medical Daily reported.

medical procedure "The

fitted with a metal sample masks are designed to have very good filtration potential port attached to tubing in based on their material, but the exposure chamber that the way they fit our faces measured the concentration isn't perfect," said Emily Sickbert-Bennett, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in the US, and lead author of the study. To test the fitted filtration efficiency (FFE) of

a range of masks, the team filled a 10-foot by 10-foot stainless-steel exposure chamber with small salt particle aerosols. The researchers wore a combination of masks to test how effective they were at keeping particles out of their breathing space. Each individual mask or layered mask combination was

ambient concentration of particles in the chamber. the FFE by measuring par-

of particles entering the breathing space underneath the researcher's mask. A second tube measured the The researchers determined

ticle concentration in the breathing space underneath the mask compared to that in the chamber. "We also had the researchers in the chamber undergo a series of range-of-motion activities to not give you the filtration simulate the typical motions benefit that one, snug-fitting a person may do throughout procedure mask will." Sicktheir day - bending at the bert-Bennett said.

SHUJAAT HAMZA

deserving families in Is-

Minister, Saudi Envoy

lamabad.

stan, he added.

of Ramazan.

The food packages would be

delivered for onward distri-

bution in Quetta, Kashmir

and other parts of the Paki-

Nawaf Bin Saeed further

said that Prime Minister Im-

ran Khan would visit Saudi

Arabia during Ramazan or

after Eid. Minister of Reli-

gious Affairs, Noor ul Haq

Qadri thanked the Saudi

government who remem-

ber deserving Pakistani

people in the Holy month

(Picture on front page)

waist, talking, and looking left, right, up and down," said Phillip Clapp from the UNC School of Medicine. According to their findings, the baseline FFE of a mask

prevent the accumulation differs from person to perof stagnant water after rain son, due to each individual's to guard against mosquiunique face and mask fit. to-borne diseases including Generally, a procedure mask dengue fever. Abdullah said without altering the fit, is nothing was more precious about 40-60 per cent effective than human life, and zero at keeping COVID-19-sized tolerance would be shown particles out. the researchers in dengue control. said. A cloth mask is about 40 per cent effective, they said. "We've found that wearing two loosely fitted masks will

Garbage irks residents in Dheri Hassanabad

#### DNA

RAWALPINDI: The residents of Dheri Hassanabad have expressed deep concern over poor cleanliness system and heaps of garbage in the area urging the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for protecting lives of people

from hazardous diseases. They complained poor cleanliness due to which cause rapid breeding of mosquitoes and flies making lives of people prone to dengue, malaria and other infectious diseases.

Arshad Mehmood, a resident said garbage of heaps was seen everywhere due to buffaloes in the nearby areas.

Another complainant Hammad said that clogged and broken sewerage lines were also a main cause of filthy atmosphere. He said there was no proper system of lifting and disposing off garbage which multiplies their worries.

"No one lifts garbage for weeks due to which people especially senior citizens and children fall sich", he shared.

Sajid Bangial another person said despite repeated complaints the concerned authorities have not moved the garbage an inch.

He urged the government to take immediate to protect health of area residents.

The residents wailed that in 21st century they were deprived of basic facilities of life while have demanded of high authorities to ensure cleanliness besides ensuring basic facilities in the area.

# **Over 5,011 water courses developed under NAEP**

Besides, developing and maintaining the water courses about 1,200 water tanks were also constructed for harvesting rains water and enhancing water storage capacities for irrigation

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Over 5, 011 water courses were maintained and developed across the country to conserve rapidly depleting water resources for irrigation as well as bring maximum land under production of agriculture produces. The initiative had been taken under National Program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan: Phase-II, which was the major component of the Prime Minister National Agricultural Emergency

Program (NAEP). The initiative was taken to revive local agriculture sector through introducing different interventions to revive the sector for sustainable economic growth in the coun-

try, said Senior Joint Secretary and Spokesman Federal Ministry of National Food Security and Re-

search Dr. Javed Hammayun. Talking to media here on Monday, he said the program had witnessed significant progress and different measures were taken for enhancing output of all major crops including wheat, rice, sugarcane and maize. He informed that Pakistan was

one among the countries, which was facing acute water shortage, besides, other vulnerabilities occurring due to climate change. Besides, developing and maintain-

ing the water courses about 1,200 water tanks were also constructed for harvesting rains water and enhancing water storage capacities for irrigation, he added.

The Spokesman further informed that under National Program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan: Phase-II, about 1,229 water courses and 201 water tanks were developed in Punjab, whereas 1,575 water courses and 429 tanks were established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province that would help in water conservation.

Meanwhile, he said 1,878 water courses and 380 water tanks were also developed in Balochistan province to bring maximum land under crop production to exploit the agriculture potential of the province.

Under water courses development program, about 210 water courses and 131 water tanks were developed in Gilgit-Baltistan and 119 reservoirs and 76 tanks in Azad

Kashmir, he added.

The spokesman further said under crop enhancement initiatives, the government had also provided 210,400 bags of certified rice seeds on subsidized rates to growers of Punjab Province to achieve maximum per-acre output of the crop during current sowing sea-

Besides, the provision of certified seeds, other inputs and technical and mechanical assistance were also provided to them under the crop enhancement component of the program, he added.

Meanwhile, the government had produced over 76,600 bio-agent cards to reduce use of chemical sprav and pesticides on different crops for promoting echo-friendly agriculture in the country.

The bio-agents cards were also distributed among the sugarcane farmer for biological control of insects for producing chemical free agriculture produces by reducing the reliance on the use of chemicals, he added.

It is worth mentioning here that the government had launched Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Program (NAEP) of Rs 309 billion in different areas

of agriculture sector on cost sharing basis between the federal and provincial governments.

The program also included conservation of water, increase in yields of major crops, livestock initiative for small and medium farmers, transformation of agriculture produce market, and increased access of farmers to finance.



ISLAMABAD: DG PNCA Dr.Fauzia Saeed called on to Chief Minister GB Muhammad Khalid Khursheed Khan at CM Office GB House. APP photo by Asim Shigri. - DNA

# FM in UAE

ANY see Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi's three days visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as an extraordinary one. It's his second visit to the UAE in the last five months. Moreover, FM Qureshi's trip coincides with his Indian counterpart's visit to the emirates as well. Given the presence of the two South Asian nation's foreign ministers in the Gulf nation, the reports of UAE as a mediator between Islamabad and New Delhi will gain more traction. After the UAE Ambassador to the United States' (US) Yousef Al Otaiba's confirmation of his country's role in "bringing Kashmir escalation down," it is natural that all eyes are on the two nuclear rival neighbours' "speculated shift" in bilateral ties. Although India and Pakistan have denied any meeting of FMs, many would still try to see beyond the veil of denial.

Nevertheless, irrespective of meetings direct or indirect, what is clear is that Pakistan will not change its stance regarding Kashmir and India. Kashmir remains the main point of contention in our relations with India. Hence, even if the ties between Islamabad and New Delhi get "back to a healthy level," an unsolved Kashmir will always remain the main irritant between the two sides.

Instead, peace on Pakistan's western borders, i.e., Afghanistan will also be on the mind of FM Qureshi in this upcoming visit. He probably will be stating Pakistan's reservations and conveying the same to the UAE about India's usage of Afghan soil against Pakistan. Given the historical ties between UAE and Pakistan, the leadership of the two nations frequently exchange such meetings to enhance bilateral relations. Islamabad's relations with UAE have been embedded with bonds of religion, history, culture and commercial linkages. FM Qureshi's visit to the site of Expo2020 Dubai and his meeting with Pakistan Business Council Dubai show that economic diplomacy is the top priority for Islamabad. Hopefully, FM's visit will open new vistas of economic and commercial collaboration between UAE and Pakistan.

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### Online education

FTER reaching a consensus on the matter, all provinces decided to continue with school closures for grade one to eight in light of the dire circumstances brought upon by the third wave. According to officials, the national positivity rate being as high as 8.53 percent warrants such measures to be adopted. Perhaps this is a necessity for now but what is being overlooked is that such drastic measures come from a panicked state of mind and are not viable for the long-term.

Education is one of the main pillars of a society and thus, to put a complete halt to it is detrimental to any and all future developments. The initial stages of the pandemic were met with comprehensive policies that served the purpose of protection but also allowed for important functions to resume. It was during this period that our government reverted to online instruction as a primary tool for education. Furthermore, socially distant learning was endorsed for in-person instruction, an alternative day attendance policy was adopted by institutions and the teleschool-instruction through specific television channels that broadcasted lectures to far-flung areas-was incorporated into the education sector's pandemic driven policies. These were good solutions that could be employed for an extended period of time, at least until the extremity of the situation declines. We must not neglect a perfectly feasible framework created during the first periods of the pandemic. A hybrid model that incorporated both online and in-person education served to secure the benefit of all school-going children who are to become the future of our country. We cannot add to the costs that the pandemic has incurred, the government must retain a platform through which education can be dispensed.

# **CoVID-19 control: Can Pakistan learn from China?**

Mirza Abdul Aleem Baig



China's extraordinary organized and preventive risk management approach, established on coalition between government officials, virologists, epidemiologists and public health experts, has demonstrated to be successful in containing and controlling CoVID-19. The experience in China emphasized the significance of listening to science and public health experts during pandemic event. Firstly, China's response demonstrates the value of national research and public health capability

T has been over a year since the first case of CoVID-19 was confirmed in Pakistan. The L tally has reached 721,018 confirmed cases, 15,443 have died and 4,143 critical cases by 11thApril2021. Across many countries, since January 2020, a massive surge of research into CoVID-19 had enabled the scientific and medical community to better understand how to manage and eliminate the virus through public health interventions. Today, we have learned, CoVID-19 causes acute symptoms and death. We have learned, immunity lasts at least eight months and we also have five licensed vaccines. We have learned, the long-term effects of CoV-ID-19 and the morbidity attached to having this virus. We have learned, virus transmission occurs through droplets and aerosols spread through coughing, sneezing, breathing and speaking. We also have learned, stopping the spread of CoVID-19 requires people to avoid mixing though restrictions on social life. We

Similarly, The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) also provided a \$650 million financial package to support Pakistan in its efforts against the CoVID-19. All these grants were provided to Government of Pakistan to assist in effective and timely action in response to the spread of the CoVID-19. The objective was to strengthen Pakistan's public health infrastructure and to alleviate socioeconomic disruptions due to the pandemic. Despite huge grants and substantial endowments, Pakistan's response to the CoV-ID-19 has been unsatisfactory. Lack of basic healthcare infrastructure, disease surveillance and management system, and inconsistent implementation of policies and SOPs resulted in the rapid and incessant spread of third-wave of CoVID-19 throughout the county.

China's extraordinary organized and preventive risk management approach, established on coalition between government officials, virologists, epidemiologists and public health experts, has demonstrated to be successful in containing and controlling CoVID-19.The experience in China emphasized the significance of listening to science and public health experts during pandemic event. Firstly, China's response demonstrates the value of national research and public health capability. Huge investment in research and development rendered China much better prepared for CoVID-19. China's experience indicates the value of investing in national health and research scheme to boost laboratory capacity along with workforce. They are essential to a rapid and effective national response to health emergencies and to national health security. Secondly, a strong foundation of research and development cannot ensure effective control without powerful top-level political dedication to use science to confront the outbreak.Government and leaders must respect science, understand its significance, and act on science-based advice in a way that is best for society. Thirdly, attainingspeedy and successful implementation of control measures for CoVID-19

requires extensive community engagement. Public solidarity during the CoVID-19 outbreak in China had been unprecedented. Control measures that could sacrifice personal freedom were accepted readily by the nation. To be brief, cricket is to South Asia and football is to Europe. In fighting CoVID-19, everyone is equal. Everyone has the identical liability and shares the equalthreat. The effective implementation of prevention and control measures in China is a model for Pakistan other parts of world to follow. From the beginning, a science-based, risk-informed and phased approach was taken, with a clear appreciation and enthusiasm. Today, China has restarted its economy, reopened and almost returned to normality. The key of success story is to make everybody responsible, get every singledivision involved and held executives accountable. These are the most prominent lessons Pakistan could learn from China at national and local levels. After the failure of "Smart-Lockdown" strategy, Pakistan needs to choose a strict strategy, should follow the example of China and continue the lockdown until the number of CoVID-19 infections is brought close to zero; the strategy should then be to maintain infection rates at very low level until vaccination is done. China's epidemic management provides an important experience from which countries such as Pakistan can learn. This applies in particular to Pakistan, which would risk to lose many of its achievements in case of a severe third wave of the epidemic. Government of Pakistan should involve not only public health experts, virologists and epidemiologists, but also scientist and respect science advice when making any decision that is required to keep the epidemic under control. The rest of the world can also learn from China's success in bringing outbreak under control. - The author is CAS-TWAS President's Ph.D Fellow at University of Science and Technology of China (USTC).

have learned, the virus can mutate into various strains that can be more transmissible – and we also have understand cat-and-mouse game between vaccine and variants.

To alleviate the destructive effects of CoVID-19 on the economy, Pakistan has sought debt relief of slightly around \$2 billion from its G20 creditors. In addition to the G20 countries, China was the largest bilateral creditor with \$9 billion, followed by Japan with \$5 billion. By early April 2020, when there were just about 2,000 CoVID-19 positive cases in Pakistan, the World Bank approved \$200 million package to help Pakistan. Likewise, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had approved the payout of \$1.386 billion as financial support to Pakistan to meet its urgent balance of payment needs halting from the CoVID-19 outbreak. Further, to support Pakistan's public health response to the CoVID-19 and allow to meet the basic needs of the vulnerable and poor segment of society, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved \$500 million emergency assistance loan to Pakistan.

# Pakistan's feminist renaissance

#### Sarah Khan



The sheer hate and abuse against feminism raises the question that do people have basic understanding of this movement? The flimsiest arguments leveled against feminism illustrates that gullible public is indoctrinated by propagandist information from social media and blissfully ignorant religious entrepreneurs

IKE all rights based movements, indigenous women rights revisionism garnered colossal hatred of disgruntled status-quo powers. The overwhelming message of this year's Aurat March is still jolting the patriarchal landscape of Pakistan. Despite plethora of statistical and anecdotal evidence of plight of Pakistani women, stubbornly conservative society is hell bent upon condemning indigenous feminist awakening. Pakistan's 151th place out of 153 countries in 2020 Global Gender Gap index didn`t provoke outrage. Adding insult to injury, legitimate Aurat March`s manifesto was besmirched under veneer of custom, tradition, culture and twisted de-contextualized interpretations of religion. In retrospect, Leila Ahmad`s emphasis upon "stubbornly egalitarian voice of Islam" challenges patriarchal interpretation of Islam.

Now the question arises that is indigenous feminism subversive to culture and religion? The answer is both in affirmative and negative. Feminism is challenging misogynist cultural traditions instead of rebuking religion. The discriminatory local culture prevails over religion in myriad aspects such as depriving daughters of right of inheritance, right to education, right to choose husband, female foeticide, institutionalized dehumanization, reducing marriage to glorified slavery, honor killing, dowry deaths, murder over giving birth to daughter, subjection to physical and mental violence and robbing her right to dignity as human being. Islam never ordained her to serve entire family of husband because nurturing her progeny is itself huge responsibility. Religion never commanded men to depend upon their sick or injured women for warming food. Its sheer duplicity that a society embroiled in epidemic of pestiferous moral policing and religious obscurantism goes thirsty to get link of a girl`s leaked video. The sheer hate and abuse against feminism raises

"Culture does not make people. People make culture. If full humanity of women is not our culture, then we must make it our culture". Nigerian activist Adichie in her work "We Should All be Feminists"

the question that do people have basic understanding of this movement? The flimsiest arguments leveled against feminism illustrates that gullible public is indoctrinated by propagandist information from social media and blissfully ignorant religious entrepreneurs. These rogue elements are manipulating feminism`s objectives as being right to parading naked in streets, sexual debauchery and moral wickedness. Whereby, jirgas paraded scores of women naked to avenge crimes committed by enraged men without whipping frenzy. Unfortunately, society pretends to having deep dream of slumber when women are brutalized, traumatized, dehumanized and degraded over petty matters.

Status-quo powers are disseminating dubious profile of Pakistani feminist activists to garner collective backlash against them. So, it's very important to mainstream objective definition of feminists and for what they stand for. An immensely acknowledged 2012 Study by Dr Jaweria Shahid and Khalid Manzoor Butt accurately defined feminists by concluding; "Feminists are those who dare to break the conspiracy of silence about oppression, unequal relationships between men n women n who want to change it". Pakistani women are now standing up for themselves by narrating harrowing accounts encountered by them throughout their lives. Unfortunately, a society that has always been indifferent bystander to plight of women formed tacit alliance against revisionist women. This illustrates that Mona Eltahawy was right when she declared; "The most subversive thing a woman can do is talk about her life as if it really matters". Patriarchal conditioning of men dehumanizes them by "manufacturing" emotionally stunted insensitive creatures. The benchmark of their masculinity is projection of chauvinism against "the second sex". Feminism embraces men as emotional beings whose vulnerabilities and insecurities have to be celebrated. Indian developmental feminist Kamala Bhasin reiterated; "Men will have to change, not to support women but to save themselves from being brutalized by centuries of exposure to patriarchy".

Instead of viewing feminine revisionism from prism of toxic masculinity, misogynist elements must dissect framework which permits brutalities and cruelties upon women behind impermeable four walls. Hilarious irony is that a society which practices collective moral policing immediately renders domestic violence private matter. Feminist awakening is only answer to Pakistan's deteriorating image as illiberal primitive pariah state. Demonization of feminism is further tarnishing our global portrayal and exposing our callous disregard for Beijing Declaration 1995. Gender sensitive institutional and cultural revolution would have to present mélange of both secular and religious strands. Rise of women is not tantamount to fall of men. Asma Barlas rightly propounded that; "Quran renders men and women not as two binary oppositions but as two complete differences".

– The writer is Freelance journalist, Human Rights Activist and Independent Researcher.

# WORLD / SPORTS



# Briefs

#### Waqar to miss Zimbabwe series

#### WEB DESK

HARARE: Pakistan men's team bowling coach Waqan Younis has decided to leave Zimbabwe's tour and travel back to Australia immediately because of his wife's surgery. The 49-year-old Waqar, who lives in Sydney, will leave the team today while his wife Faryal Wagar will undergo surgery after Ramadan

According to Pakistan Crick et Board (PCB), Waqar is leaving early as he will have to quarantine for 14 days in line with Australian Government COVID-19 protocols. It must be noted Pakistan team has already reached Harare to play T20Is and two Tests. The T20I series starts from April 21, followed by two matches on April 23 and 25.

#### FM lauds UAE Minister's...

#### From Page 01

'True Friend of Pakistan'. He appreciated the role played by Sheikh Nahyan in strengthening people to people linkages between the two countries, encouraging UAE's investment in Pakistan and promoting the welfare and well-being of 1.6 million strong Pakistani Diaspora in the UAE.

The Foreign Minister discussed the prospects of enhancing bilateral cooperation, in particular in the fields of investment, tourism and related infrastructure and strengthening the bonds of amity between the peoples of the two countries. Lauding the solid foundation of the Pakistan-UAE friendship laid down by His Highness Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Foreign Minister stressed the need to nurture and further strengthen close bilateral ties. The two Ministers also exchanged views on the importance of tolerance and coexistence in presenting

# **Top European football clubs** announce Super League

"Women's league will also be launched," the statement added. The agreement provides that the founding clubs will receive an upfront net grant of approximately \$4.19 billion in aggregate

#### WEB DESK

and 15 "founding members"

and five teams to qualify

and Real Madrid head Flor-

entino Perez will be the first

chairman of the splinter

League, the statement said.

'Women's league will also

be launched," the statement

added. The agreement pro-

vides that the founding

clubs will receive an upfront

net grant of approximately

"By bringing together the

world's greatest clubs and

players to play each other

throughout the season, the

Super League will open a

new chapter for European

football, ensuring world-

facilities, and increased

financial support for the

wider football pyramid,"

said Joel Glazer, co-owner

of Manchester United and

vice chairman of the Super

League. The 12 clubs did

not announce a launch date

competition and

class

\$4.19 billion in aggregate.

LONDON: A group of 12 European clubs has split football by announcing plans to walk away from the Champions League to create a competition, breakaway drawing an angry response and the threat of legal action from governing body UEFA. "AC Milan, Arsenal, Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Juventus, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Tottenham Hotspur have come together as founding clubs," said a statement by the group late on Sunday. "Three additional clubs will be invited to join them before the start of the inaugu-

ral season which will start as soon as possible." The breakaway Super League will have 20 football teams

### **FIFA** opposes Super League

#### **SPORTS DESK**

ZURICH: FIFA on Monday said that it stands against the newly founded European Super League and football's gov erning bodies have to impose sanctions on this project. Against this background, FIFA can only express its dis pproval to a 'closed European breakaway league' outside of the international football structures and not respecting he aforementioned principles." FIFA said in a statement It stated that the game's governing bodies should "em ploy all lawful, sporting and diplomatic means to ensure this remains the case" as FIFA said that the world foot ball's governing body has been promoting solidarity and integrity in football. FIFA added that it calls all the par ties to have "constructive" dialogue to secure the unity and spirit of the game. Many big clubs in Europe such as AC Milan, Arsenal, Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Juventus, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur said in a joint statement on Sunday that they launched a new initiative, the European Super League.

though previous project documents have said the 2022-23 season.

The founders are taking control from UEFA and would co-own the Super League company to organise and manage the competition. JP Morgan on Monday said that it was financing the breakaway league.

A spokesman for JP Morgan said in an email that its involvement with the new league which has been set up as a rival to UEFA's Champions League and includes clubs such as Real Madrid and Manchester The 15 would United. share at least \$4.2 billion (3.5 billion euros ) each year with graded payments. In previous proposals in January, the top six clubs are set to each get \$420 million (350 million euros). The clubs say they want to continue playing in their

domestic leagues at weekends. Juventus said it would be willing to continue playing in UEFA's club competitions until the Super League is launched. UEFA and the domestic leagues in England, Italy, and Spain are unlikely to let this happen. FIFA on Monday expressed its "disapproval" at the announcement by leading European clubs.

World football's governing body stressed in a statement it was in favour of "solidarity" in the sport and said: "Against this background, FIFA can only express its disapproval to a 'closed European breakaway league' outside of the international football structures and not respecting the aforementioned principles." Earlier, the twelve clubs were accused by UEFA of greed and cynicism and threatened with international exile.

Egypt: 3 militants killed

#### WEB DESK

CAIRO: Egypt police killed three suspected militants allegedly involved in the slaying of a Coptic Christian man kidnapped more than five months ago in a restive part of Sinai Peninsula, the Interior Ministry said Monday.

Security forces exchanged fire with Daesh militants while chasing them in the Abtal area of North Sinai province, the ministry said in a statement. Three of the militants were killed and police were chasing three others. The statement did not say when they fighting took place.

The ministry, which oversees the police, said an explosives belt detonated during the shootout. It was unclear whether the bomber was one of the three militants the ministry said were killed. No casualties were reported among the security forces. The details provided by the ministry could not be independently verified and media access to northern Sinai is heavily restricted. The ministry said the dead militants were involved in the killing of Nabil Habashi, a 62-yearold Coptic Christian from the town of Bir al-Abd. Nabashi had built the sole church in the area.

### Can't afford severing of ties...

#### From Page 01

He said expulsion of the French Ambassador, as demanded by the TLP, will not cause any damage to France, but rather badly affect Pakistan in many ways, particularly economy.

He said we need to be united at this point when the country is on the positive trajectory of economic growth with increase in exports, large scale manufacturing and job opportunities, stability in rupee value and wealth creation. The Prime Minister said his government and the TLP had been in contact for over two months to resolve this issue; however,

when they started mobi-

lizing their workers for a

march toward Islamabad.

the talks discontinued.

He said the TLP workers

resorted to road blocks,

violence, arson and tor-

turing police officials. He

said four police personnel

were martyred and over

eight hundred others were

injured by the TLP work-

ers. He said eight police

vans were torched and

private property worth

millions of rupees was

also damaged. The Prime

Minister urged the Ulema

to play their constructive

role and assist the govern-

Pak bans

travellers

from India

ment in this matter.

#### PCB settles deal for 'Bio-Bubble'

#### **SPORTS DESK**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has settled a deal with a British company for bio-secure bubble for the PSL season six remaining matches. According to details, PCB has prepared the agreement documents and has sent them to a UK-Based company named Restrata.

After seeing the company's performance in the PSL, talks will be held with the company for the country's next cricket season. The bio-bubble protocols of the competition will be decided by Restrata. It will be their responsibility to fully implement the protocols. On the other hand, PCB has also booked a hotel for the remaining PSL 6 matches. The 300-room hotel will accommodate all six teams, officials and commentators. All rooms, halls, conference rooms and restaurants will be fully managed by the PCB. Hotels, transport, ground staff and broadcasters will remain inside the bubble under protocols.



the true image of Islam and the Islamic society. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the positive role played by the Pakistani expatriates in the development of both countries. Thanking the UAE's leadership for their considerate approach towards expatriates, the Foreign Minister briefed Sheikh Nahyan about the issues faced by the Pakistani community, in particular the restrictions on visa-related matters. He stressed the importance of resolving them at the earliest. Sheikh Nahyan acknowledged the positive contribution of the Pakistani expatriates to the UAE's progress and agreed on the need to strengthen people to people linkages. The two Minister exchanged views in detail on the EXPO 2020 Dubai. Lauding the one-of-its-kind mega event in the region, Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked the UAE's support in setting up the Pakistan Pavilion in the EXPO. He discussed ideas regarding optimal utilization of the pavilion with a view to success fully showcasing Pakistan's 'Hidden Treasure' - the theme of Pakistan's pavilion in Dubai EXPO 2020. Sharing his initiative of holding a major event in the EXPO in October 2021, the Foreign Minister requested Sheikh Nahyan to grace the event, which was warmly accepted.

#### UK trial reinfects volunteers

DNA

LONDON: The University of Oxford said Monday it has launched a trial in which people who have already had Covid-19 are deliber ately reinfected. The carefully controlled study will look at the kind of immune response mounted by the volunteers. The scientists will know "exactly when the second infection occurs, and exactly how much virus they got," Helen McShane, a professor of vaccinology, said in a statement. She said the trial "may help

us to design tests that can accurately predict whether people are protected" after a prior infection. Anyone who suffers symptoms will receive the Regeneron antibody treatment used to treat Covid-19 patients.

NAPLES: Inter Milan's Christian Eriksen celebrates his goal with Nicolo Barella during a Serie A football match between Napoli and Inter Milan in Naples, Italy. - DNA

# Navalny hospitalised after uproar from EU readers

#### FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia's prison service has said jailed Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny, said Saturday that who is currently on hunger test results he strike, would be transferred received from to a hospital for inmates, but Navalny's deemed his condition to be family show him sharply

"satisfactory. Prison authorities said in a statement on Monday doctors had "made a decision" to deliver Navalny to a medical facility on the premises of his penal colony outside Moscow and that he had agreed to take vitamin supplements as part of medical treatment.

The announcement comes to let his doctors visit when two days after Navalny's he began experiencing sephysician said his health vere back pain and a loss of

**ROCKFORD WEITZ** 

climate.

was deteriorating rapidly feeling in his legs. Russia's and the 44-year-old Kremlin state penitentiary service has said that Navalny is recritic could be on the verge of death. Navalny's physiceiving all the medical help cian, Yaroslav Ashikhmin, he needs. Russia's Interior

> Ministry has called on the public not in alny.

creatinine levels that indicate impaired kidneys.

attempts to provoke clashes with law enforcement Navalny went on a hunger officials, will be regarded as strike to protest the refusal a threat to public safety and immediately suppressed," the ministry said.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the bloc holds Russia "responsible' for the health of Navalny, as EU foreign ministers held virtual talks on soaring ten-

The United States has

warned the Kremlin of "consequences" if President Vladimir Putin's major domestic opponent dies in pris-

on after doctors warned at the weekend he could pass away at "any minute". Fears over the health of Navalny come amid major anxieties in the 27-nation European Union over a buildup of Russian troops along the border with Ukraine and a spiralling diplomatic row between

Moscow and EU member

state the Czech Republic.

### Abducted Yemeni model threatens hunger strike

AL-MUKALLA: Abducted Yemeni model Entesar Al-Hammadi has threatened to launch a hunger strike as the Houthis refuse to release her or allow local prosecutors to question her, the model's lawyer told Arab News on Sunday. Khaled Mohammed Al-Ka-

mal said that the Houthi-controlled Central Prison, where the model has been held since Feb. 20, has rejected a request to transfer the model to the court for investigation. 'My client has threatened to go on hunger strike if she is not released. She has also complained about [verbal] abuses by her [female] captors," Al-Kamal said, adding that the Central Prison officials gave no convincing reasons for not transferring the model to the court.

"The prison has rejected three demands to transfer my client to the court. I believe that they refused to release her due to the huge media coverage of the case," the lawyer said. - DNA



From Page 01 the recent surge in infections in the neighbouring country. "The forum decided to place India in the list of Category C countries for two weeks. There will be a ban on inbound passengers coming from India via air and land route," the statement said.

The forum will carry out a review of countries placed in Category C on April 21 in view of the presence of the Indian variant in other countries, the statement added.

India's daily Covid-19 cases jumped by a record 273,810 on Monday as the health system crumbled under the weight of patients, bringing total infections closer to that of the United States, the world's worst-hit country.

The country's deaths from Covid-19 rose by a record 1,619 to reach a total of 178,769. Last week, some 815 Sikhs arrived in Lahore from India on Monday to attend the Baisakhi festival. The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi had issued visas to over 1,100 Sikh pilgrims in connection with the 10-day Vaisakhi festival.

Other countries included in Category C are South Africa, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Comoros, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi, Seychelles, Somalia, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

#### **Competition heats up in the melting Arctic** sources, including the fossil fuels whose use is now driving global warming, and as a shorter route

OR decades, the frozen Arc-tic was little more than a footnote in global economic footnote in global economic competition, but that's changing as its ice melts with the warming Russia is now attempting to claim

elevated lev-

els of potas-

sium. which

cardiac

and

can bring on

arrest,

heightened

more of the Arctic seabed for its territory. It has been rebuilding Cold War-era Arctic military bases and recently announced plans to test its Poseidon nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed torpedo in the Arctic. In Greenland, the recent election ushered in a new pro-independence government that opposes foreign rare earth metal mining as its ice sheet recedes - including projects counted on by China and the U.S. to power technology. The Arctic region has been warming at least twice as fast as the planet as a whole. With the sea ice now thinner and disappearing sooner in the spring, several countries have

had their eyes on the Arctic, both

for access to valuable natural re-

for commercial ships. A tanker carrying liquefied natural

gas from northern Russia to China tested that shorter route this past winter, traversing the normally frozen Northern Sea Route in February for the first time with the help of an icebreaker. The route cut the shipping time by nearly half. Russia has been building up its icebreaker fleet for years for this and other purposes. The U.S., meanwhile, is playing catch-up. While Russia has access to more than 40 of these ships today, the U.S. Coast Guard has two, one of them well past its intended service life. As an expert in maritime trade and

Arctic geopolitics, I have been following the increasing activity and geopolitical tensions in the Arctic. They underscore the need for fresh thinking on U.S. Arctic policy to address emerging competition in the region. America's aging icebreaker fleet has been a persistent topic of frustration in Washington.

Congress put off investing in new

icebreakers for decades in the face of more pressing demands. Now, the lack of polar-class icebreakers undermines America's ability to operate in the Arctic region, including responding to disasters as shipping and mineral exploration increase.

It might sound counterintuitive, but diminishing sea ice can make the region more dangerous breakaway ice floes pose risks both to ships and to oil platforms, and the opening waters are expected to attract both more shipping and more mineral exploration. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that about 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13% of undiscovered oil may be in the Arctic. The U.S. Coast Guard has just two icebreakers to manage this changing environment.

The Polar Star, a heavy icebreaker that can break through ice up to 21 feet thick, was commissioned in 1976. It is usually posted to Antarctica in the winter, but it was sent to the Arctic this year to provide a U.S. presence. The crew on the aging ship has had to fight fires and

deal with power outages and equipment breaks - all while in some of the most inhospitable and remote locations on Earth. The second icebreaker, the smaller Healy, commissioned in 2000, suffered a fire on board in August 2020 and canceled all Arctic operations. Congress has authorized construction of three more heavy icebreakers at a total cost of around US\$2.6 billion and has funded two of them so far, but they take years to produce. A shipyard in Mississippi expects to deliver the first by 2024.

One way to add to the icebreaker fleet would be to have allies jointly procure and operate icebreakers, while each still builds up its own fleet. For example, the Biden administration could collaborate with NATO allies to create a partnership modeled on NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability of C-17 airplanes. The airlift program, started in 2008, operates three large transport planes that its 12 member nations can use to quickly transport troops and equipment. A similar program for icebreakers could operate a fleet under NATO

such as Canada, or partner countries, such as Finland. Like the Strategic Airlift Capability, each member country would purchase a percentage of the shared fleet's operating hours based on their overall contributions to the program. Another strategy that could boost U.S. influence in the Arctic, buffer looming conflicts, and help clarify seabed claims would be for the Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Law of the Sea took effect in 1994 and established rules for how the oceans and ocean resources are used and shared. That includes determining how countries can claim parts of the seabed. The U.S. initially objected over a section that limited deep seabed mining, but that section was amended to alleviate some of

- perhaps starting with icebreakers

contributed by NATO countries,

those concerns. - Author is a Professor of Practice & Director, Fletcher Maritime Studies Program, The Fletcher School. Tufts University

to participate planned protests this week in support of Nav-"Any aggressive actions by participants in unauthorised public meetings, especially

sions with Moscow.

# **BUSINESS / WORLD**

## **Briefs**

#### **New record** rise in **India's Covid** cases

#### WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India has reported a record rise in coronavirus infections of 273,810, as capital New Delhi announces a complete curfew starting Monday night and hospitals across the country struggle with a shortage of hospital beds and oxygen supplies.

The country's deaths from COVID-19 rose by a record 1,619 to reach a total of 178,769, according to health ministry data on Monday. India has the fourth highest number of deaths after the United States, Brazil and Mexico - though, with nearly 1.4 billion people, it has a much larger population than those countries. India's overall coronavirus caseload is now past 15 million, second only to the US globally.

The Indian capital will be under a strict lockdown for six days starting on Monday night, Delhi state's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, adding the healthcare system was at a breaking point because of the worsening COVID-19 outbreak. "If we don't impose a lockdown now, we will be look ing at a bigger disaster. From tonight there will be a lockdown until next Monday," Kejriwal said.

#### PM Johnson cancels India trip amid Covid spike

#### FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cancelled his delayed trip to India next week, his first major foreign visit since taking power in 2019, as coronavirus cases continue to surge in the South Asian nation.

Johnson's visit, which was being held as part of a post-Brexit trade drive, was originally due to be Iran says open to direct talks with Saudi Arabia

#### FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry has said the country is open to direct talks with Saudi Arabia after media reports said the two regional rivals recently held secret talks in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

London-based newspaper

Financial Times and news

pointed out that Iran "has

always welcomed talks with

the Saudi kingdom and has

deemed it beneficial to the

two countries' people and

regional peace and stability,

and this thought will contin-

however.

agency Reuters.

Khatibzadeh.

foreign ministry Iran's ue". spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday refused to confirm or deny the reported talks on April 9 in Baghdad, but added that media outlets have used "contradictory quotes" and have had a history of fabricating news, referring to reports by the



The two countries have not Reuters, Iranian and Saudi had formal diplomatic ties officials held direct talks on since January 2016 when Saudi Arabia's embassy in April 9 to discuss the war in Yemen, where a Saudi Tehran was stormed after a Arabia-led military coalition prominent Shia Muslim leadhas been battling the Iraner was executed by Riyadh. aligned Houthi rebels since According to reports by March 2015. the Financial Times and

The talks also reportedly

touched on Lebanon, which is in political and economic turmoil, and where Arab states are concerned about the influence of the Iran-Hezbollah movebacked ment.

and Saudi Arabia denied

gion.

Unnamed sources from Iran

talks were held in Iraq. come as Iran and world pow-The reported meeting came ers are weeks into negotishortly after Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi ations in Vienna to restore the Joint Comprehensive travelled to Saudi Arabia to Plan of Action (JCPOA), the hold talks with its top leadcountry's landmark 2015 nuership, including powerful clear deal. Crown Prince Mohammed

Iran has accused the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), led by Saudi Arabia, of trying to derail the talks that if successful, will see harsh US sanctions on the country lifted.

The GCC states have repeatedly said they wish to be included in the talks and have called for the JCPOA's expansion to curb Iran's missile programme and its increasing regional influence.

NZ opens borders with Australia

#### FOREIGN DESK

AUCKLAND: New Zealand has formally opened its border with Australia on Monday, local media reported. According to state-run Ra-dio New Zealand, hundreds of passengers from Australia arrived in Auckland Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown and were warmly welcomed at airports.

'It is truly exciting to be able to welcome our Tasman cousins, quarantine-free, to Aotearoa in what is a world-leading travel arrangement," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told reporters while attending a trans-Tasman bubble celebration at the Wellington International Airport. 'The bubble marks a signif

icant step in New Zealand's reconnection with the world and it's one that we should all take a moment to be very, very proud of," she said.

#### UK mulls 'Britcoin' digital currency

Islamabad **POST** 

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

#### WEB DESK

LONDON: British authorities are exploring the possibility of creating a new digital currency that Treasury chief Rishi Sunak touted as "Britcoin".

The Bank of England and the Treasury said Monday that they will work together to assess the benefits of a central bank digital currency, at a time when cash payments are generally on the decline, partly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The bank said the new currency, if it comes to pass, would be a new form of digital money for use by households and businesses and would exist alongside cash

and bank deposits, rather than replacing them. Digital currencies, which are only available in digital or electronic form, are already being explored or even implemented in several other countries, with

many proponents drawing inspiration from the success of Bitcoin and other so-called cryptocurrencies. However, digital currencies like the one being considered in the United Kingdom are different in a key sense to Bitcoin, as they are issued by state authorities.

"The world is going the way of digital currencies and we have to find a place for them in the mainstream," said Anne Boden, founder and chief executive of app-based Starling Bank.

Czechs ask EU partners for solidarity

#### WEB DESK

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic has said that Russia's eviction of 20 Czech embassy employees in response to Prague's expulsion of 18 Russian staff was a stronger than expected reaction and the government will consider further steps.

Acting Czech Foreign Minister Jan Hamacek said he had asked fellow European Union foreign ministers for "an expression of solidarity" at a video-conference on vionday "I expect that also on the basis of this ... we will learn about more expressions of support and it will be up to member states if they add some concrete decisions." The central European country ordered the Russian diplomats out on Saturday, saying it suspected Russian intelligence was involved in a 2014 explosion at an ammunition depot. "The reaction (by Russia) is stronger than we had expected, it is more diplomats than the number of intelligence officers we expelled,' Hamacek told a televised news conference. "I will meet the prime minister and discuss whether and when it will be needed to take some further steps from the Czech side." The Kremlin on Monday called the Czech Republic's actions "provocative and unfriendly."



SEOUL: Pakistan ambassador to South Korea Mumtaz Zahra Baloch held a meeting with Korean Deputy Minister for Economy and Finance Yoon Tae Sik to discuss bilateral economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. Commercial Counselor Imran Razaq also attended the meeting. - DNA

# Pak-China working jointly to ensure transparency in CPEC will be punished severely," business community as it

plays a vital role in the prosthe only country with whom China has signed a Memo-He said the NAB is a peorandum of Understanding (MoU) for eradication of corruption. Javed Iqbal directed the regional bureaus to vigorously pursue corruption cases in accountability courts so that the law takes its own course. The meeting was informed

Amid violence, **Ethiopia declares** state of emergency

AMHARA: Ethiopia has declared a state of emergency in the southern part of Amhara regional state amid violence in various towns. In a statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Defense said the last three days saw deadly armed vic in the town of Ataye and several other areas in Oromia special zones. The statement said an unspecified number of people were killed in attacks by gunmen and property was destroyed. It added that many civilians fled the armed conflict. The Amhara region is dominated by the ethnic Amhara group – Ethiopia's second-largest – but the Oromo special zone is populated mainly by Oromos, the numerically dominant group. The declaration of emergency came a day after Ethiopia's military deployed troops to the North Shoa zone and Oromo special zone.

(UNCAC) and Pakistan is

bin Salman. Al-Kadhimi also visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE), another Iranian adversary in the re-Iraq holds close ties with neighbouring Iran, and several high-level political del-

egations have travelled to Tehran to discuss the region in recent months. Reports of the direct

Iran-Saudi Arabia talks also

four days long, with the British leader flying out on April 25 and officially starting his visit the next day.

However a spokesperson for Johnson last week said the "main body" of the prime minister's trip programme had been cut down, with a large bulk of meetings taking place solely on April 26.

On Monday, it was confirmed the trip had been cancelled, the second time this year after a previously scheduled trip in January was postponed.

"In the light of the current coronavirus situation, Prime Minister Boris Johnson will not be able to travel to India next week," said a joint statement from the British and Indian govern ments on Monday.

#### Israeli police detain 7 Palestinians

#### WEB DESK

JERUSALEM: Israeli po lice detained seven Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, according to a police statement on Mondav.

"Five suspects were arrested last night in the Bab al-Amud area for interrogation on charges of throwing stones and assaulting policemen," the statement said.

Two Palestinian youths were also rounded up on Monday on suspicion of attacking an Israeli in the same area, police said in a separate statement.

For the sixth consecutive day, Israeli police forced Palestinians to evacuate the Bab al-Amud area, one of the gates to Jerusalem's Old City, triggering clashes between Palestinian youths and police personnel.

Since the beginning of the Muslims' holy month of Ramadan, Jerusalem has witnessed skirmishes between Palestinian youths and Israeli forces due to the latter's attempts to prevent annual Ramadan gatherings and activities in the city center.

Israel occupied East Jerusalem during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. It annexed the entire city in 1980 in a move never recognized by the international community.

ensure transparency in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, said chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) (Retd) Justice Javed Iqbal, according to a report published by

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and

The two friendly countries aimed to eliminate even a shadow of corruption in the execution of the CPEC projects. They are working on this. The CPEC projects will be made corruption free. Anyone found in corruption

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A recent

report issued by Pakistan

Business Council identifies

various issues for redressal

to enable Pakistani live-

stock traders to capture a

significant portion of the

\$8.2 billion bovine meat

According to Gwadar Pro,

the report, "Scaling up bo-

vine meat exports of Paki-

stan", presents a sectoral

review of livestock trade

and meat processing in Pa-

It notes that China import-

ed \$8.2 billion worth of

bovine meat in 2019, but

market next door.

kistan.

China are jointly working to tion white collar crime cases to a logical conclusion. accountability courts due to Gwadar Pro.

bureau, whereas 95 mega corruption cases are still under trial," he said while chairing a meeting held to evaluate the overall performance of NAB at the NAB Headquarters, an official statement said on Saturday. Javed Iqbal said NAB had tremendous regard for the

Chinese government.

to the first ever Pakistani

company to export heat-pro-

cessed meat into China.

Pakistani livestock

he said at a meeting.

He directed NAB officers to

utilize all available resourcple-friendly institution. The es to take mega corrup-NAB performance has been lauded by reputed national "Out of 179 mega corruption and international institucases, 63 were concluded by tions. NAB has become a role model for South Asian vigorous prosecution of the Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries in eradication of corruption as Pakistan has become the first chairman of the SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum.

perity of the country.

He said NAB was the focal organization of Pakistan under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

that NAB received 15,871 complaints in 2020, approved conducting 1,681 complaint verifications, 1,326 inquiries and 496 investigations and recovered a record Rs 321.4829 billion directly or indirectly from corrupt people in 2020.

The move underscores persistent insecurity extending bevond Ethiopia's war-hit Tigray region ahead of national elections planned for June. Ethiopia's chief ombudsman, Endale Haile, told AFP news agency earlier this month that the violence in Amhara had killed more than 300 people over several days in March. - Foreign Desk

#### Myanmar: Japanese iournalist arrested

#### FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: Myanmar authorities have arrested a Japanese journalist in the city of Yangon, with Tokyo on Monday calling for his immediate release.

The reporter, identified by Japanese media as Yuki Kitazumi, was already detained before while covering pro-democracy protests that broke out in Myanmar after the military ousted the elected government on February 1.

Kitazumi was arrested by troops at his home in Yangon on Sunday evening, according to witnesses quoted by Japanese public broadcaster NHK.

A Japanese Embassy spokesperson said that Kitazumi was transferred overnight from a police watchhouse to the Insein prison. Insein is known as a place for holding political prisoners.

The journalist, a freelancer in Yangon, was formerly a Nikkei business newspaper reporter.

He was previously arrested in February but released soon after.

Japan's Kyodo News agency reported that he was arrested on suspicion of spreading "fake news."

## Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mirwais Nab and discussed strengthening of bilateral cooperation and Afghan peace efforts. - DNA

WASHINGTON: United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken has defended the country's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, saying the "terror" threat had moved elsewhere and that Washington needed to refocus resources on challenges such as China and the pandemic.

President Joe Biden announced last week that nearly 2,500 US troops would leave Afghanistan before this year's 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks that triggered America's longest war.

The unconditional withdrawal - four months later than a deadline agreed with the Taliban last year - comes despite a deadlock in peace talks between the armed group and the Afghan government.

"The terrorism threat has moved to other places. And we have other very important items on our agenda, including the relationship with China, including dealing with everything from climate change to COVID.'

Week programme. "And that's where we have to focus

our energy and resources. Blinken met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as well as senior US officials in Kabul last week and briefed them on Biden's announcement that he was ending "the forever war," which began in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks. Blinken told ABC the US had "achieved the objectives that we set

out to achieve". "Al-Qaeda has been significantly degraded. Its capacity to conduct an attack against the United States now from Afghanistan is not there," he said. The Pentagon has about 2,500 troops in Afghanistan from a high of more than 100,000. Thousands more serve as part of a 9,600-strong NATO force, which will withdraw at the same time.

The delay in withdrawal - even by just over four months - has angered the Taliban, which has threatened to resume hostilities against US forces. Blinken however said Washington

the Taliban "in real-time" and take action. "So if they start something up again, they're going to be in a long war

that's not in their interest either," he said. Meanwhile, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said no one can offer guarantees

about Afghanistan's future after US troops leave, even as he stressed the US would stay focused on "terrorist threats" emanating from the



country. Sullivan was asked on the TV network Fox News' Sunday programme about the risk of a repeat of what happened in Iraq, where ISIL (ISIS) fighters seized territory after US troops withdrew in 2011. That led then-President Barack Obama to send troops back into Iraq.

Sullivan said Biden had no intention of sending American forces back to Afghanistan, but he added: "I can't make any guarantees about what will happen inside the country. No one can.

"All the United States could do is provide the Afghan security forces, the Afghan government and the Afghan people resources and capabilities, training and equipping their forces, providing assistance to their government. We have done that and now it is time for American troops to come home and the Afghan people to step up to defend their own country."

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani rejected what he said were "false analogies" with the war in Vietnam as well as any suggestion his governiban pressure after US troops leave. Afghan security forces were capable of defending the country, he said. "The Afghan defence and security forces have been carrying over 90 percent of the operations in the last two years," Ghani said in an interview.

Former President Donald Trump said in a statement that leaving Afghanistan was "a wonderful and positive thing to do," but called for a more rapid departure. Trump had set a May 1 deadline to withdraw. Last week, CIA director William Burns told the Senate Intelligence Committee that America's ability to collect intelligence and act against violent threats in Afghanistan will diminish after the departure of US

troops A United Nations report in January said there were as many as 500 al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan and that the Taliban maintained a close relationship with the group. The Taliban denies al-Qaeda has a presence in Afghanistan.

could tap over \$8b Pakistan had no share in this huge market despite geographical proximity and concessions offered by the The report states that Pakistan could not take advantage of the enormous Chinese markets as it lacked quality and phytosanitary standards. It also mentioned that the prevalence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in animals was another barrier for Pakistan to venture into the Chinese beef market. Interestingly, only a couple of weeks ago, China granted a license

KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan called on

#### 'Terrorism threat has moved' from Afghanistan Blinken told broadcaster ABC's This would be able to see any move by ment was at risk of folding under Tal-FOREIGN DESK







### Briefs **Police arrest TTP terrorist** in Karachi

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Police on Monday arrested a terrorist associated with the banned outfit, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Karachi's Malir area.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Malir Irfan Bahadur, the police party in a raid in Malir area arrested a hardcore terrorist belonging to TTP. The terrorist named Usman Ghani alias Irfan is associated with TTP's Bajauri group and is trained from Afghanistan. Usman went to Afghanistan for training in 2019, where he met Taliban Commander Qari Ubaidullah alias Qari Saqib, said the SSP and added that the outlaw knows the hidden ways to reach Afghanistan from Bajaur.

The arrested terrorist was involved in an attack over security forces in Charmang area of Bajaur, in which a sepov was martyred. The outlaw was in contact with accomplices through Facebook. Illegal weapons and bullets have been recovered from the custody of the arrested

-

#### Russian businessmen meet PM

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Lead by Dmitry Pumpyanskiy, Chairman, Board of Directors TMK and President of Sinara group, delegation included the Mr Mikhail Popov, Mr Alexander Pumpyanskiy, Mr Andrey Parkhomchuk, Mr Vladimir Shcherbatykh, Mr Anton Zubikhin, Mr Evgenii Poplavskii, Mr Maxim Pavlov and Miss Anisat Bairkhanova. While the Pakistani side included. Mr Hammad Azhar. Shaukat Fayyaz Tarin, Abdul Razzaq Dawood, Zulfigar Abbass Bukhari, Mr Tabish Gauhar. Mr Atif Bokhari and oth er senior officials. Increased cooperation between Russia and Pakistan in Large Scale Manufacturing, Railways and Energy sector was discussed in detail during the meeting. Both sides agreed upon expediting the projects that are already in the pipeline. Prime Minister Imran khan reiterated the incumbent government's resolve to provide business friendly environment to investors to attract much needed FDI. The delegation showed keen interest to invest in different projects in Pakistan.

# Kyrgyzstan on road to progress under new leadership: envoy

#### Front page 01 'Investing in Kyrgyz Repub-

stage. lic is profitable and easy I think that the major diffias the main factors are the culty on the way of our biliberal trade regime, full lateral relations remains in protection of investments little knowledge about Kyrand unlimited repatriation gyzstan and Central Asian of profits, as well as currenregion and its opportunities cy exchange freedom, low in Pakistan as well as about Pakistan's great potential business costs, an educated workforce. At the moment, in my country. So, we need there are five Free Ecoto intensify our people to nomic Zones (FEZs) in the people contacts, spread Kyrgyz Republic: Bishkek, more information about Naryn, Karakol (Issyk-Kul our countries and arrange province), Leylek (Batken exchanges of the visits beprovince) and Maimak (Tatween our governments and las province)'. businessmen in order to

When asked to comment on boost the trade between our bilateral relations between countries, he added. Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan I invite Pakistani businessthe ambassador said, unmen to look into opportufortunately, despite the fact nities of joint cooperation. From the beginning of this that Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan have good bilateral and year charter frequent flights regional cooperation for are carried out between the more than 25 years, trade countries. Kyrgyzstan's gerelations between our counostrategic position on the

tries are still at a developing crossroads between Central Asia and China and further through Karakorum pass to Pakistan opens excellent opportunities for regional trade and economic cooperation and connectivity.

When asked as to how Pakistan can play its role in providing trade route, the ambassador said, Pakistan can play a vital role as a gateway for Central Asian states by the shortest way to the open sea.

Another important area of cooperation is education. In recent years, higher education is developing very fast in Kyrgyzstan. We had only 12 universities before independence in 1991 and now there are about 50.

We have also a number of international higher educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan, including American University in Central

Asia, Aga Khan's Universit of Central Asia, two Turkish Universities, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Academy, Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University and others. Most of the Universities have established partner relations with American, European and Asian universities and programs of student's exchanges. Many international students study in Kyrgyz universities due to high level of education and relatively low prices. About 7000 Pakistani students are studying in Kyrgyzstan mostly in medical universities and

their number is growing every year. We would be interested to expand academic exchanges and cooperation between higher educational institutions of Kyrgyzstan and Pa-

I think that education is the key for stability and development of any country as future belongs to the youth. Properly educated and skilled young people can change society for better so I would want to see more progress in this field of cooperation.

To yet another question about tourism, the Ambassador invited Pakistani tourists to visit Kyrgyzstan to see the beautiful mountains of my country, which cover more than 90% of the territory.

highest mountain The peaks after the Himalayas and Pamir are located in Kyrgyzstan. With population of 6 million people, before Covid-19 pandemic, Kyrgyzstan was visited by more than 4 million foreign visitors a year. We provide

#### a visa-free regime for more

than 60 countries and introduced e-visa system two years before. This year New York Times readers included Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan in the list of best countries for visit in 2021. To a question about NDMA

support, the ambassador said, he was indebted to the Government of Pakistan and National Disaster Management Authority for providing humanitarian aid in the form of 5 thousand N95 medical masks, 5 thousand protective suits, 5 thousand protective shields, with a total weight of 1400 kg. for the needs of the health care of the Kyrgyz Republic in the fight against corona virus infection. There is a saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed. So Pakistan is really is our true friend and brother.

UK adds

Previous governments destroyed merit system **RAJA PERVAIZ** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Shibli Faraz on Monday criticized the previous governments for destroying merit system in the country. The last governments of Pakistan People Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) had inducted the people in different institutions without observing merit policy, he said in an interview with a private news channel.

PML-N leaders had introduced such people who could protect their corruption money earned through public welfare projects. Commenting on reshuffling in the cabinet, he said, we are following the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan who is committed to bring improvement in the national institutions.

PM believed in merit policy and supremacy of law, he said. All members of the Cabinet following the bright vision of Imran Khan were working for good governance, he said. He said the Prime Minister wanted "Roshan Pakistan" and for this. changes in the ministries are imperative for speedy performance.

#### 'Agenda of enemies is to weaken Pakistan'

#### ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Special Assisadded to Britain's "red list" of tant to the Punjab Chief countries, banning all arrivals Minister on Information, from India except for UK or Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan Irish nationals, who must pay said it is the agenda of the to stay in a government-apenemies of Pakistan to proved quarantine hotel for weaken it but all conspira-10 days on their return. cies will be foiled with the

India's daily Covid-19 cases jumped by a record 273,810 help of people. on Monday as the health system crumbled under the Pakistan came into existweight of patients, bringing ence in the name of Islam total infections closer to in Ramzan. She said the that of the United States,

the world's worst-hit coun-

try. The country's deaths

from Covid-19 rose by a re-

cord 1,619 to reach a total

of 178,769.

India to travel 'red list' after virus surge FOREIGN DESK LONDON: Britain on Monday imposed its strictest travel curbs on India after an explosion of coronavirus cases there, hours after Prime Minister Boris Johnson called off a trip to New Delhi. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said India was being

Pak Navy distributes ration in Damb, Gaddani

#### DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy in collaboration with Sahil Welfare Association (SWA) organizes various welfare activities to support local populace of Coastal/ Creeks area.

In this context 350 x ration bags carrying daily commodities (one month ration package) were distributed in Damb and Gaddani. The aim of ration distribution campaign is to help the under privileged families of Coastal areas. The noble efforts of Pakistan Navy and SWA in development/ welfare of Coastal community were appreciated by the lo cal community.

#### Pak grieved over Egypt train accident

#### SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has conveyed its deepest sympathies to Egypt on the tragic train accident.

In a tweet on Monday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said our thoughts and prayers are with the government and the brotherly people of Egypt besides the families of those who lost their loved ones in the train accident. The spokesperson also prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the incident.

passes two bills ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed

National Assembly

"The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Bill, 2020" and "The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2020". "The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Bill, 2020" aims to socially and economically protect the senior citizens of Islamabad. In this respect it aims to establish a fund for these senior citizens as well as build and maintain old-age homes for the indigent senior citizens.

"The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2020 proposes legal and institutional framework for the territorial jurisdiction of the Islamabad capital Territory to ensure that victims of domestic violence arc provided legal protection and relief and the perpetrators of this offence are punished. Besides, five bills were introduced in the House, which include "The Juvenile Justice System (Amendment) Bill, 2021", " The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2021", "The Holy Quran [Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Bill, 2021," "The State Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Bill, 2021" and "The Jammu and Kashmir (Administration of Property) (amendment) Bill, 2021. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri says Prime Minister Imran Khan has raised voice for sanctity of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallallaho Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim un Nabiyeen at every world forums.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said the government pursues a policy of dialogue and reconciliation. He said the government held two sessions of dialogue with a people of banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan and the third will be held this evening to sort out the issue amicably. The House has been adjourned to meet again on Thursday at

2 pm. – DNA

# Sri Lankan monks laud PM's tourism vision

#### ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan receiving briefing from Chairman CDA about Margalla Highway. - APP

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of promoting religious tourism is welcoming and the steps being taken in this regard are appreciable. These remarks were given

by a delegation of Sri Lankan monks after their visit to the Lahore Museum on Monday. Talking to the media, they said: "We are happy to be here, and it is nice to visit the ancient Buddhist sculptures and stupa, preserved by Pakistan.'

They said Prime Minister Imran Khan, during his recent visit to Sri Lanka, had invited the Buddhist community to visit Pakistan and see the remains of one of world's oldest heritage and culture.

The members of the delegation lauded the efforts being made by the Paki-



stani government to promote religious tourism and said that the Buddhist religion gives message of peace, love and brotherhood.

In the times of Covid-19 pandemic, they said the Buddhist message was about taking care of each

other and living with compassion. Earlier, the delegation visited various sections of the museum where statues and other remains of Buddhist heritage have been preserved. They took keen interest in various historical statues and stupa put on display at

the museum. Some of the delegation members are: Dr Assaji Thero, Dr Walpole Piyananda Thero, Dr Bodag-Chandima Thero, ama Hipankande Saddasiri Anunayake Thero, Dr Pallegama Rathanasara Thero, and others.

particular agenda of the enemies is to weaken Pakistan, create anarchy in it and divide its people.

The SACM took to Twit-

ter on Monday and said

Firdous Ashiq Awan said some religious leaders and wicked politicians are thinking about wheel jam protest across the country in such critical situation. She regretted that some naive friends, intentionally or unintentionally, are facilitating the enemy. The SACM said the country is fighting against coronavirus at the moment and the government is trying to protect the lives and properties of people under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Bench formed to hear case against Shehbaz

#### DNA

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Qasim Khan on Monday has formed a three-member bench to hear money laundering case against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Opposition Leader in National Assembly (NA) Shehbaz Sharif after one of the judges raised obje

According to details, Justice Ali Baqir Najfi will chair the bench. The development came day after judges, who were hearing money laundering case, handed over their separate written verdicts on PML-N leader's bail to the high court office.

Justice Asjad Javed in his dissenting note stated that fellow judge had approved the bail of Shehbaz Sharif despite his refusal whereas Justice Sarfraz Dogar told that the bail was granted on mutual consent. Earlier, the release of Shehbaz Sharif on bail in money laundering case was halted after one of the judges hearing the matter raised objection. LHC judge Justice Asjad Javed had expressed disagreement over the ruling of granting bail to PML-N leader. Following this, the LHC CJ had dissolved the bench hearing National Accountability Bureau (NAB) references. Sources told that from next week, Justice Alia Neelum and Justice Farooq will hold proceedings on the cases.

### **Jordan shows interest in Pak defence products** He was very privileged and honoured to visit the DEPO and was proudly impressed by the level

that Pakistan's defence industry has achieved. He said that Pakistan was a big brother country for Jordan and his country considered Pakistan's defence sector as a strategic industry

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ibrahim Almadani, Ambassador of Jordan said that he was greatly impressed to see the high quality of Pakistan's defence industry products and Jordan considered Pakistan's defence capability as a source of strength for it. He said this during his visit along with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) where he was shown the various products produced by Pakistan's defence industry. Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Executive Member ICCI also accompanied them at the occasion.

Jordanian envoy said that he was very privileged and honoured to

visit the DEPO and was proudly impressed by the level that Pakistan's defence industry has achieved. He said that Pakistan was a big brother country for Jordan and his country considered Pakistan's defence sector as a strategic industry. He said that Jordan could learn a lot from the expertise and competency of Pakistan in the defence field. Commodore Naeem Anwar, Act-

ing Director General. Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) warmly welcomed Ibrahim Almadani, Ambassador of Jordan and Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and provided them a comprehensive briefing about Pakistan's defence products and services. He said that Pakistan defence



manufacturing sector was capable of meeting the bulk requirements of foreign customers in areas of medium as well as selected areas of high technology.

He said that Pakistan has the capability to offer high grade weapon

systems, basic & advance trainers and jet fighter aircraft, surface to air and anti-tank missile systems, sophisticated surface and sub-surface naval crafts, air delivered munitions, state of the art secure communication systems, small arms and a wide range of ammunition and explosives.

He said that all these products were backed up by ISO certification, aerospace standards of latest revision and R&D organizations, which were constantly working towards quality assurance and product improvement to guarantee the customers satisfaction. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Commodore Naeem Anwar, Acting Director General, DEPO for showing high quality defence products of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has great potential to enhance the exports of defence products and assured that this potential would be fully highlighted before the visiting foreign missions and delegations to ICCI to explore new opportunities for exports promotion. He said that defence products would also be displayed in future industrial exhibitions organized by ICCI to show their real potential to the local and foreign visitors. He assured that ICCI would also

like to work with Jordanian embassy for developing strong business linkages between Pakistan and Jordan so that private sectors of both countries could take the lead in promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.