Soon From LAHORE & KARACHI A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News** Agency www.islamabadpost.com.pk **ISLAMABAD EDITION** Samanar Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily Price Rs. 20 **Impunity behind the United Kingdom Zhao makes** Armenian hate crimes urged to recognize history with **Northern Cyprus Oscar** win against Azerbaijanis Detailed News On Page-06 **Detailed News On Page-06**

SEHR IFTAR ISLAMABAD 03:51 am 06:49 pm FAISALABAD 03:57 am 06:45 pm 03:51 am 06:41 pm LAHORE KARACHI 04:37 am 07:01 pm SARGODHA 03:57 am 06:48 pm FIQA JAFARIA SEHR IFTAR CITY ISLAMABAD 03:41 am 06:59 pm 03:47 am 06:55 pm FAISALABAD LAHORE 03:41 am 06:51 pm KARACHI 04:27 am 07:10 pm SARGODHA 03:47 am 06:58 pm

Briefs

Shehbaz slams vaccine strategy

ABID RAZA



in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif took to Twitter on Monday to share a solution to combat the rampaging Covid-19. "The experience over the last year has shown that the only way to overcome the virus is to vaccinate as many people as early as possible," he wrote on his official Twitter handle. He said it was criminal negligence on the part of the government

Army helping civil admn against Covid

Army deployed in Islamabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swabi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujrat, Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta, Muzaffarabad: DG ISPR

> The DG ISPR said that the positivity ratio had shot up to over 5% in 91 cities of Pakistan, adding that the healthcare infrastructure was under "immense pressure" as critical care patients were increasing daily. Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said if the current coronavirus situation persisted, then oxygen supply will be diverted from other industries to the health sector. He said the Pakistan Army had brought

about "enhanced deployment" of its troops in Islamabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swabi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujrat, Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta and Muzaffarabad, adding that these cities were reporting a high number of coronavirus cases on a daily basis. The DG ISPR revealed that 4,300 coronavirus patients were on critical care at the moment. "In some cities, 90% of the ventilators in hospitals are occupied," he said. Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said Pakistan Army had been deployed in the country to help thwart the coronavirus situation, adding that the decision was taken with all stakeholders on board.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Maliki calls on Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry. - DNA

Information *Minister* invited to visit KSA

Detailed News On Page-08

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Media Dr Majed bin Abdullah Al- Kassabi has invited Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry to visit the kingdom. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliki called on information minister Fawad in Islamabad on Monday and conveyed the invitation on behalf of the Saudi media minister, according to offi-

cial statement. In his letter, the Saudi minister stated that on the occasion of Holy Month of Ramazan he desired to in vite the minister to visit Saudi Arabia and perform Umrah and visit the Mosque of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in Madinatul Munawara. Further, he said, the visit would also provide both sides with the opportunity to discuss ways and means for strengthening of media cooperation. The information minister accepted the invitation and said he would visit Saudi Arabia soon. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed deep fraternal ties based on common faith, culture, traditions and values and he would like the media dimension added to these ties. During discussion with the ambassador, the emphasis was laid on the revival and implementation of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed between the two countries to strengthen cultural cooperation. Fawad said that collaboration in the field of culture is imperative to understand each other's values and bring the brotherly people of the two nations closer. He also stressed enhanced cooperation in the fields of media and information. Both sides also discussed the situation arising out of Covid-19 and exchanged views on utilising each other's experiences and best practices to cope with the pandemic.

SC accepts Justice Isa's review petitions

The Supreme Court gave the verdict in favour of Justice Qazi Faez Isa with a ratio of 6-4

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Announcing a short order in Supreme Court of Pakistan, judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa's review petition, the Supreme Court of Pakistan Monday accepted the applications submitted by the judge and his wife Serena Isa for the review of the presidential reference

filed against the judge. However, the detailed verdict in the case would be announced later. The Supreme Court gave the verdict in fa-



Justice Umar Ata Bandial wrote dissenting notes. Earlier, the Supreme Court had reserved its verdict in SC judge Justice Qazi Faez

court also wanted to know when did the facts related to Justice Isa's case first surfaced. He said for the first time details of the SC judge case came to light in 2019. He expressed surprise at how on earth could Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)

that it failed to accumulate enough vaccine which became the main cause of the rapid spread of Covid 19 in the country. He said the government should devise $step\-by\-step\-administrative$ measures. "It is criminal that the government did not take timely steps to buy vaccines in sufficient quantity, and the result is a surge in infections."

PTI taking steps for political restructuring

DNA



saf (PTI) was the only party which had taken steps for political restructuring after culmination of One Unit and 1973 Constitution. "Today is a historic day. It is an honour for the PTI that it has initiated measures for the South Punjab province in shape of opening of a secretariat in Multan," he said while addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of South Puniab Secretariat here at the Circuit House.

reconsider PDM resignations

Fazl urges PPP, ANP to

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas

Pakistanis and HRD Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari and Ambassador

of Japan to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda witnessing signing

ceremony between OEC and Inter-SES for export of Pakistani

Manpower to Japan in Islamabad (News on Back Page) - DNA

BUREAU REPORT

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: DG ISPR Maj Gen Babar If-

tikhar stressed it will do everything in its

power to protect people's lives, as the third

wave of the coronavirus intensifies across

the country. "To help the civil government

and assist law enforcement agencies is

the primary purpose of the deployment of

troops [to battle coronavirus]," said the DG

ISPR during a news conference.

LAHORE: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday urged the PPP and the ANP to reconsider their decisions to resign from all posts of the alliance and leave it.

Fazl, addressing a press conference flanked by PDM leaders, said: "I urge them to reconsider the situation, and if they have committed a mistake, they should accept it [...] as these are the tenets of democracy." Turning his guns towards the government, the PDM chief criticised the centre for not purchasing enough coronavirus vaccines. **Continued on Page 06**

Maryam wants govt to complete its term

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: It appears that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz is willing to allow Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government to complete its five-year term as in an interview with a private television channel she has said her party is not ready to take responsibility for the mistakes made by the present government. **Continued on Page 06**

vour of SC judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa's review petition with a ratio of 6-4. According to details, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice Qazi Amin and

Isa's review petition on Monday afternoon. During the hearing, Justice Umar Ata Bandial remarked that the case hearing was complete. Justice Bandial said the

day witnessed the signing

ceremony of a Handing over

Certificate (HOC) for 'Third

Batch of COVID-19 Vaccine

Aid' along with Ambassador

of Republic of China in Pa-

kistan Mr. Nong Rong, said

a press release issued by

Continued on Page 06

China provides more vials of vaccine



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD, The government of China has provided 500,000 more vials of COV-ID-19 vaccine under grant assistance of 'Third Batch of COVID-19 Vaccine Aid' to Pakistan. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Continued on Page 06

Vaccine registration opened for 40-49 group

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Asad Umar Monday announced that National Command and Control (NCOC) meeting decided to open up registration of 40 plus age citizens starting from Tuesday (today).

"Also the decision was taken to allow walk-in vaccination of all registered citizens of 50 plus age group. If you are 40 years or older please register and encourage others to register," the planning minister said. He announced that the inoculation drive to vaccinate citizens aged 40 and above against Covid-19 has begun. The minister's tweet came after he presided over a National Command Operation Centre meeting earlier in the day. On the other hand, Pakistan has reported 70 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 800,452.

Working hours reduced to 5 hours a day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In wake of Covid-19 pandemic, working hours of the Federal Government have been reduced to five hours a day

According to a notification of the Establishment Division issued today (Monday), offices working five days a week will follow 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. timings from Monday to Thursday. Offices working six days a week will also observe the same timings including Saturday. On Friday, all offices will work

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The notification states that the new office timings shall come into force with immediate effect and shall continue till further orders.

Inside...

Comprehensive mechanism being followed to control prices - Page 02

BOI asked to setup one window facility for investors – Page 03

Academia-industry linkages imperative for jobs creation

> End Game of South Caucasus – Page 05

Armenian hate crimes against Azeris

Indian farmers continue protests amid COVID surge

Pakistan to further strengthen economic linkages with UK – Page 08

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Impunity behind – Page 06

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Spokesman further said. He said Pakistan condemned these violent acts carried out by the Israeli Occupation forces and urged the international

community for prompt action to protect Palestinians. Pakistan steadfastly supports the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. For just and lasting peace, it is imperative to have a two-state solution in accordance with the

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday ex-

pressed is strong reservations on the

recent developments in the occupied

Palestinians territories. The spokesman

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paki-

stan in a strong-worded message said the

situation was alarming and thus needed

immediate response. The Israelis are har-

assing people coming for prayers, arrest-

ing innocent Palestinians and committing

other arbitrary restrictions in violation of

fundamental human rights. These illegal

measures have seen an upsurge since the

onset of the holy month of Ramadan, the

relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions, with the pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of a viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State, the Spokesman added.





Pakistan slams Israeli acts of hooliganism

Pakistan condemns these violent acts carried out by the Israeli Occupation forces

and urges the international community for prompt action to protect Palestinians

JERUSALEM: Israeli police unleash violence against the innocent Palestinian people. - Photo Al-Jazeera

National Council (PNC) had said that the battle of Jerusalem, which was sparked by the heroes of this Holy City, came in response to the daily racist crimes committed by the occupation and its terrorist groups of settlers against the citizens of Ierusalem, and these crimes have escalated, especially since the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan. In a press statement, PNC indicated that the Israeli occupation authorities have transformed the city of Jerusalem, the capital of our eternal state, as well as the neighborhoods of Jerusalem into military barracks, chased their sons, erected iron barriers in squares and yards, and attacked worshipers and prevented them from reaching

the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. PNC had called for the unification of all Palestinian energy and capabilities, and to reject and abandon all that leads to weakening the front of confrontation and facing the Israeli occupation and its crimes, and to engage in this honorable national battle that the people of Jerusalem are waging with courage and valor on behalf of the Arab and Islamic nations.

02

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Briefs

Free polls to boost liberation struggle

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has expressed his resolve that state government would hold general elections in fair and free manners to strengthen the democratic struggle of Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination.

"We will hold free and fair elections in Azad Kashmir and these elections should be publicized not only at the national but international level, so that the world should know we believe in elections and we want to decide our future through the power of the vote by participating in an UN-sponsored

plebiscite," he asserted. He expressed these views during an interview to London based web portal here on Tuesday. The President said that fair and free elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir have been conducted since 1970. These elections have strengthened democratic institutions and promoted democratic values in the liberated territory. While contrary to AJK, elections in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have never been held fair and transparent and the people demanding their democratic rights are showered with bullets.

He said innocent people in IOJK are killed, wounded, maimed, and disappeared simply because of their democratic right to self-determination.

The people in IOJK, he regretted have been deprived of even those rights which they had enjoyed even during the dictatorial Dogra rule while in Azad Kashmir, the people not only enjoy basic civil liberties but also have all human rights in the democratic system," he added.

> 41 pickets erected to control



ony Narwala road and other bazars and checked the quality of essential items. He interacted the consumers and enquired about the quality of food items and arrangements of Ramzan Bazars. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that provision of every possible economic relief to the public was the He said continuous and foremost priority and entire regular monitoring of the administrative machinery ramzan bazaars was being was striving to pass on bencarried out to maintain efits of the Ramzan package the ramzan arrangement of Chief Minister Punjab throughout the holv month. to the public. He said that He said that Punjab govt. comprehensive price conwas very serious and utiliztrol mechanism was being ing the all out resources to followed to check the prices make the ramzan bazaars a of essential items in open success for the provision of market and profiteers were daily use items to the public being dealt with iron hand. on comparatively reduced

items. He went to Ramzan

Bazar Kaleem Shaheed Col-

upon maintaining discipline

prices under one roof. He also inspected the stalls of subsidized sugar and flour and said that the Punjab govt. had given the subsidv of Rs. 5.5 billion under ramzan package for providing flour to the consumers on discount rate. He directed for keeping all process of sale of subsidized flour transparent and stressed

in sale of cheap sugar. Earlier Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali went fruits& vegetables market GMabad and inspected the bidding process of vegetables. Food packets distributed

Under the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ehsas Koi Bhoka Na Soye programs was underway and in this connection the food packets was distributing to

passers-by and travelers in different public places before Iftar through two mobile food vans and 2500 Packets are being distributed daily. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali said that since April 11, the process of distribution of 1250 packets through each mobile food vans has been going on and a total of 37500 packets have been distribut-

Four shopkeepers held over profiteering

Mehboob Ahir

ed in 15 days.He said that Mobile Food vans are driven SARGODHA: The price conto District Council Chowk, trol magistrate arrested four Samundari shopkeepers for profiteering Road, Riaz Shahid Chowk, and overcharging in various Sargodha Road, Jaranwala parts of city on Monday. Road, Mansoorabad, Jhang According to official sourc-Road, Satiana Road and othes, the magistrates inspecter densely populated areas ed various points, including and food packets are being chak 23-NB, chak 10-NB and distributed in an organized Bhalwal and found violations way among the people presat four points and arrested ent on the roads. He said shopkeepers -Ijaz, Yasin, Zathat the implementation on heer Abbas and Shafique. The program "Ehsas koi bhuka magistrates also imposed fine na soye" will be continued. on them. 35724 senior citizensget

vaccinated

citizens have been vaccinat-

ed Corona vaccine in dis-

trict, in which 27930 have

been given first while 7794

have been given second

dose and 6 vaccination cen-

tres are functional in double

shift in this regard. Deputy

Commissioner Muhammad

Ali visit to vaccination cen-

tre Sports complex Samana-

bad. Assistant Commission-

er City Syed Ayub Bukhari

and other officers were also

non-regularisation

there.

Cases were registered against the accused. As many as 35724 senior

Four drug-peddlers held The police on Monday arrested four alleged drug-peddlers and recovered narcotics from them.

Police sources said that teams of different police stations conducted raids and arrested the accused besides recovering 1.450-kg hashish and 32 litres of liquor.

The accused were identified as Babir Hussain, Hassan, Abdul Sattar, and Mohsin Ali. Woman body found in canal

A body of a woman, yet to identified, was recovered from the canal in Wah Bachrah here on Monday. Police sources said that some locals spotted the body floating in the Mahajir canal and informed the police. The team reached the spot and fished out the body. The victim was removed to mortuary for autopsy to ascertain the cause of death.

Father, children die of electrocution in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: In a shocking incident, two children and their father died of electrocution in Lahore's Ravi Road while trying to save each other. According to police, eight-yearold Gohar became the first victim after he was electrocuted while trying to take off clothes from an iron rod.

"11-year-old Faiza, his sister, then tried to save Gohar, however, she also got electrocuted," the police said adding that the father of the victims also tried to rescue both the children and got electrocuted. The bodies of the children and father were shifted to a hospital for medico-legal formalities. It is pertinent to mention here that incidents of electrocution have mostly been reported in the country from Karachi, where court orders and NEPRA have directed the authority responsible for supplying electricity to compensate the victims. In one such case recently, a session court in Karachi has directed the K-Electric to pay an Rs15 million fine in an electrocution case that involves a 12-year-old child who was electrocuted in Karachi during 2013. On 26 November 2013, 12-year-old Safeer got electrocuted in an incident that also involves the death of a man identified as Arif.



MULTAN: Prime Minister Imran Khan receives briefing about development projects in Multan. - DNA

Heavy price will be paid for

Kissan Card to ensure

will be given to the farmers through Kissan Card.

CM Buzdar stated that farm-

ers would obtain subsidy

through registered shops.

The holders of the Kissan

Card will also get agriculture

loans easily, he maintained.

Buzdar remarked that Kissan

Card was part of PM's Ag-

riculture Productivity En-

which comprised of Rs 300

Programme

hancement

billion.

crimes

DNA

FAISALABAD: The police department has erected 41 pickets in various parts of 13 circles of Faisalabad district and appointed 396 cops there for duty.

Giving details, police spokesman said on Monday that City Police Officer (CPO) Sohail Chaudhry had issued special direction for erection of police pickets to control street crimes and ensure implementation on anti-corona SOPs in true letter and spirit.

Therefore, the police department erected 41 police pickets in different parts of Faisalabad including Chenab Club Chowk, Rajbah Road, Chiniot Bazaar, Bohar Chowk Jhang Road, Graveyard Mor, Punj Pulli Daewoo Road, Abbas Bridge Kokianwala Road, Faisal Pulli Canal Road, Imam Jalvi Market, Ideal Bakery Gulfishan Colony, Faisal Valley Canal Road, Boraywala Chowk, main Chowk new Garden Colony, Stop No.5 D-Type Colony, T-Chowk Novelty Bridge, Madni Chowk Samanabad, Jahangir Mor Dijkot, Fish Farm Sitiana Road, Bypass Chowk near Sher Islamia School, Chak 105/G-B, Chak 39/G-B Sitiana Road, Phattak Mandi Wala Road, Bypass Chowk Makkoana, etc.

Carrefour shares gifts with over 400 kids

DNA

LAHORE: Carrefour Pakistan, owned and operated by UAE-based Majid Al Futtaim, has brought happiness to 400 young orphans and underprivileged children of various SOS Children's Villages through a

distribution initiative. A group of Carrefour colleagues from Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad visited the children at the villages, where they shared gifts, toys and clothes, and participated in fun-filled activities

violation of SOPs

NAZIR SIYAL

control.

Sindh govt bans

inter-city transport

This was disclosed by Sindh

Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah while addressing

a press conference at the

auditorium of the Sindh As-

sembly just after presiding

over a Provincial Task Force

He was flanked by pro-

vincial ministers, Dr Azra

Fazal Pechuho, Syed Nasir

Shah, Ikram Dharejo, Advi-

sor Law Murtaza Wahab and

Parliamentary secretary on

health Qasim Siraj Soomro.

The chief minister said that

the coronavirus situation

was comparatively better in

Sindh but during the last 60

days detection ratio of the

new cases has shown a dan-

gerous surge.

meeting on Coronavirus.

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group of FPCCI, President Pakirealizing the threat on the stan Businessmen and Ingovernment level and lax tellectuals Forum and All attitude of the masses and Karachi Industrial Alliance, we still have some time to and former provincial minavoid the reappearance of ister Mian Zahid Hussain the disaster of this magnion Monday said Pakistan tude, he said. should learn from disaster Mian Zahid Hussain said in India are immediately that economy cannot be preimpose lockdown before ferred over human lives and

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh gov-

ernment, keeping in view the

fresh spike in coronavirus

cases, has taken some prag-

matic policy decisions to ban

inter-provincial transport,

close educational institu-

tions, slash government of-

fices staff by 80 percent and

purchase two oxygen plants

and one of them would be air-

"We have also decided to

seek the services of armed

forces to assist district admin-

istration and the police im-

plement Coronavirus Stand-

ard Operating Procedures

(SOPs) in the province."

lifted from china.

that Prime Minister Imran the situation goes out of Khan is reluctant to enforce The world's largest vaccine a complete lockdown in maproducing country India is jor cities as it will hit poor paying a heavy price for not and daily wagers.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government lack resources to feed underprivileged during the lockdown but full observation of SOPs should be ensured.

The cities badly hit by virus should be locked

down, shopping centres should be closed, unnecessary services should be discontinued while public transport should be banned and educational institutions should be closed to save precious lives, he demanded. These steps will reduce the

burden of crumbling healthcare infrastructure and it will also tackle the shortage of oxygen and its skyrocketing prices.

subsidy in transparent manner: CM Buzdar ly, subsidy of Rs 17 billions

DNA

MULTAN: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Monday said that Kissan Card was launched to provide benefit of subsidy on seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture machinery in transparent manner. Speaking during Kissan Card

Launching ceremony, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, here, he said initial-



THATTA: Ration bags are being distributed among deserving families of Keti Bandar by Pakistan Navy and Sahil Welfare Association. - DNA

Chairman Sanjrani assures support to FPCCI

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani hosted an Iftar-cum-Dinner in honour of FPC-CI's delegation at his official residence and discussed issues of the business community.

President of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo met Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan; along with a large delegation of FPCCI comprising of office bearers and senior representatives of business, industry, and trade community of Pakistan.

Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani and FPCCI's delegation - led by Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo - discussed the issues concerning the business environment of the country and hampering the economic growth



of Pakistan at length. The delegation briefed the Chairman Senate on their concerns and inputs on macroeconomic, industrial, financial, energy, taxation/tariffs, ease of doing business, and trade policies of Pakistan. Chairman Senate assured the delegation of his full support and promised to take up the issues with the Prime Minis-

ter of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan. Notably, FPCCI's delegation comprised of Khawaja Shahzeb Akram Senior Vice President; Ather Sultan Chawla, Adeel Siddiqui,

and Arif Jeewa - Vice Presidents: Haji Ghulam Ali - Vice President SAARC CCI; Former Senator Zafar Chaudhdy, Khurram Tariq Sayeed, Sheikh Aslam, and Qaiser Khan - Former Vice Presidents; Mirza Abdul Rehman, Coordinator Capital Office; Sheikh Sultan Rehman, Coordinator Head Office Karachi; Mohammad Ali Mian, Coordinator Punjab; Irfan Iqbal Sheikh - Former President Lahore CCI; and Chaudhry Waheed, Nadeem Qureshi, and Mudassar Mansoor. Several Federal Ministers/Advisors to Prime Minister including Shibli Faraz and Azam Sawati were also present on the occasion.

Sadiq Sanjrani presented Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo with the Crest of the Senate of Pakistan and Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo presented him with the Crest of FPCCI.

Police, Army and Rangers carry out flag march

LAHORE: Lahore Police along with district government teams as well as contingents of Pakistan Army and Rangers on Monday carried out flag march in different areas of the city, in wake of the present critical situation of Corona pandemic to instil confidence and sense of security among the citizens and make them aware to follow the SOPs of wearing mask and follow business timings. Capital City Police Officer Lahore Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood Dogar led the flag march whereas Commissioner Lahore Capt (R) Muhammad Usman, DIG Operations Sajid Kiani, CTO Lahore Syed Hammad Abid and other senior officers of Army and Rangers participated in the flag march. Contingents of Pakistan Army, Rangers, Dolphin Squad, Elite Force, traffic police, Police Response Unit and Ababeel Force were part of the flag march.

Police March started from Capital City Police Headquarters and passed through different important roads and markets and business centers of the city including Qartaba Chowk, Chuburji, Samanabad, Moon Market, Kareem Block Market, Wahdat Road, Ichhra and ended back at CCPO office. - APP



Briefs Skylights at **Faisal** Mosque to be replaced

BOI asked to setup one window facility for investors

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan stressed that BOI should set up a one window facility as early as possible to facilitate the investors in making investment in Pakistan

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) will start fixing skylights at Faisal Mosque during next week to attract more visitors at the area. Tenders have been floated in that regard to replace 35 lights that had been obsolete for a long period of time, CDA spokesman said on Monday. The authority Chairman, Aamer Ali Ahmed, he said had ordered to complete the work before Eid-ul-Fitr. Similarly, he said the maintenance directorate has formulized a plan to carry out renovation work at the mosque for the convenience of the visitors.

IESCO ensures continuity of power supply

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Appreciating tireless efforts of formation, Chief Executive Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) Ch. Abdul Razaq has said that continuity of power supply was ensured in the first decade of holy month Ramazan.

He said that IESCO officers and staff always proved themselves a front line worker, whether it has been raining, storm, cold or any emergency situation, said a press release. The IESCO chief reiterated commitment that during second and third decade of Ramadan we would continue our performance. The IESCO Chief said that from Central Monitoring Cell established in distribution control center Islamabad, he along with Zubair Khan Operation

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation held a meeting with Atif R. Bokhari, Minister of State/Chairman, Board of Investment and discussed with him various options for promoting local and foreign investment in the country. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Umar Hussain, Omais Khattak and Usman Khalid Executive Members ICCI were in the delegation. Fareena Mazhar Secretary, Mukarram Jah Anwar Executive Director General, Muhammad Khashih ur Rehman Executive Director General, Jamil Ahmed Qureshi Director General and Suriya Jamal Director General, BOI were also present in

the meeting. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan stressed that BOI should set up a one window facility as early as possible to facilitate the investors in making investment in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has tremendous potential for investment in various sectors of its economy including tourism, hospitality, infrastructure development and others, however, lengthy business registration



processes, complicated taxation regime, inconsistent policies, insufficient policy reforms and red tapeism in the government departments were the major hurdles for local and foreign investors. He emphasized that BOI should work with relevant departments to address these issues in order to facilitate the growth of investment in the country. He said that BOI and other gov-

ernment departments should take major chambers of commerce on board during policy making processes that would help in making more business friendly policies and promoting business and investment activities in the country.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Umar Hussain, Omais Khattak and Usman Khalid Executive Members ICCI also offered useful proposals for investment promotion. They said that many foreign diplomats and delegations used to visit ICCI and other chambers, therefore, BOI should regularly share updated information with chambers about potential areas of investment in the country that would be helpful in attracting more FDI to Pakistan. They said that further cut in policy interest rate, reduction in high tax rates, simplification of taxation system, easy allocation of land and prompt provision of utility services would

increase local and foreign investment in the country and urged that the government should work on these lines.

Addressing the ICCI delegation, Atif R. Bokhari, Minister of State/ Chairman BOI said that his organization was taking many initiatives to promote ease of doing investment in Pakistan. He said that the government had launched Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI) and BOI was designated as lead agency for its implementation. He hoped that this initiative would reduce compliance costs of businesses and improve the regulatory regime for them as well. He said that ICCI

should develop a sector-wise list of major issues/hindrances in way of the investment and share the same with BOI so that efforts could be made to address them for facilitation of business and investment activities. He said that Mukarram Jah Anwar Executive Director General BOI would work

as focal person with ICCI for strong liaison between both sides in order to make joint efforts for investment promotion. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary BOI and other members of BOI delegation also spoke at the occasion and assured that BOI would keep the private sector in loop on major initiatives for investment promotion.

CDA to start cleanup operation

ISLAMABAD: Administration of Capital Development Authority (CDA) is continuously taking action encroachments against and illegal constructions. In this regard, administration removed 22 illegal roadside setups at Mandi Mor on IJP road on Monday. Government's land was retrieved by conducting these operations. According to detail, CDA mg op encroachments against and illegal constructions in the city. 22 road side setups were demolished and government's land was retrieved by the fresh operation of CDA at IJP road. 03 setups of construction material were also demolished. - DNA

Special Committee and

She discussed in detail the

progress of SDGs especially

regarding SDGs 16.2. She

said parliamentarians from

different parties were sup-

porting the government in

the realization of commit-

All the parliamentarians and

members of the Task Force

were playing active role in

highlighting key issues and

supporting the completion

of various tasks, she added.

National Commission on

Child Rights Chairperson

told the participants that

the Voluntary National Re-

view (VNR) was a process

through which countries as-

sess and present progress

made in achieving the glob-

al goals and the pledge to

leave no one behind.

the skill development landscape of

the country. The participants also

put forth a number of valuable

suggestions for the establishment

of these skill centers and assured

full cooperation for timely comple-

tion of this game changer compo-

The Executive Director welcomed

the valuable suggestions of the

participants and highlighted that

these suggestions will be given

due importance during the pro-

cess of establishing skill centers.

nent of Skills for All Program.

Tehseen Bajwa

ments under SDGs.

task force.

Afshan

CDAdismantle 22 roadside setup along IJP road

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Capital De-Authority's velopment (CDA) enforcement teams on Monday dismantled some 22 roadside setup along IJP road near Mandi Mor. The authority has continued drive across the city without any discrimination to retrieve sate land, a news release said.

In another operation at Bari Imam 08 rooms, 16 boundary walls, 03 each washrooms and kitchens and 02 DPCs were demolished.

Similarly, at Rimsha Colony 02 homes, 03 rooms, 1 each kitchen and washroom and 06 boundary walls were removed.

Cleanliness awareness drive conducted

RAWALPINDI: In connection with ongoing special cleanliness and public awareness drive at nine Sasta Ramazan Bazars installed in different UCs of the city, the communication team of Albayrak and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) on Monday carried out awareness activity in the Ramazan Bazar at Committee Chowk (UC-42) and informed the stall holders and bazaar goers to maintain sanitation while dealing with eatable items. Spokesman of Alnyrak told that a squad of additional sanitary workers have been deployed in these Ramadan bazaars to ensure that the buyers and sellers are facilitated in the best possible way in terms of cleanliness and waste management.

As many as Six to ten workers in two shifts have been deputed in each Bazar, he told and added that the company's communications team guided the stall-holders and general visitors to discard papers, wrappers and other waste material in waste bags or waste-containers to keep the area tidy. - APP



Director IESCO and other senior officers were continuously monitoring demand and supply position of elec tricity and load on feeders. The Chief said that by providing best and timely services to our valued customer we proved that IESCO was customer friendly company. He added that for registration of customer individual complaint our complaint offices, helpline Number 118, Complaint and monitoring cell Islamabad phone number 051-9252933-6 were available round the clock.

Minister vows to complete projects on time

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Social Welfare Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari Monday said that all ongoing development projects in the public interest would be completed on time. Transparency would be ensured and strict action would be taken against those who were involved in malpractices and embezzlement.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting on ongoing development projects at the Commissioner's Office here.

On the occasion, Provincial Minister for Literacy and Non-Formal Education Raia Rashid Hafeez, Provincial Minister for Revenue Punjab Colonel (retd) Muhammad Anwar, Member National Assembly Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Commissioner Rawalpindi Gulzar Hussain Shah and officers of other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

The minister said that despite severe economic problems, mega projects worth billions of rupees would be launched in Rawalpindi division which had been neglected for many years.

He said that Rawalpindi Ring Road Project, Leh Expressway Project and Jalalpur Irrigation Project Jhelum are mega projects which were indispensable for the public interest but in the past the previous governments did not pay attention to them but under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan work is being started on these projects. Billions of rupees have been allocated to uplift the Rawalpindi city. – APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Production, Ms. Zubaida Jalal calling on Minister for Interior Rashid Ahmed. - DNA

IHC seeks comments from MCI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought comments from the Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) on a petition filed by the Islamabad Food Chain Bikers against alleged harassment. Chief Justice Athar Minallah, who heard the case, also suspended MCI's March 4 notification and stopped it from taking any action against the food chain.

The petitioner, in the petition, pleaded that the food chain was doing business of food delivery through the motor bikes, while the MCI had stopped the food chain from advertising on bikes and riders' uniform.

It added the MCI had no authority to regulate advertising under 1977 regulations. The company's name printed on uniforms and motorbikes did not meet the definition of advertising.

The petitioner said the MCI was harassing it and prayed the court to suspend its notification against it. The court served notices to

respondents and adjourned hearing of the case.

Est. Division notifies transfers

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division on Monday issued a notification, directing transfers and postings of various high ranking officers. According to a notification, Omer Rasul has relinquished the charge of the post of Officer on Special Duty (BS-22/PAS) in this Division with immediate effect.

Similarly, Saba Asim has relinquished the charge of the post of Deputy Secretary (BS-19/Acting charge) on 12.04.2021 and also assumed the charge of the same post in (BS-19/PAS) on a regular basis in the same Division on the same date, the notification said. - APP

Police launch crackdown against drug pushers persons involved in this ugly business besides recovery of

cache of narcotics from them.

DIG (Operations) Afzaal

Ahmed Kausar said that 3730

gram heroin, 1110 gram hash-

ish was recovered during op-

eration at Dore village while

22 kilogram hashish, one

kilogram heroin, 70 gram ice,

one pistol, a short gun and

ammunition was recovered

RAJA **P**ERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Monday conducted successful operation against drug peddlers at Athal and Dore villages and nabbed 18 outlaws besides recovered huge cache of narcotics from them, said DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar.

Addressing a press conferfrom 12 other persons active in Athal village, he added. ence here at police line headquarters along with SSP (Op-He said that effective crackerations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, he said that special police squads have been constituted to ensure effective action against drug pushers in the Capital. Successful said that 55 drug pushers inoperations were conducted cluding nine Nigerian nationagainst drug peddlers in villages of Dore and Athal during last night and in wee hours on gram hashish, 16 gram co-Monday, he said adding that caine, 60 gram ice, 270 tranpolice arrested 18 drug dealquilizing pills and 338 wine ers including six notorious bottles were recovered.

Capital reports 469 new cases in last 24 hours

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The COV-ID-19 cases continued to surge in the Federal Capital with 469 more persons infected with the deadly virus in city during the last 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said on Monday. As many as 368 corona

down was underway in other parts of the city and also cases were reported on against those supplying drugs Sunday and 463 on Satat educational institutions. urday. During the last one month, he

According to an National Command and Operation Center official, so far als have been arrested and 73,450 cases were report-40022 gram heroin, 32783 ed from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), with 665 deaths while 59,993 patients had recovered completely.

liamentary Task Force on ing the ongoing pandemic. Sustainable Development Riaz Fatyana acknowledged Goals (SDGs) Convener Riaz Fatyana Monday said safeguarding the children from all forms of violence was a key priority area for the government. Mentioning The Zainab

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: National Par-

Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2020 and support by the government for the National Assembly Bill on Cor-Pakistan's progress towards SDGs was satisfactory.

and Elimination of Violence against Children, organized by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) here at a lo-

that unfortunately Pakistan had not delivered on its international and national commitments towards child rights however, the present government was striving to change this situation. In addition, Pakistan's national and provincial assemblies established SDGs Task Forces to oversee the progress on the goals, he added.

Addressing on the occasion, Special Group on Child Rights of National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs Chairperson, Member of the National Assembly Mehnaz Akbar Aziz highlighted the role and functions of the SDGs

Govt committed to protect

children from violence

cal hotel. The seminar was

aimed to create awareness

about the rising trends of vi-

olence against children dur-

TVET lauds NAVTTC's 75 high-tech skill centers The Executive Director said that technologically highly equipped skill centers will serve as platform for further strengthening the international linkages in the field technical and vocational trainings

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: National Conference on establishing 75 Prime Minister's High-Tech Skill Centers across Pakistan was held on Monday at NAVTTC headquarters Islamabad. The participants included representatives from provincial TEVTAs, related public sector organizations, NAVTTC regional offices and Vice Chancellors of skill universities, etc. Chairman-NAVTTC, Syed Javed Hassan in the opening remarks welcomed the participants from all over Pakistan andsaid that establishment of these centers will prove to be a milestone in reforming the process of the country's skill development sector. He also pointed out that these centers will revolutionize the skill sector in the country. Executive Director NAVTTC, Dr. Nasir Khan gave a detailed pres-

entation to the participants of the conference and apprised them that objective of establishing 75 Prime Minister's high-tech skill centers is a part of NAVTTC's comprehensive reforms process of the country's skill development sector to make it compatible with the requirements of the country's huge youth population as well as domestic and international job markets.

The proposed skill centers will be equipped with smart labs for providing high- tech environment for TVET learning, facilitation centers for preparing youth for overseas employment, career counseling, recognition of prior centers, business incubation centers, trade centers for overseas employment andtraining of 2000 teachers through state of the art technology, he added. The Executive Director said that technologically highly equipped skill centers will serve as platform for further strengthening the international linkages in the field technical and vocational trainings. He mentioned that most of the preparatory work for establishing these centers has been completed and these centers will be fully operationalized by September 2021. The participants of the conference appreciated the NAVTTC'sinitiative of establishing 75 high- tech skill centers to uplift the TVET sector of Pakistan and said the effective execution and implementation of this initiative will transform



poral Punishment, he said He said this while addressing a seminar on COVID-19

04

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

PNCA announces result of talent hunt contest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Monday and nounced the result of week-20 of PNCA talent hunt music edition.

The first Jury award won by Abdul Manan, second Jury award by Farhan Ali and third award won by Ofaz Yousaf.

Director General PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed has announced the results in online video on PNCA official page.

She said PNCA would also provide opportunities to the winners and special nominees in its upcoming concerts and music functions. PNCA has started this programme for the promotion of classical and semi-classical to folk. modern tunes and pop singing among the vounger 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. The programme was aimed to promote music field along with polishing the creative skills of the young people.

IHC rampage case: ATC extends 2 lawyers bail

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday extended the interim bail of two accused lawyers till May 11, in Islamabad High Court (IHC) rampage case.

ATC Judge Raja Jawad Hassan heard the pre-arrest bail petition of Shaista Tabasam and Bushra Saleem advocates.

The petitioner's lawyer prayed the court to adjourn the hearing till next date which was granted by the court. The court would announce its reserved judgment on bail case on May 11. The two women lawyers were also named in case pertaining to attack on IHC building by a group of lawyers.

Academia-industry linkages imperative for jobs creation

Minister appreciated the global and national contribution of NUST and said the university was rendering valuable contribution in high education sector of the country

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Shibli Faraz on Monday emphasized the importance of creating strong linkages between the universities and industry to create job opportunities for the youth. Talking to media after visiting Na-

tional University of Science and Technology (NUST), the minister appreciated the global and na-tional contribution of NUST and said the university was rendering valuable contribution in high education sector of the country, cre-

ating significant impact through prioritizing quality education. He further said the universities were not supposed to only give degrees but also to impart skills, adding, "We have to see how much impact our universities are creating on the lives of the people". Shibli Faraz observed that the government's job was not just to provide jobs but to create an enabling environment that provided

people. While, he said, the universities should also contribute to the development of the country and take steps for enhancing employability

employment opportunities for the



skills among youth. To a question regarding availability and production of ventilators, the federal minister said they did not have sufficient oxygen and other necessary stock in our country for dealing with any emergency situation related to COVID-19.

He said Ministry of Science and Technology acted as facilitator and they did not have their own ventilators vet.

However, National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) and private firms were manufacturing ventilators in the country. There were 16 functions of ventilators but the ventilators being made at local level have only four functions, he said.

Responding to another question regarding activating Pakistan Steel Mills' (PSM) Oxygen Plant, he said the ministry of industries and production was looking into the PSM Oxygen Plant and he had also spoken to the minister of industries and production in this regard.

However, he said that what he thought was that PSM Oxygen Plant might not be made operational in emergency due to some

problem. About supporting India during worsening COVID-19 situation. Shibli Faraz said "Pakistan will extend support to India as much it can. This is the issue of humanity and our sympathies are with India"

RCCI to host "China-Hong **Kong Virtual** Forum"

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will organize the 'Virtual International Trade "China-Hong Kong Forum Chapter on April 29.

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

PNCA to inaugurate office in **J**amshero

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will inaugurate another regional office for the council in Jamshoro, Sindh on Tuesday in an online ceremony.

Ustad Abdullah Khan, a Shehnai player will be the chief guest on the occasion.

In this regard, PNCA has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sindh Department of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities to set its another regional office in Jamshero after it had established one in Gilgit Baltistan

Director General PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed told media that an online gathering will be held to inaugurate regional office at 12 pm on PNCA official page due to Covid-19 pandemic. She said that cultural collaboration between the two organizations would allow PNCA to organize national level cultural program in Sindh and explore new avenues to engage the Sindh

artist's community. Secretary Culture Sindh Ghulam Akbar Laghari, Director General Culture government of Sindh Abdul Haleem Lashari, DG PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Chairman Department of Sindhi language, Sindh University Ishaq Samejo, Writer, Scholar Jami Chandio, Cultural personality Naz Sahito, Senior Journalist Manzoor Mirani, expert on Sufi music Rafiq Wassan, Singer Composer Saif Samejo, Drama & Short story writer Shaukat Shoro will also speak in on-

line ceremony. It may be mentioned here

that PNCA had also recently inaugurated its regional office in Gilgit Baltistan.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA worker are busy in cutting grass from greenbelt on roadside. - DNA

IPO advises artists to scrutinize contracts before signing called for royalty payments

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The Intellectual Property Organization Pakistan (IPO-Pak) has urged the artists to minutely examine their contracts before signing with the production ucts and projects. companies until the government comes up with a com mand for royalty payments prehensive legal framework to protect their royalty payments. IPO-Pakistan Executive Dithem. rector Messaq Arif responded this after artists recently launched a campaign (RoyaltyForArtists) on the social media in support of TV actress Naila Jeffery, who to a royalty payment.

HEC ignores VCs in policy making regarding higher education higher education, consisted

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) did not take all stakeholders, especially Vice Chancellors of universities, on board while making policies regarding higher education

sity at the main campus of AIOU. Vice Chancellors across the country participated in the meeting physically as well as online. VC, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia

Ul-Qayyum while delivering a welcome address. thanked all the

of four thematic sessions. The first session on HEC Undergraduate and Graduate Policies was chaired by Chairman PHEC, Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, and Professor Emeritus AIOU, Khalid Mahmood

by VC, University of Haripur, Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani. The last session was conducted on "Information Influence as a Global Challenge", chaired by Prof. Dr. Mansoor Akber Kundi, VC, BZU, Multan. Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Prof. Dr.

for her cancer treatment. Royalty payments, not protected in Pakistan due to lack of awareness and legal lacuna. are usually given to the artists on the re-run of their prod-Messaq said the artists' de-

Positivity rate increases in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Punjab govspokesperson ernment Musarrat Jamshed Cheema on Monday warned that it public failed to follow SOPs, there would be no other option but to impose a complete lockdown to contain the spread of pandemic and save the health system from total collapse.

The coronavirus infections in the third wave are raging aggressively and major cities of Puniab including Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Multan are under extreme critical situation where more than 20% positivity rate of cases increases, she said while talking to a private news channel.

She said that the government was taking emergency steps, like smart and complete lockdown, if pattern of increase in Corona cases persists.

"This is the last chance for the public and they should take the pandemic serious as they did in the first two waves, as otherwise, they would face similar situation of India", she mentioned. She said almost 200 more ventilators were provided in various hospitals in Punjab and oxygen beds in hospitals was also being increased.

She said the situation at the moment was under control. however, it might go out of control if corona cases keep on rising.

She said our health system would further collapsed if cases continue rises in com ing weeks.

Spokesperson said the country had limited oxygen production capacity, adding, the supply of oxygen had almost reached 80 to 90 per-

cent of the total capacity. She said the situation was extremely alarming at Lahore and Faisalabad cities and the ratio of ventilated patients was increasing by the day. - APP

was 'absolutely just', but it had a legal process which needed to be understood by He said there was a delicate difference between Intellectual Property Rights and Copy

on re-screening of her dramas

at the consultative meeting of Vice Chancellors of Pakistan on "Emerging Trends and Challenges of Higher Education" was jointly Rights which must be underarranged by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) stood while claiming the right and Quaid-i-Azam Univer-

during the last two or three to gather for a years, remarked speakers noble cause and highlighted the objectives of the meeting.

Meeting was arranged to discuss and evaluate the undergraduate and graduate policies formed by HEC in the recent past and issues in

Hassan was the keynote speaker. VC, University of Education.

> Lahore, chaired the session on "Future of Higher Education. Session on "Technology Based Governance and Instructional Management was chaired

the chief guest. Whereas, Former Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, VC, QAU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali. and Rector, IIU, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai were among the guests of honor. Meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum.

Khan

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 work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, GOR, Tarlai, H-8, Highway, Iqbal Town, Fazia, NPCC-II, Gharial, MCM, TDCP, PC Hotel, Kohala, Nogzi, Fazia I&II, Top City, I-14/3, Langarpur, Sarai Alamgir, Shukrila, Kantrila, Thakra, Chakral, Sarkal, Mureed. Muhammad Hussain Steel, Holy Family, Amin Town, Muhammadi Chowk Feeders From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Bagwal, Hasnot, Padial, Domeli feeders and surrounding areas.

Osama's father challenges court verdict

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought comments from respondents on appeal challenging the removal of anti-terrorism act clauses from Osma Satti murder case.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani and Justice Fayyaz Ahmed Anjum Jandran heard the case filed by the father of Osama Satti.

The petitioner pleaded the anti-terrorism that court had ordered to remove anti-terrorism act clauses from first information report and ignored several facts.

He prayed the court to turn down the decision of trial court and restore the anti-terrorism act clauses in the case.

The court served notices to respondents and adjourned the case till May 27.

It may be mentioned here that Osama Satti was killed in Islamabad by the firing of police personnel. A first information report was registered against five police personnel and they are behind the bars these days. - APP

Students can register for NSTC-18 till April 30

MEHMOOD ABDULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The aspiring students can register for National Science Talent Contest (NSTC)-18 till April 30 for showcasing their talents in order to get selected for representing Pakistan in the Inter-

national Science Olympiads. NSTC is a joint venture of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) under the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Careers Programme. The test will be held in the month of August after which the successful students will be given proper training. The selected candidates will be able to participate

06-30. The students who are in the International Biology Ol-

ympiad to be held in Armenia, International Chemistry Olvmpiad in China International Mathematics Olympiad in Norway and International Physics Olympiad in Belarus.

According to the eligibility criteria to register for NSTC. students of Pre-9th ,9th,10th or Intermediate (Part-I), who scored an aggregate of 60% or more mark in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics in last exam can register to participate in the contest. Students of O-Levels (Part-I, II, III) or A-Level (Part-I), who scored an aggregate of 60% or more mark in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics in last exam can also register. The age of the students should be less than 20 years on 2022currently studying in FSC (Part-II)/A- Level (Part-II) and University students are not eligible to apply. zzzStudents of Sindh Board/Technical Boards/O-Level Part-1/A Level Part-1 intended to complete the online registration form. may first enter the marks of optional Science subjects and then enter the marks of any other subjects (if required). For O/A Levels Students, equivalent percentages for

Grades are as: A*= 90, A=85, B= 75, C=65, D = 55, E= 45. Due to COVID-19, promoted students can enter their last school exams marks percentage in online registration form which can be accessed through http://stem.edu.pk/registration. An official of NSTC told

media that the screening test will be held in Islamabad/ Rawalpindi, Multan, Sargodha, Guiranwala, Guirat, Faisalabad, Lahore, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Sukkur, Chitral, Swat, Hyderabad, Karachi, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit and Quetta. Top 50 students will be invited for one week fully residential training camps in each of the NSTC subject on the basis of their performance in the screening test. The grooming to 4-6 best students.

or selection process gradually narrows down this number up Olympiad teams of 4-6 students will be selected through a series of subsequent training camps during a year for participation in the international Science Olympiads to represent

their country.

Around 1,029 allottees get provisional plots in sub-sectors G-14/2, 3

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has provisionally handed over as many as 1.029 plots of different categories to the allottees of sub-sectors G-14/2 and 3.

The FGEHA had given around 354 plots in G-14/2 and 649 plots in G-14/3 of different categories, official sources in the Ministry of Housing and Works told media.

They said over 60 allottees had taken final possession letters and 17 allottees had applied for issuance of no objection certificate for the approval of building plans. The sources said more than 10 allottees had started con-

struction of houses in sub-sectors G-14/2 and G-14/3. The Housing Scheme Phase-IV of the FGEHA was launched in 2004 in sub-sectors G-14/1, 2 and 3 Islamabad. About 4,820 kanal of land was acquired through land acquisition collection under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 in March, 2004, they added.

They said the consent award for sub-sectors G-14/1, 2 and 3 was announced in 2005 at the rate of Rs590, 000 per kanal for total land 4,820 kanal and the infrastructure development work was taken up by the authority.

Time to gain political motives by economic means In the light of recent national emphasis on geo-economics, the IICR webinar was themed to sketch a pathway for Pakistan in this regard

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution organized a Webinar titled, "Global Economic Schema & Re-centering Pakistan through Economics". In the light of recent national emphasis on geo-economics, the webinar was themed to sketch a pathway for Pakistan in this regard. The participants included Maj Gen. Raza Muhammad®, advisor to President NDU, Prof. Dr. Zafar Moeen Nasir, Former VC Punjab University, Mr. Faheem Sardar, economic analyst and corporate trainer and Dr. Sameera Imran, Asst. Prof. IR department, NDU. The session was moderated by Ms. Saba Aslam, founder

The first speaker on the panel was Dr. Sameera Imran,

IICR.

NDU. Dr. Sameera emphasized academic perspective of Geo-economics, she said that it is a terminology within global studies which focuses on gaining political objectives through economic means. According to her it is the manifestation of power politics, not physical but command in economic means as the geo-economics embargos, economic incentive, finance investment and capital, continue access to data through pre determinant trade corridors. She mentioned that geo-eco-

Asst. Prof. IR Department

nomics is focused upon territory, logistics capacity, geographical space and resources across territories. Adding further she said that geo-economics is possible through Integrated, intertrans-national dependent, approach. According to her

there are three ways which are popular in the world for geo-economics which are, International Liberal economic order which creates a



gap between developed and underdeveloped then comes the Marxist perspective in which human security can only be achieved by rapid global economic schema. Maj Gen. Raza Muhammad, advisor to President NDU, being second on the panel talked about the International Relations built upon the grounds of diplomacy and commerce.

ed and refocused.

Empirically elaborating his arguments, he gave a reference to the geo commerce which creates inter-linkages between the geographical proximities.

He said that the economy is most important for a state's sovereignty in both negative and positive perspective. He

conscious about the economy and security and Pakistan's policies are already reorient-

icy makers who need to have proper goals. Lastly she said that Pakistan needs to look futuristic in its policies in order to fully benefit from the

mentioned that nations are

developing change and finally there is Octarchy/ mercantilism, which is self Sufficiency, more protectionism. Lastly, she mentioned about the pol-

Thawing ties

CCORDING to reports, India approached Pakistan in December 2020 with an offer to begin diplomatic talks aimed at resolving long-standing issues. Since then, there have been many bumps in the process, but new progress seems to have been made with India acknowledging Pakistan's key objective of securing Kashmir's statehood and promising to refrain from making demographic changes in the region.

After decades of intensifying conflict, it is positive to see that both countries are able to find common ground at least momentarily on the surface. There is no denying that there have been various complications that put a strain on the dialogue-particularly violence along the LOC and Indian interference in IIOJK—but the stated willingness of both parties to look beyond it and focus on resolving other domestic and cross-border issues is worth appreciating.

Both countries have even agreed to eliminate the looming threat of war by stating that it is not an option being entertained right now. However, we have been here many times before.

Already, Pakistan has further proved its commitment towards improving fraught relations with India by offering medical aid to combat an unforgiving Covid-19 wave that is wiping the Indian population out at unprecedented rates.

While all this is well and good, it is important to point out that the success of these backchannel talks is predicated on the instance that India will not look to solely dictate its terms and that the issue of Kashmir will be put at the forefront. In order to ensure this, Pakistan must stand its ground now more than ever so that key sources of tension between the two countries can be resolved.

Too many times we have seen India bring CBMs or minor issues to the forefront as a means of 'setting the ground' but once the eastern neighbour gets what it wants, there is no more discussion and the Kashmir issue is left untouched. Pakistan must make sure that discussion on Kashmir takes precedence; at the very least India must roll back decisions to scrap Articles 370 and 35A. After that all other issues can be brought forward.

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The price of life

CCORDING to the People's Vaccine Alliance, a coalition of groups that seeks a vaccine for every person on the planet so that they are not at the mercy of corporations and the money they demand, large pharmaceuticals (some of which produce the Covid-19 vaccine) have paid out billions as dividends to their shareholders over the last year – which are to a large extent profits from their vaccine. The amount, the Alliance points out, could have vaccinated 3.6 billion people, the entire population of Africa where very few doses have still been given out. The inequity in vaccine distribution is illustrated by the fact that, while in rich countries one in four persons has received the vaccine, in poor countries the number is one in 500. This is a vast disparity.

This world needs a system in which the present pandemic is not used as a means for pharmaceutical corporations, which have been accused of unethical behaviour in the past as well, to earn huge profits, but for the world to unite to save all the people who live in it. A situation in which only the rich can afford the vaccine is blatantly unfair. We should also remember that as the Vaccine Alliance continues to ask the World Trade Organisation to remove property protection rights from the Covid vaccine in order to make it more widely available, there have been people around the world in the past who have refused to benefit from their inventions that could be of use to humanity. Perhaps the best known of these people is of course, Jonas Salk, the American scientist who in 1953 developed the polio vaccine at a time when the disease was sweeping through the country, but refused to patent it, thus turning down the billions of dollars he could have earned.

In today's age, these corporations and their owners are swiftly turning into billionaires. The inequity has been taken little notice of by the richer and more powerful countries that can vaccinate their own people quickly and efficiently. This is nothing short of a crime against humanity. We need to ensure that there is enough pressure on corporations and governments to ensure that such unequal use of the vaccine can be halted and a better system put in place.

End Game of South Caucasus

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



President Erdogan assured to continue to defend the truth against events of 1915. Speaking at a meeting with Turkey's High Advisory Board, Erdogan once again made clear Turkey's stance on the 1915 events. Turkey objects to presenting the 1915 incidents as "genocide," rather calling them a tragedy. A Russian historian has said "Armenians do not have an valid source to verify its propaganda term (genocide) with historical and legal documents"

ern lobbyists, separatists groups, radical elements and secrete alliance with its own "Declining State" started a new game of dissemination of propaganda and falsified news to project so-called "Armenian Genocide" as a reality. Moreover, US President's intention to recognize Armenia Genocide as reality has further put the regional stability and harmony at stake in which Azerbaijan and Turkey are not read to compromise or bow.

Landmines implanted by the fascist Armenia in the newly liberated Nagorno-Karabakh and its adjacent areas of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Qubadli, and Shusha have become a killing machine due to which process of infrastructural development and rehabilitation process is being cautiously pursued.

The government of Azerbaijan pleaded to Minsk Group and other international organizations, community and power brokers to ask Armenia to share the map of landmines but still no response from the belligerent, other side. It is sever violation of international law, norms and protocols which clearly shows Armenia anti-humanity, culture traditions and governance. Rather it has had been pursuing systematic ethnic cleansing and genocide against innocuous people of Azerbaijan and other local communities comprising of Christians, Jews and Ukrainians for the last so many centuries. In the battle of ethnic cleansing and series of genocides millions of people of Azerbaijan were

counterproductive and the Empire took appropriate measures to curb miscreant elements.

Even British writer C.F. Dixon-Johnson in his book entitled "The Armenians" published in 1916 held responsible Armenian Revolutionary Societies (ARSs) for the events of 1915 and indulged organizing armed attack and political terrorist actions against Turks, field-officers in Adana, Marash, Chukarhissar, Malatia and other regions in 1890s.

He underlined that having gained a victory of some importance, the Armenian force proceeded to the Kertul district, where they plundered and sucked several Turkish villages, eventually seizing Anderim where they burnt the Konak. On their way back to Zeitun they committed some most disgraceful murders at Chukarhissar. Ultimately massive massacre of ARSs forced the Empire to control this widespread plundering, killings and discrimination and saved the population from the hands of barbarians Armenians. Moreover, American journalist and special correspondent in Ottoman Empire during 1914, Sidney Whitman emphasized in his book entitled "Turkish Memories" negated the tall claims of so called genocide of Armenia and upheld that that if the Turk were a fanatical prosecutor of all persons professing another faith than its own, how is it that for countries Jews, Roman Catholic and Greek Christians have been allowed free exercise of their religion in all parts of the Turkish Empire, and that Protestant missionaries of many sects have not been interfered with in that country. Does not all this tend to prove that the Armenian trouble is a political and not a religious one? President Recep Tayyip Erdogan assured to continue to defend the truth against events of 1915. Speaking at a meeting with Turkey's High Advisory Board, Erdogan once again made clear Turkey's stance on the 1915 events. Turkey objects to presenting the 1915 incidents as "genocide," rather calling them a tragedy. A Russian historian has said "Armenians do not have an valid source to verify its propaganda term (genocide) with historical and legal documents", stressing that the claims of the 1915 events are fictional. Oleg Kuznetsov, the author of History of Transnational Armenian Terror in the 20th Century having vast experience of scientific research papers upheld that the Armenian gangs continued their activities against the Ottoman Empire during this period. He underlined that it is a fantasy to say that the Ottoman actions against the Armenians in 1915 were extraordinary. He pointed out that various measures were taken for the security of the army in the countries participating in World War I, exemplifying that the Germans and Jews were exiled in the Russian Tsarism. He pinpointed that all these were done to prevent Armenians from taking the side of the enemy and to ensure the security of the army. He concluded that the so-called Armenian genocide claims are nothing but fiction. He blamed the Armenian revolutionary Dashnak Party in Tbilisi during 1890 played havocs and was responsible for the Ottoman Empire measures to control this widespread loot, slaughter and discrimination of Armenia against harmless local communities. He pointed out that claiming the events of 1915 as genocide is a product of geopolitical games. He stressed that genocide allegations were put forward after Turkey became a member of NATO in 1952. Turkey's position on the events of 1915 is that the deaths of Armenians in eastern Anatolia took place when some sided with invading Russians and revolted against Ottoman forces. A subsequent relocation of Armenians resulted in nu-

merous casualties. Turkey objects to the presentation of the incidents as "genocide," describing them as a tragedy in which both sides suffered casualties. Ankara has repeatedly proposed the creation of a joint commission of historians from Turkey and Armenia as well as international experts to tackle the issue.

While giving interview to Russia 24 TV Patriarch of Moscow Kirill projected that no one destroyed Christian minorities in Ottoman Empire. On his part, former military attache of the Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan, General Yucel Karauz in his interview with AzVision.az exposed that there has been no "Armenian genocide' in history and no legal or historical facts confirming these allegations. He presented counter narrative of the deportation of millions of Azerbaijani people in the Caucasus and the Khojaly massacre. He cited that "Harbord" report made during the presidency of President Woodrow Wilson found that the allegations about the so-called "Armenian genocide" were not true. Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & South Caucasus I strongly reject fabricated historic notions of Armenia about so-called genocide and term it untrue, unreal and totally false. Azerbaijan has principal stance, resolve and unequivocal position on the so-called and fake Armenian genocide. I fear that if US Biden administration tries to recognize it genocide it will be a historic mistake. Azerbaijan and Turkey have always disapproved the attempts to recognize the socalled Armenian genocide. The recognition of the socalled Armenian genocide is a falsification of history. President Ilham Alivev has repeatedly stated that any step against Turkey is against Azerbaijan, and any step against Azerbaijan is against Turkey. Thus message is loud and clear. Since Armenia has already instigated his people by launching a new complex and complicated hybrid war against Azerbaijan and Turkey it is high time to reactivate concrete diplomatic efforts to develop and disseminate counter national narratives highlighting Armenian centuries long ethnic cleansing and series of genocides against harmless Azerbaijan people and local communities alike. Certain media campaigns must be initiated to mitigate onslaught of Armenian propaganda about its so-called genocide in the past. Governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey should jointly prepare a common strategy to highlight the horrible follies, heinous crimes against humanity and horrendous state sponsorship of Armenia against the peace loving people of Azerbaijan and other local communities in the regional as well as international media. End game in South Caucasus is restarted with the hope that Azerbaijan and Turkey will be at the receiving end. It fears that economic comparative advantages of Azerbaijan and Turkey will be marginalized. Their social cohesion will be sabotaged. Their political unity will be destroyed. The genie of Pariah Theory has now come out of bottle to perform naked dance against humanity and harmony which should be dealt with irony hands. Burning of national flags of Azerbaijan and Turkey clearly demonstrates uncivilized behavior of fascist Armenia. Starting of indiscriminate shelling on some of the borders also depicts irresponsible and inhumane conduct of Armenia. Lessons of history reveal that Armenian propaganda remained unsuccessful and Azerbaijan's superior human survival efforts, immoral traits and true spirits could not be swayed through conspiracies, conflicts and confrontations. Despite all its schemes and secretive activities Armenia could not achieve victory against resilient people of Azerbaijan which possess the 80 percent GDP of the South Caucasus.

DROPONENTS of disability, disharmony, disorientation and destruction have once again started their doctrines of "end game" in the South Caucasus South Region (SCR) due to which infant peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia has again in the "line of fire". Armenian cross border shelling has now drastically increased which is not a good omen for the peace agreement. Even supporters and guarantors of its peace agreement i.e. Russia and Turkey are not ease to maintain peace and stability in the SCR. Russian president Putin made a call to incumbent Armenian president and asked for complete "restrain" for the maintenance of status quo. It seems that "Pariah Theory" is getting momentum and Armenia has started a new wave of "hybrid war" against Azerbaijan and Turkey now by "twisting", "distorting" and "manipulating" the historic facts ultimately projecting itself a victim of Turkish's Ottoman Empire. It is actually "Lie of the Century". Unfortunately, Ar-

saline and slaughtered and ultimately were displaced from their native homes, lands and properties.

Even basic nature and environment had has been at the receiving end of Armenia anti-nature policies. Green has been converted into red zone of climate change. Rivers have been polluted with acidic wastages. Biodiversity of nature has been blasted and thus committed serious crimes against humanity and nature alike.

Soil of the newly liberated lands has been made barren due to ill intentions of Armenia. Libraries have been burnt. Houses and homes have been easy prey of horrendous crimes of Armenia and its martial groups. Even places of religious faiths and rituals have been destructed and demolished which shows so called Armenian respect towards other religions. Mosques have been used as piggery houses.

New start of hybrid war against Azerbaijan and Turkey by Armenia has lessened the chances of any grand regional reconciliation in the near future. Armenian mass media campaign "Armenia Genocide" is actually an attempt playing with the fire. Ashes of history will achieve nothing but further confrontation in the SCR and Armenia would be at the losing side. It fears that political juggling from the jungle of misdeeds, misadventures, miscalculations, misinterpretations and miscarriages of the history and past may expose the ugly fascist face of Armenia to so called modern world of today. So just behave because the purpose of escalating tension initiated by Armenia has certain political interest. Armenian claims on the 1915 events are far away from the friendly cooperation and reality. In the past on numerous occasion successive Turkish government offered to open archives since Turgut Ozal's presidency but Armenia constantly refused and continues politicizing of the 24 April events, as it was a political issue as it started more than a hundred years ago.

Many prominent international scholars and authors like Guenter Lewy in his book entitled "The Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey – A disputed genocide" put blame on Armenian Hunchakian Revolutionary Party conspiratorial schemes and sabotage activities for the incidents of 1915. They started political terror as a means of eliminating opponents, spies and informers. It proved

Another campaign against China

Munir Ahmed

menia's diaspora communities with the help of its West-



The rising curve of the Covid-19 cases and increasing deaths a day have created chaotic fear and confusion in Pakistan though the cases are under reported shamelessly ONSISTENT efforts are being made to malign China worldwide to stop its economic spread, and rising political goodwill and collaboration under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered to be the backbone of the entire BRI framework and the future global trade and economic pace of China and its connectivity to Europe on one side and to the Central Asian states on the other. The enhanced comprehensive China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation is a consistent bone of contention for the US-lovers in Pakistan and the haters of China for any reasons or for no reasons.

No doubt, the US has played a great role in Pakistan's socio-economic development. It is quoted that the US has invested about US\$ 7.7 billion grants over the decades besides the strategic partnership in the region. Both were being questioned by rational thinkers and strategic analysts and still a dilemma for many as what has actually been spent in Pakistan on both accounts. We are still in dark about how much was spent to compensate the political scavengers in Pakistan and in the region protecting the US interests and objectives. Certainly, we did not have any answer, and perhaps it would remain so.

As Pakistan gets closer and deeper with China, so the malicious campaigns are emerging in Pakistan. The rational thinkers believe that Pakistan has to strike a balance with other players in the region too while getting more cozy with China to avoid any economic and strategic conflicts. But, fortunately or unfortunately, the majority of the public is more passionate about China because of the support China had extended in the hour of need. Unfortunately, the US is mainly considered in Pakistan now as an exploiter of the resources here for its vested interests in the region. This notion is built especially in the last five decades.

The US has rationally realized its fading public rapport in Pakistan while China is gaining more space. Perhaps that is why Pakistan has to clarify every other day that it is not changing the bloc. It may also be a good reason to spread malicious propaganda material against China through various means and agents. We have seen many such campaigns especially after Pakistan signed the CPEC.

As the Covid-19 third wave is gripping the world severely, the old malicious campaign re-launched in Pakistan against China regarding the nature of Covid-19 virus faking that it is 'manmade', and not from the bats. Different messages are being spread on social media platforms and through Whatsapp messages that if it is not manmade, it would have differently behaved in the hot-weathers but it did not.

The rising curve of the Covid-19 cases and increasing deaths a day have created chaotic fear and confusion in Pakistan though the cases are under reported shamelessly. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently released the list of least Covid-19 tested countries, and Pakistan tops it. The curve of the cases would steeply rise if the number of daily tests conducted as widely as required. It would add more fear and chaos to the public frustration and lead them to believe the fake propaganda messages that the virus is manmade and in China. Certainly, it needs to be tackled accordingly.

Titled as "SHOCKING NEWS", a post is being spread on social media platforms and through Whatsapp message stating "Nobel Prize winner of 2018, Japanese physician, scientist and immunologist, DrTasukuHonjo, caused a sensation in the media by saying that the corona virus is not natural. If it is natural, it will not have affected the whole world like that. Because, depending on the nature, the temperature is different in different countries. If it were natural, it would only have affected countries with the same temperature. Instead, it spreads to a country like Switzerland, the same way it spreads to desert areas. Whereas if it were natural, it would have spread in cold places, but would have died in hot places. I have done 40 years of research on animals and viruses. It is not natural. It is manufactured and the virus is completely artificial. I have been working for 4 years in Israel. I know all the staff of this laboratory well. I called them all after the Corona accident but all of their phones have been dead for 3 months. It is now understood that all of these laboratory technicians are under ground or have been Executed. Based on all of my knowledge and research to date, I can say this with 100 % confidence that Corona is not natural. It did not come from bats. Israel made it."

This message was originally launched in February 2020 but Dr. TasukuHonjo denied it categorically in a story globally released by the well-reputed news agency Reuters. Now this is being spread in Pakistan after changing the name of the country from Israel to China. Extremely malicious against a long cherished friend. We have mobilized the members of the Friends of China to report such messages to the regulatory authorities. But every diligent Pakistani has to be cautious about such malicious campaigns against China in Pakistan and play an active role in curbing such mala fide.

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WORLD / SPORTS



Briefs **Russia** expels Italian

diplomat

WEB DESK

Impunity behind Armenian hate crimes against Azeris

"It is very regretting and surprising that the main suspects in the crime of extremism have not been found and brought to justice although about 10 months passed since the incident. We have officially expressed our dissatisfaction to the opposite side over this," she added

DNA

person Levla Abdullayeva has said

that impunity is behind the Arme-

nian hate crimes against Azerbai-

janis in the U.S, the ministry re-

ported on its website on April 26.

She made the remarks while com-

menting on a protest staged by

radical Armenian nationalists with

calls to ethnic violence against

Azerbaijanis in the centre of Los

"We can see another manifes-

tation of hate crimes of radical

ently because of impunity. Our

Angeles on April 24.

ROME: Russia announced on Monday it has expelled an Italian diplomat following an "unfriendly" move by Rome to remove two Russian diplomats in March

over spying allegations. According to a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry, Italy's Ambassador to Moscow Pasquale Terracciano has been summoned and handed a note saying the naval attache at the Moscow Embassy Curzio Pacifici has been declared "persona non grata." The official has been ordered to leave Russia within 24 hours, the statement added. The move came after Italy expelled two Russian diplomats in March after an Italian navy officer was caught while allegedly handing over classified documents to a Russian official in exchange for money. The Italian Foreign Ministry on Monday called Rus-

sia's decision "unfounded and unjust." "We consider the decision unfounded and unjust because it is in retaliation to a legitimate measure taken by the Italian authorities in defense of their own security," the ministry said in a statement.

Army helping civil admn...

From Page 01

"The people's confidence (in the army) is the Pakistan Army's asset," he said, adding that in these pressing times, the army would do everything in its power to safeguard the people's health in every nook and corner of the country. He urged masses to follow coronavirus safety precautions to ensure their lives and the lives of others remained safe during the pandemic. The DG ISPR said Pakistan Army would provide support to other institutions as "emergency responders". The Pakistan Army was

once again be conveyed to the US embassy in our country," she said. Abdullayeva described the inci-BAKU: Foreign Ministry Spokes-

dent as fairly serious. "As you know, this is not the first time that we have faced such hateful, even criminal actions of radical Armenian groups. I would like to remind you that in July last year, hundreds of radical Armenian Dashnaks brutally attacked and injured a small number of Azerbaijanis in front of the Azerbaijani Consulate General in Los Angeles," Abdullayeva stressed.

The spokesperson said that the Los Angeles Police Department Armenians in Los Angeles apparhad launched an investigation into a hate crime in connection with serious concerns on this issue will the violence against the Azerbaija-



nis in 2020. Although two people involved in the violence had been detained, the search for the other two individuals who were particularly active in the process is still ongoing, she added. "It is very

regretting and surprising that the main suspects in the crime of extremism have not been found and brought to justice although about 10 months passed since the incident. We have officially expressed our dissatisfaction to the opposite side over this," she added.

Radical Armenian nationalists staged an "execution" of an "Azerbaijani", with calls to ethnic violence in the centre of Los Angeles on April 24, the Azerbaijani Consulate General earlier reported on its official Twitter page.

Media also reported an Armenian attack on a Turkish family in France on April 24. As a result, three of the four injured were hospitalized, one had a crack on his head. One of

the injured underwent surgery. Armenians' violence against Azerbaijanis and Turks revived following U.S. President Joe Biden's statement that described the events of 1915 in the Ottoman era as "genocide" against Armenians. On April 24, President Aliyev de-

scribed the decision as "a historic mistake" and "unacceptable". Aliyev said that Biden's statement seriously damages the emerging cooperation tendencies in the region, adding that Azerbaijan stands by Turkey. Turkey is against presenting the 1915 incidents as "genocide", rather calling them a tragedy in which both Turks and Armenians suffered casualties in the heat of World War I.

Iran holds intl. cartoon contest

TEHRAN: Iran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization is currently holding an exhibition and competition called "Palestine is not alone". Hundreds of works by different artists from many countries are displayed at this International Cartoon, Caricature and Poster Contest which is held to show solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

Press TV also talked to an Iranian producer who has recently made a video clip of the art works on Palestine. "I free you Palestine", and 'Lullaby" were two poems by Atefeh Sadat Bandari which were later turned into a video clip. The clips have been screened on Press TV and welcomed by the audience. The issue of Palestine is one of the major topics these days when deals are being formed between some Arab states and Israel to normalize ties, but artists from these countries oppose such relations.

Resistance art reflects how the Palestinians suffered under occupation for over 50 years. Art is a great form of expression and has helped the artists to show their first hand experiences. - APP

China provides *more vials* of vaccine...

From Page 01

Economic Affairs Division. Under the first and second batch of COVID-19 vaccine donation, 1 million doses of Sinopharm vaccine were donated by the Chinese Government. This will help to vaccinate the priority population and control the spread of the disease. Moreover, the minister discussed the bilateral economic relations between the two countries with the Ambassador in his office. During the meeting Pakistan-China economic relations, implementation of CPEC projects and other matters of mutual interest

were also discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs at the outset re-iterated the firm commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the security of all Chinese persons working on different projects in Pakistan. The Minister lauded the Government of China for supporting infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. The Minister emphasized that after development of necessary infrastructure the focus should be towards industrialization and poverty alleviation. He highlighted that the socioeconomic projects agreed therein are in line with the vision of the incumbent government for socio-economic uplift of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country. The progress of the ongoing projects was also discussed which is satisfactory despite the pandemic situation. The Minister for Economic Affairs also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating COVID-19 pandemic and locust attack. Chinese Ambassador Mr. Nong Rong conveyed his best wishes to the Minister for Economic Affairs for assuming new portfolio. Ambassador Nong Rong also reaffirmed Chinese support to Pakistan on issues of mutual interest. He reiterated that the Government of China will continue supporting the Government of Pakistan to tackle the COVID-19. Both sides reiterated strong commitment towards further expanding bilateral economic cooperation.



LONDON: Manchester City players posing with trophy for a group photo after winning English football league cup final against Tottenham. - DNA



opment Economics (PIDE).

and settler violence in Je-

rusalem al-Quds. Haniyeh's

remarks came as Israeli

forces continued their ag-

gressive actions against Pal-

Haniyeh said the ongoing

Palestinian response to the

Israeli aggression in Jerusa-

lem al-Quds comes "in the

context of the battle over

the identity of the holy city."

The Palestinian people in

the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank should stand steadfast

in the face of the Israeli

occupation forces, he said,

adding the current situa-

tion in Jerusalem al-Quds

proved that Israel has failed

to achieve any of its plans

up old social media posts in which

they claimed the film director had

slighted her homeland. The cer-

emony is not being broadcast in

China this year, nor in Hong Kong.

A short documentary on the terri-

tory's 2019 protests was also in the

running for an award. This year's

ceremony, which took place at Los

Angeles' Union Station, marked a

regarding the historic city.

estinians on Sunday.

Global military spending grew in 2020 **MONITORING DESK**

expenditure rose by 2.6 per

NEW YORK: Global military

government's Events Research Programme (ERP), the final was being used as a pilot event to test the safe return of supporters. And while the 2,000 fans permitted from each club, plus 4,000 local residents, looked a little lost in the vast expanses of the 90,000-seater stadium, the sound of them making their voices heard was an uplifting one. For more than a year, England's stadiums have been silent,

apart from a brief window late last year when small crowds were allowed before a deadly resurgence of COVID-19. It has been a dispiriting time for the game, with fans forced to watch at home from their sofas with artificial crowd effects pumped in to create a sense of normality. But the sound of fans singing their songs at Wembley offered hope of better times ahead as Britain's vaccine rollout continues to drive down deaths and infections from the virus. City's fans were wedged into one corner while Tottenham's were at the other end. There were also 4.000 local residents and NHS workers at the game

Nadal rise to number

2 in ATP rankings

WEB DESK

BARCELONA: Rafael Nadal's hard-fought win in Barce-

lona at the weekend sees the Spaniard replacing Daniil

English football

fans make Wembley

return in final

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: It almost felt like old times at Wembley on Sunday

as a crowd of 8,000 watched Manchester City beat Totten-

ham Hotspur in English football's League Cup final - the big-

gest attendance at a UK sporting event since the COVID-19

pandemic began more than a year ago. As part of the British

mobilised to enforce coronavirus safety protocols in the federal capital and Peshawar on Saturday after Prime Minister Imran Khan sought its help in curbing the spread of the virus in the country. Officials of the Islamabad administration had visited various areas in the city on Friday with army personnel in tow to enforce the implementation of coronavirus protocols.

Fazl urges PPP, ANP to reconsider...

From Page 01

"For a population the size of Pakistan, how effective will 1 million doses of the vac cines be?" he asked. The PDM chief said keeping the prevalent situation in mind, it was crucial to oust the incumbent government and hold free and fair elections. Fazl added some things had slowed down due to the holy month of Ramadan, but the PDM was still intact.

Maryam wants govt to complete its term

From Page 01

"PML-N will not let them escape punishment. I want the PTI to complete its term so that tomorrow the ruling party leaders could not make an excuse that they were not allowed to work for five years," she said, and added, "The government, which could not deliver in three years, will not deliver even in five years."

Meanwhile, in a video message for the people of NA-249, Karachi, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that she wanted to come to Karachi to directly communicate with them, but she preferred to stay back in Lahore because she did not want to put their lives in danger in these times of the pandemic. "The biggest issue you are confronting is the non-provision of clean drinking water," she said, and added, "If you return party candidate Miftah Ismail to the National Assembly, he will ensure the provision of water to each and every house in the constituency.



Hamas warns

Israel of 'no calm'

DNA

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: The Palestinian

resistance movement, Ha-

mas, has warned the Israeli

regime that if it continues

its hostile measures against

the occupied Jerusalem al-

"If the Zionist enemy con-

tinues this hostile policy

against al-Quds, there will

be no calm," head of the

political bureau of Hamas

Ismail Haniyeh said in a

virtual meeting on Sunday,

according to Hamas's offi-

cial website. On Thursday,

more than 100 Palestinians

were wounded and 50 more

arrested in Israeli police

Quds, it will see no calm.

BAKU: Ambassador Bilal Hayee hosted a webinar on adjunct Faculty Member at potential collaboration be-Lahore University of management Sciences(LUMS) tween Pakistani scholars in the field of economics. Inand Karachi School of busiternational development and ness and Leadership as well

Mr. Sannur Aliye, Director of International Cooperation Department along with respective Heads of Department of Azerbaijan University of Economics represented the Azerbaijan team. The two sides discussed pofinance with the Azerbaijan University of Economics, Pakistani scholars included Dr. Muhammad Naveed Iftikhar,

tential areas of cooperation and collaboration for hosting joint conferences, joint publications and exchange of faculty in diverse fields including public policy, knowledge economy, urban development and energy cooperation.

cent to \$1.98 trillion last year even as some countries reallocated their defence funds to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in a report issued on Monday. The five biggest spenders in 2020, which together accounted for 62 percent of military spending worldwide, were the United States, China, India, Russia and the United Kingdom, in that order, according to the Sweden-based body.

Medvedev as world No. 2 behind Novak Djokovic in the ATP rankings released on Monday. The 34-year-old Mallorcan, who won on Catalan clay for the 12th time in his career, is 110 points ahead of Medvedev.

It was Nadal's 61st title on clay, extending his record on the surface - the next most successful player on the surface is the Argentinian Guillermo Vilas who won 49 - and he will again start as favourite for the FrenchOpen which begins at Roland Garros on May 30. StefanosTsitsipas of Greece, beaten in the final in Bar-

celona by Nadal after having a match point, remains in fifth, behind the Austrian Dominic Thiem. Spaniard Pablo Carreno is up to 12th at the expense of Belgian David Goffin while 19-year-old

Italian Jannik Sinner, who lost to Tsitsipas in the semi-finals in Barcelona, has climbed to 18th, the best ranking of his young career.



ISAMABAD: Federal minister for Inter Provincial coordination and President Pakistan Sports Board Dr. Fehmida Mirza met with FIFA normalization committee member Barrister Hasris Azmat. - DNA

Zhao makes history with Oscar wins for Best Director began after internet users dredged

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Chinese-born filmmaker Chloe Zhao, who told the story of financially stretched van dwellers in the United States in Nomadland has become the first Asian woman and only the second woman ever to win Best Director at the Academy Awards. At the Awards ceremonies on Sun-

return to glamour and in-person day in Los Angeles in the US, the celebrations - albeit under coro-39-year-old also took home the navirus health rules - after a year award for Best Picture for the film, of virtual ceremonies. The event which stars actress Frances Mcwas also a further step forward for Dormand and a number of real-life women and people of colour. nomads who travel the US looking "It was definitely one of the most for work. McDormand won Best diverse slates of nominees in Actress for the role - her third. terms of gender and race," said Zhao was born in China and lived in Al Jazeera's Rob Reynolds who Beijing until age 14, when she went is at the venue. "There were nine to boarding school in London. She actors of colour in the acting catlater moved to Los Angeles where egories. There were 76 different she finished high school and then nominations for 70 women in a attended film school in New York. variety of categories. Despite early excitement in China

over Zhao's nomination, a backlash

British actor Daniel Kaluuya, who first came to international attention in the 2017 black comedy horror Get Out, won Best Supporting Actor for his role as the late Black Panther activist Fred Hampton in the drama, Judas and the Black Messiah. Kaluuya, 32, emerged as frontrunner for the Academy Award after also winning at the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild and British BAFTA ceremonies. Black revolutionary leader Hampton, was shot dead by Chicago police in 1969 at the age of 21. Kaluuya, who was born in London



to Ugandan parents, paid tribute to him as he held his Oscar on stage. "What a man," Kaluuya said. "How blessed we are that we lived in a lifetime that he existed. Thank you for your life." Meanwhile, YounYuh-jung was named Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role as a cantankerous grandmother in immigrant tale Minari. Youn, 73, was the first South Korean actor or actress to win an Oscar. Last year, director Bong Joon-Ho won best director as well as best film award for his black comedy thriller Parasite. "Me being here, I cannot believe it," Youn said, revealing that she was a huge fan of Brad Pitt, the film's executive producer. The Best Actor category proved a surprise win for 83-year-old Anthony Hopkins for his portrayal of a man with dementia in The Father, making him the oldest man ever to win the award. Many expected that the honour would go to the late Chadwick Boseman for Ma

Rainey's Black Bottom, his final

film. Just two women have won Best Director in the Academy Awards 93-year history. Kathryn Bigelow took the prize in 2010 for war thriller The Hurt Locker. This year marked the first time two women were nominated in the category at the same time with Zhao competing against Emerald Fennell, the British director of Promising Young Woman. Zhao went into the ceremony as the favourite after picking up trophies from the Directors Guild of America, the Golden Globes, BAFTA, and multiple film critics groups. Although she lost out to Zhao in the directing category, Fennell took home the Oscar

for Best Original Screenplay. While this year's ceremony showed greater diversity in the nominations for the top awards, the University of California in Los Angeles, which tracks Oscars diversity, said women and people of colour remained underrepresented in the behind-the-scenes and technical categories.

SC accepts Justice İsa's review...

From Page 01

take action in Justice Isa's case before details of his case were first reported. "And when at last, details came to light, the question was raised how did the SC judge manage to buy those properties under review,' Justice Bandial remarked. Amir Rehman, FBR official, on the occasion, said the bureau did not take any action in the case since the matter was sub judice. Justice Bandial said in order to protect the stature and prestige of the institution (Supreme Court), it was necessary that the case hearing was completed early.

N7

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Turkey orders 532 arrests over Gulen links

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkish prosecutors have ordered the arrest of 532 suspects, including 459 serving military personnel, in an operation targeting people linked to Fethullah Gulen, the Muslim preacher and businessman Ankara savs was behind a 2016 at tempted coup, according to Anadolu news agency.

The investigation, announced on Monday, was being conducted in 62 provinces as part of a sustained crackdown said to be targeting Gulen's network that has gone on since the coup attempt.

Ankara has, for years, accused supporters of the USbased Gulen of establishing a "parallel state" following its own agenda by infiltrating the police, judiciary, military and other state institutions.

Istanbul prosecutors ordered the arrest of 258 suspects while prosecutors in the western city of Izmir sought the detention of 274 people. Gulen denies involvement in the coup attempt, in which some 250 people were killed, excluding the putschists. A former ally of Erdogan, he has lived in self-imposed exile in the US state of Pennsylvania since 1999.

In the wake of the coup attempt, tens of thousands of people were held pending trial, and civil servants, military personnel and others were sacked or suspended. More than 20,000 people have been expelled from the Turkish military.

Turkish lira dips to near record low

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkey's lira has edged lower in early trading, adding to a recent slide and nearing an all-time low as a chill settled on relations with the United States and after the new central bank chief signalled that interest rate

Indian farmers continue protests amid COVID surge

Somali opp fighters 'cordon off Mogadishu'

Islamabad **POST**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

FOREIGN DESK

MOGADISHU: Somali opposition fighters have taken

The protests entered their sixth month. While Modi claims the new laws will modernise India's agriculture, multiple rounds of talks held between farmers' unions from across the country and the government failed to break the deadlock

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Even as India battles a second and more brutal wave of coronavirus infections, thousands of farmers demanding the repeal of farm laws passed by the government last year remain undeterred and continue their protests on the outskirts of the capital, New Delhi.

Since November, tens of thousands of farmers have been protesting against three new agricultural laws passed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which the farmers say will destroy their livelihoods by giving private corporations more control over the sector.

Iazeera.

ing face masks.

fer to as "black" laws.

On Monday, the protests entered their sixth month. While Modi claims the new laws will modernise India's agriculture, multiple rounds of talks held between farm-

Leaked Zarif recording stirs hot debate

TEHRAN: A leaked interview in which Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif frankly discusses behind-thescenes manoeuvres in Iranian politics has stirred fierce conversation and debate ahead of the country's presidential elections in June. More than three hours of

audio from an interview in March with government-aligned journalist and economist Saeed Leylaz was anonymously leaked to Farsi-language media outside Iran on Sunday. Foreign ministry spokesman

Saeed Khatibzadeh said the original interview was seven hours long, part of an oral history project that also includes interviews with other ministers, and urged people to analyse it with caution as it may have been leaked for political purposes. In the interview, Zarif reers' unions from across the ID-19 situation but if we do not resist the black farm country and the government failed to break the deadlock. laws brought by the Modi Even an escalating COVgovernment, our future is ID-19 crisis, which has seen doomed," he said.

the world's most populous Gurdarshan Singh, 61, from nation break records for Wazirpur village in Punjab's daily infections and deaths Patiala district, is protestfor weeks now, has failed to ing at the Singhu border, break the protest by farmanother major entry point ers, who hail mainly from to the capital from Haryana, the states of Punjab, Haryawhere, like at Tikri, thouna and Uttar Pradesh in the sands continue to gather. north. "These farm laws are

"We don't fear COVID-19 bea bigger threat to us than cause we have bigger things to worry about," Singh, who corona," Kittu Maan Singh, owns a small plot of land, a protester at Delhi's Tikri border with the neighbourtold Al Jazeera. Singh questioned the gov-

ing Haryana state, told Al ernment's motives in ap-Farmers at the border could proving the farm laws when be seen flouting COVID-19 the country was in the midguidelines by not following dle of a pandemic, without discussing the legislation physical distancing or wearwith the farmers or opposi-Singh, who hails from Puntion parties. jab, has been a part of the

"If the government is so protest for months now much concerned about the against what the farmers repandemic, why did it bring the farm laws in the middle "We will survive the COVof a pandemic without ask-

ing whether or not we want those reforms," he told Al Jazeera

"Why can't the government announce it will revoke the laws? We will continue our protest unless this government takes them back and guarantees us a minimum support price for our crops." Singh said there has been a drop in the number of protesters at three sites outside New Delhi over the past few weeks. But he attributed that not to the pandemic, but to the wheat harvesting season. Since late November. tens of thousands of farmers have camped at three key highways outside New

Delhi, erecting hundreds of tents and use tractor-trailers to block the roads. Some farmers have even constructed brick houses along the highways, anticipating a long agitation against the government.

Dozens of makeshift kitchens continue to serve food

and volunteers offer healthcare facilities for free. Inside their tents and tractor trolleys, farmers have installed fans and water coolers to fight India's notorious heat. The farmers have refused to vacate the sites unless the government agrees to completely roll back the farm laws and guarantee the continuation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system that gives them a minimum sale price for their produce.

Meanwhile, health experts have expressed concern over the continuing protest, given the record number of COVID-19 infections being reported in the country.

"It's worrisome because right now we know that any large social gathering is a cause for concern - be it a political rally, a religious gathering or a protest venue," public health expert Anant Bhan told Al Jazeera. "Having such a large num-

ber of people could be challenging, mostly because the health system around New Delhi is now collapsing. There is an acute shortage of oxygen and beds.

Epidemiologist Dr Giridhara R Babu told Al Jazeera all types of crowds that have 10 or more people should be prevented. "Any gathering should not be allowed, whether it's a cinema house in full attendance or a marriage event. Any type of crowd should be avoided at this stage because the surge is everywhere." he said. Bhan said both the govern-

ment and farmer leaders should think over the risks in continuing with the protests, which could impact individuals participating in them. A spokesman of the ruling BJP, Syed Zafar Islam, told Al Jazeera his government has shown its willingness to engage with the farmers, but it was up to them to call off the protest.

up positions in parts of the capital Mogadishu a day after clashes with government troops erupted over the president's bid to extend his mandate. Witnesses reported that

armed men and vehicles mounted with machine guns were stationed in opposition strongholds on Monday, while key roads in the capital were blocked.

"Both the Somali security forces and the pro-opposition fighters have taken positions along some key roads, there is civilian transport movement but, in some areas, they are not allowing anyone to move," witness Abdullahi Mire told AFP news agency.

Somalia, recovering from decades of civil war, is facing its worst political crisis in recent years after the failure to hold planned elections in February.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, best known by his nickname Farmaajo, has faced harsh criticism at home and from foreign allies after signing a law earlier this month extending his mandate by two years.

On Sunday night, sporadic gunfire rang out across the capital after fighting broke out between government forces and those allied to various opposition leaders. The clashes - mainly in the northern neighbourhoods of Sanca and Marinaya and the busy KM4 crossroads in the centre - began after dozens of opposition supporters marched in protest against Farmaajo's term extension. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Kazakhstan starts using indigenous vaccine

WEB DESK

NUR SULTAN: Kazakhstan started administering its homegrown COVID-19 vaccine

国际友城及友好园区签约仪式 |布列達尼大| |社山东代表| 巴基斯坦 新萨拉巴德(9進計算 甘居 大井 シリキリ

hikes would harm the economy.

The currency, among the worst performers in emerging markets this year, touched 8.425 versus the US dollar on Monday, nearing its low watermark of 2021 and close to its record 8.58 reached in early November.

"Market negativity is intense. (The) risk of an overshooting episode is unfortunately elevated," said Robin Brooks, the chief economist at the Institute of International Finance.

The lira has shed 3.5 percent in the last three trading days as it became clear that US President Joe Biden would officially recognise the 1915 killings and deportation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire as a genocide. Turkey, a NATO ally of the

US, sharply criticised the White House's decision, which was announced on Saturday and said it undermined trust and friendship.

Russia 'concerned' over situation in Myanmar

FORAIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia is concerned over the situation in Myanmar, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

The Kremlin closely follows the situation in the country and condemns any actions, leading to civilian casual ties, Peskov told reporters at a phone conference.

"We are very concerned and are watching with great attention what is happening in Myanmar. We strongly condemn the actions that lead to the loss of human life among the civilian population," he said.

But Myanmar has to deal with its problems itself, Peskov added.

At least 745 people have been killed in a military crackdown against anti-coup protesters in Myanmar, according to the latest figures released by a rights watchdog. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said in a daily briefing late Friday that 3,371 people are in detention, 79 have been convicted, and arrest warrants issued for at least 1,118 others.

peatedly uses "the field" in reference to military operations and politics driven by the outward-looking Quds Force of the IRGC, and its then-leader Major-General Qassem Soleimani.-Foreign Desk







JIAOZHOU: 2021 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo opens in. Pakistan ambassador to China Moin ul Haque also attends the opening ceremony. - DNA

Israeli police remove East Jerusalem barricades

FOREIGN DESK

agency.

police.

"Our forces are still de-

several days of violence.

held celebratory rallies in

the plaza, watched over by

JERUSALEM: Israeli police on Sunday removed barricades from near the Al-Agsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem. in a move apparently aimed at easing tensions after days of violent confrontations. The barricading of the area near the Damascus Gate in East Ierusalem's walled Old City - a popular gathering place for Palestinians during the holy month of Ramadan - was partly blamed for several nights of tensions. Israeli police said the barriers were put in place as part of coronavirus restrictions. The decision came "following consultations with local leadership, religious leadership, situation assessments,

They chanted celebratory while taking into considerremarks and waved Palesation the shop owners who need to make a living, and tinian flags before minor in order to lower the level of scuffles erupted when Isviolence," an Israeli police raeli police attempted to spokesman told AFP news confiscate the flags.

AFP reporters saw several young Palestinians being ployed on the ground, and detained by police.

we won't let violence re-But the plaza remained open, with police maintainsurge," the spokesman said. Violent clashes erupted ing a heavy presence in the on Thursday night after area into the early hours of the arrival of far-right Is-Monday.

Samir Gheith, a 66-year-old raeli groups at the end of a march during which they Palestinian from Jerusalem, harassed Palestinians and said people had been lookchanted "Death to Arabs". ing forward to gathering Hundreds of Palestinians at Damascus Gate during have been wounded and Ramadan after it was closed dozens of others arrested in last year due to coronavirus restrictions. Hundreds of Palestinians

"I think they don't want to see us be happy," he told AFP, referring to the initial decision to barricade the

"But then they came to understand that they needed to put a stop to all these

tensions," he said. The Palestinian leadership wants East Jerusalem to be the capital of their future state. Its fate has been one of the thorniest issues in the peace process, which ground to a halt more than 10 years ago.

Ahmad Tibi, a member of the Israeli parliament with the Joint List, the Palestinian-majority electoral alliance, said on Monday that placing barricades in the Old City was a mistake from the start.

In a statement he said the decision to reopen the gates is correct, but "they should stop attacking the Palestinians".

Russia suspends activities of Kremlin critic Navalny's groups

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: State prosecutors in Moscow have ordered campaign groups supporting Alexey Navalny to stop their activities, pending a request to outlaw them and the jailed Kremlin critic's Anti-Corruption Foundation.

The move on Monday came as a court in the Russian capital met for a preliminary hearing to consider a prosecutor's request to label Navalny's foundation and its regional offshoots as "extremist". The prosecutor has accused pro-Navalny groups of plotting to destabilise the political situation in Russia and working to promote a popular revolution.

At the hearing, prosecutors asked the court to prohibit the opposition politician's groups from publishing anything online, organising protests, and taking part in elections, Leonid Volkov, a Navalny ally said. The hearings are being held behind closed doors as authorities have classified some of the case details, said lawyer Ivan Pavlov, whose legal team is handling the case. "We all understand perfectly that there is no extremism in [our] work ... The extremism allegation is being used purely as a pretext for political repression," Volkov said. Al Jazeera's Bernard Smith, reporting from Moscow, said Navalny's allies had already pledged to "reappear under different names" if blacklisted by authorities.

Health Minister Alexey Tsoy received his first dose of QazVac vaccine in a local outpatient clinic in the capital

Nur-Sultan on Monday. After being inoculated in a live broadcast, Tsoy said he feels good, adding they have started vaccinating the public in various parts of the country. He said that the first batch of QazVac vaccine -50,000 doses - was delivered to different cities and regions. Noting that they are in talks with various production facilities to increase the vaccine production capacity, Tsoy said: "We are also evaluating the fields of our Turkish partners in this regard."

The minister also recalled that his country is one of the five countries in the world that has developed its own vaccine against COVID-19.

The vaccine will be administered in two doses, 21 days apart.

Developed by the Research Institute for Biological Safety Problems of Kazakhstan, the QazVac vaccine can be stored at temperatures between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius (35-46 degrees Fahrenheit).

Armenian mob attacks Turkish family

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Four people were injured when a group of around 40 Armenians attacked a Turkish family in Saint-Die-Des-Vosges, France.

The group broke into the family's home in Kellerman district and assaulted them. Speaking to Turkish media. one of the family members said that on Saturday, an Armenian hit the son from his cousin's family with their car and a dispute broke out be-

tween them. Noting that they had met with Armenians afterwards and thought they were tied to the incident, the family member said that later that day, Armenians entered the home of his cousin's family and

attacked them with baseball bats, knives and iron bars. The family member added that one of the attackers also

had a gun. Four people were injured in the incident, the family member said, adding one suffered three fractures to their skull and three were hospitalized, with one of them undergoing surgery.

Pak carries huge potential of its citrus export Pakistan is one of the top citrus producers in the world. Citrus contributes about 30% to the country's total fruit output

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani kinnow industry has witnessed a breakthrough last week as Iran has lifted restrictions on the import of Pakistani kinnow, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Pakistan is one of the top citrus producers in the world. Citrus contributes about 30% to the country's total fruit output.

Last year, Pakistan earned its highest export revenue from kinnow of \$222 million amounting to 370,000 tonnes, according to a report on Pakistani citrus industry released by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial **Cooperation Information Platform** (CPAIC).

The report also points out that most of the citrus fruits produced by Pakistan are consumed in foreign markets. Among the exported varieties, kinnow is the most

important one. However, as old varieties are wearing out, kinnow quality is worsen-

ing. For years, there has been no major breakthrough in kinnow varieties. Among the export kinnow, only 2.6% goes to developed countries, mostly because consumers in these markets favor seedless citrus. Such a trend is gradually

expanding to other parts of the world Currently, seedless varieties represent 61% of total citrus export worldwide, which leads to a sharp decline in the price of Pakistani kinnow by more than 50% from 2016 to 2020.

Actually, there is a research institute in Sargodha dedicated to the development of new citrus varieties, but it has not published any substantive results in the past five years.

The situation is similar for the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad. If these research institutes can be stimulated to produce new seedless kinnow varieties, they could have brought huge wealth for Pakistan. In addition, even with new varieties, citrus growers in Pakistan are not qualified to grow the new varieties-they have neither the professional knowledge nor the suitable equipment. Also, they are not willing to en-

gage in export themselves for lack of financing channels, infrastructure (transportation, grading, cold storage and warehousing facilities), technical guidance, international market information, and time to wait for the issuance of various permits.

Therefore, the CPAIC report recommends growers be trained and informed of such basic knowledge as sowing time, planting methods, fertilizer ratio, harvesting methods, etc.

The government should also pro-

vide credit to them so that they have the finances to purchase equipment necessary for the varietv shift, such as automatic irrigation systems and sprinklers.

Formal packaging, grading and transportation systems are also required by dedicated exporters. The cheapest packaging materials used by exporters not only causes catastrophic losses to the fruit in transit, but also brings about a tarnished reputation in the international market.

in Pakistan are equipped with storage facilities for fresh agricultural products; only one port has such facilities but its capacity is seriously insufficient.

citrus growers in Pakistan is gradually improving. With appropriate training and information access channels, growers may improve the quality of fruit through crop management and other meth-

ods, and provide value addition through processing; this will help develop and expand the citrus industry in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the country will es-

None of the international airports

Fortunately, the education level of

tablish better domestic and interoverall waste.

national supply chains for the citrus industry leveraging the newly developed infrastructure and transportation systems, thereby

improving efficiency and reducing By expanding the cultivation of seedless citrus varieties, formulating quality management reg-

ulations, optimizing the supply chains, establishing certification initiatives, and reducing post-harvest losses, citrus export in Pakistan can be significantly boosted. Pakistani citrus is expected to be exported to European countries, China and Central Asian markets with higher value addition beyond the existing markets in the Middle East, Africa and

Southeast Asia.







Briefs 4 HP projects to attract \$7.7 bn investment

Pakistan to further strengthen economic linkages with UK

The minister was talking to British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr. Christian Turner, who called on him at the Finance Division

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Four hydel power projects, under the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), would be completed at a cost of \$7.7 billion in next six years, contributing 3428 MW of clean and cheap energy to the national grid.

Official in the CPEC authority said on Monday that in order to fulfill the electricity requirements and to produce atmosphere friendly clean and green energy, numerous hydel power projects with installed capacity of 3,428 MW are being completed under

the second phase. The projects would help generating thousands of new jobs besides providing affordable clean electricity to the consumers. Nine coal-based energy projects completed in the first phase are contributing 5,320 MW to the national grid which are largely helping to overcome the load shedding problem in the country. The CPEC Authority official informed that 720 MW Karot Hydro Power Project is in at final stages and likely to be completed within the current year at a cost of \$700 million.

China willing to help India fight Covid-19

BEIJING: China has expressed willingness to provide medical supplies to India to fight a resurgence of COV-ID-19 at the request of Indian side, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang

Wenbin said on Monday. "China has been following closely the epidemic situation in India and expressed readiness early on to help curb the latest surge. At present, the two sides are communicating with one another," he said during his regular briefing held here.

Imran Khan Monday said that establishment of South Punjab secretariat was a step towards new beginning as now, the allocated development funds would be spent on the prosperity of the people of this neglected region.

Addressing a groundbreaking ceremony of South Punjab Secretariat, the prime minister said that according to statistics, the area consisted of 33 per cent population



by the British government demic and its people for the peo-He apprised the High ple of Pakistan during the Commissioner about workon-going COVID-19 paning of flagship Ehsaas

Emergency Cash program regarding direct cash transfers to under-privileged women.

The Ehsaas program, he said had played a significant role in mitigating the economic hardships of the

marginalized groups of the society amid COVID-19. He also underlined the various measures taken by

Groundbreaking of S. Punjab secretariat a new beginning

DNA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:

the two countries.

Finance Division.

sued here.

MULTAN: Prime Minister

The prime minister said they had also decided that South Punjab would get its due job quota according to its size and population. All the issues of the area would

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood ter could not afford to purchase a property. About the deprivation and poverty of South Punjab, the prime minister said he brought Chief Minister Usself-centered man Buzar so that he could into politics after witnessing that a small segment, a ruling elite was enjoying all

implement his vision over the area. He wanted a person who preferred to live and die in Pakistan and understood the sufferings of common man and did not go to London on sojourns, he added. powers and impunity.

In a veiled reference to for-"Laws have been different mer ruling elite, the prime for them as they frequently minister said they had been indulged in corruption, deals doing politics in Pakistan and making investment abroad. The prime minister said performance of a chief minister was judged on the basis of how much he had lifted the weaker segments of society and lauded chief minister Sardar Usman Buzdar for making efforts in this regard

Pak Army patrol Lahore for SOPs enforcement

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Army's troops patrolled Lahore roads along with police and district officials to ensure enforcement of COVID standard operating procedures (SOPs). COVID awareness messages were displayed on reviewed the deployment the vehicles of the troops patrolling the city. "Join hands in the fight against coronavirus," one of the awareness messages notification for military read.

Abbasi appears before NAB

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi appeared on Monday before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a new inquiry regarding appointment of managing director of Pakistan Petroleum.

the government to stim-

ulate economic recovery

during these testing times.

He commended the Paki-

stani diaspora abroad for

sending in record remit-

tances, which enhanced

the foreign exchange re-

serves and strengthened

Pak-Rupee, adding that the

Pakistani diaspora in Unit-

ed Kingdom were the real

He reiterated the firm

commitment of the govern-

ment in implementing vi-

tal economic reforms and

achieving macro-economic

stability with the help of

development partners to

build a better future for

On the occasion, Chris-

tian Turner discussed the

issues of mutual interest

and assured the minister

of the full support of the

British government and its

people to the government

He also felicitated the Fi-

nance Minister on assum-

ing new responsibilities.

had announced that de-

ployment of the Pakistan

Army to implement COV-

ID standard operating

procedures had been ap-

proved for three provinc-

The interior minister

had made the announce-

ment in a video after he

chaired a meeting on the

COVID-19 situation and

of armed forces in aid to

Rasheed had said that a

deployment has been is-

civil administration.

es except for Sindh.

and people of Pakistan.

the people of Pakistan.

asset for the country.

He was handed a questionnaire consisting of 26 questions and is required to file his reply within two weeks. Ex-PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been asked to explain his and Arshad Mirza's role in the appointment of Syed Wamiq Bokhari as the Pakistan Petroleum Limited

(PPL) managing director. The PML-N leader is further required to explain why services of a consultant were sought for the appointment. "Was Wamiq Bokhari not eligible for the top PPL post?" the NAB has asked Abbasi. The bureau questioned if the rules were relaxed for Bokhari's appointment.

The corruption watchdog will decide whether to summon the former premier again or not after he files his reply. The inquiry pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and illegal appointment of Syed Wamiq Bokhari as its managing director.

Covid cases in US on the decline

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The rate of new coronavirus cases is declining in the United States, with the most recent seven-day averages dipping below the 60,000 mark for the first time in over a month, as experts hail the impact of inoculation of the masses.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that as of April 24, the rolling average was 57,123 cases, and a month-long mini



According to some Indian media reports, China's Sichuan Airlines has decided to suspend cargo flights to India for 15 days because of the resurgence there, which will disrupt Indian private traders' procurement of medical supplies, including oxygen concentrators from China.

Wang replied that the Indian private companies' procurement of medical supplies from China was actually normal business deals.

"You asked about Indian companies' purchase of China's anti-epidemic medical supplies. As far as I know, that's normal business interaction. We stand ready to offer support and assistance to the best of our capability if the Indian side informs us of its specific needs," he said.

To yet another question, he made it clear that China was ready to provide necessary support and help to India in its fight against the new wave of infections. "If India raises any specific demand, we will offer support and help to the

30-day remission sought for inmates

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Interior Ministry on Monday sent a summary to the federal cabinet for giving a 30-day remission to the inmates on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to the details, the summary sent to the federal cabinet sought remission for inmates who are being jailed in petty cases. Male inmates aged above 65-year-old and female inmates aged above 60-year-old will also be able to avail the facility.

After being approved by the cabinet and prime minister, it would be sent to President Arif Alvi for final approval. The remission would not be applicable to inmates facing terrorism and murder charges and those who are facing corruption cases.

The federal and provincial governments in the country grant remission to prisoners on various occasions and previously in October 2020, the federal government has granted special remission for the prisoners across the country on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him.

of Punjab province, but in the past, it got only 17 per cent of the total budget allocation.

Due to re-allocation of these uplift funds, about Rs260 billion losses incurred on these areas by the policies of the previous rulers of the province, he added

be resolved in the secretariat. He said "South Punjab sec-

Pro-Tareen

lawmakers to

meet PM

retariat is a historical event, a new beginning for South Punjab province and a transition. The ceremony was attend-

ed by Foreign Minister

Tareen told reporters that

some parliamentarians had

assured him to arrange a

meeting between his group

of lawmakers and Prime

Earlier, members of Ja-

hangir Tareen's group had

called on Punjab Governor

Chaudhry Mohammad Sar-

war and apprised him of

The group comprised Raja

Riaz Ahmad, provincial min-

isters from Punjab Ajmal

Cheema and Khayal Ahmad

Kastro, and others. The

Punjab governor assured

the visitors to address their

reservations and to play

his role in organizing their

meeting with Prime Minis-

Chaudhry Sarwar further

said that every party mem-

ber completely trusts the

leadership of Imran Khan

and the incumbent regime

is taking practical measures

for progress and stability of

ter Imran Khan.

Minister Imran Khan.

their reservations.

and NROs. No law of the land was applicable on them. They lived in palatial houses abroad which they had purchased through money laun-

dering," he added. The prime minister said these people had been living in posh areas of London where even a British minis-

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special As-

sistant to the Prime Min-

ister (SAPM) on Overseas

Pakistanis and Human Re-

source Development Sayed

Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari said

on Monday that the country

would soon start sending its

skilled workforce to Japan

under a government-to-gov-

ernment Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) as

a recruitment process of

many young workers in final

He revealed this while ad-

dressing the signing cere-

mony of a Memorandum

between the Overseas

Cooperation (MoC)

stages.

of

Stay safe and keep the country protected from the deadly pandemic. The troops of the Pakistan Army were called in to ensure strict adherence to the COVID SOPs. On Sunday, Interior Min-

sued for three provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir afadded.

bump was now over. It comes as the number of people vaccinated continued to rise, though the rate is beginning to taper off as domestic demand slows.

Almost 140 million people have now received one dose or 42% of the whole population.

Writing on Twitter, Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University School of Public Health, said he believed this time the decline would be permanent, "Because in mid-March when the last mini-surge began, 21% of the population had been vaccinated. Today, we're twice that." He said that 42% with one shot wasn't "enough," but added: "42% close to number at which we should see steady declines in infections. In Israel, once 45% of the population was fully vaccinated, case numbers started to plummet."

'No content in curriculum against minorities'

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council. Special Aide to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Monday said, there is no content in the curriculum against minorities.

Talking to visiting delegates of Ulema-Mashaykh of different religious schools of thought, he said the rights givlaw cannot be disputed.

Minority students have choice in curriculum to read the Islamic history and Islamic teachings in the curriculum, said Ashrafi adding that there is no content in the educational curriculum against the minorities and their respective sanctity. No one will be allowed to usurp the rights of minorities in the country, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi.

He further said that sentiprevailing situation of Coronavirus pandemic in India are in line with Islamic teachings.

UK urged to recognize Northern Cyprus "Turkey will never give up or change its mind. It will continue probably

increasingly to support the Turkish Cypriots"

DNA

LONDON: The UK can assist a "historic opportunity" to end a decades-long stalemate in Cyprus by recognizing the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), the Turkish Cypriot president said.

Speaking to British tabloid The Sunday Express, Ersin Tatar "urged Boris Johnson's government to get behind his plan for a two-state solution," which he will propose at the talks that are set to start in Geneva on April 27. Tatar said that "after Brexit freed Britain from the EU it can now fulfill its role as a neutral guaran-

island, ensuring that both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are treated in a balanced way. Citing sources in the British gov-

ernment, the daily said UK ministers are considering to officially recognize the TRNC as an "independent country". Resolving the longstanding dispute on the island would help around 300,000 Turkish Cypriots who live in the UK to seek direct flights to their country, the daily

added. "With the developments in the Tatar told the daily. He said: "Turkey will never give



port the Turkish Cypriots. He said that a two-state plan is

now the only way forward and one which has the full backing of the Turkish government. "It is the facts on the ground," he

added. "What we have at the moment is peaceful coexistence with two

neighbouring states. "Different people, different language, different history, different culture. Therefore it was our true right to establish our own state

which we did [in 1983]. "Since 1974 we have been separated. The young generation don't know one another. They have difbitter experiences that there is no hope for a federal relationship in

the future.

"Therefore we demand that our state is recognised," he said, adding that he has held "positive talks" with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Europe minister Wendy Morton.

Tatar said: "My message is as a Turkish Cypriot, as an elected President, as a friend to the British people, I lived in England in 17 years, I went to school in East London, I went to Jesus College Cambridge, I graduated as an economist, then I worked with PwC as a chartered accountant. "I am a friend. And as a friend I am asking the British community to reconsider what did happen in Cyprus over all these years.

up or change its mind. It will coneastern Mediterranean, the island ferent language, culture and expetinue probably increasingly to supriences. There have been so many has become even more valuable,'

DNA ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet Jahangir Tareen Khan's like-minded group on Tuesday.

like-minded group

cuss political conspiracies

and behaviour of Adviser to

PM on Accountability and

According to sources, the of Jahangir Tareen Khan will meet Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday and apprised him of the best of our capability." - APP

misgivings of Mr Tareen regarding the conduct of corruption inquiry against him. However, Jahangir Khan Tareen will not be a part of the meeting between the PM and his like-minded members. The group would also dis-

Interior Shahzad Akbar. The group will be comprised of members of national and provincial assemblies. A few days ago, Jahangir Khan

Pakistan

tor for the eastern Mediterranean

Employment Corporation (OEC) and Inter-SES. He said after signing of this The partnership was meant MoC, the Inter-SES and OEC to explore employment opwould make joint efforts to portunities for Pakistani find new and lucrative job

Pakistanis were living and working in Japan opportunities in Japan for qualified youth of Pakistan. Recruitment of 120 skilled workers, who had been imparted Japanese language by the ministry, was underway,

emanating from Japanese

he added.

He said all-out efforts would be made to ensure presence of the Pakistani diaspora in Japan at par with the gulf countries as it had immense potential to meet the growing

manpower in Japan by reaching out to major In-

he added.

in Japan underway: Bukhari Japanese Ambassador said as of today, above 30,000

ister Sheikh Rasheed Pakistani workforce recruitment

ter the prime minister announced the decision. "A decision on military deployment in Sindh is yet to be taken," he had

formation Technology (IT) companies.

The MoC was signed by OEC Managing Director Kashif Noor and Inter-SES Chief Executive Officer Zafar Mahmood in presence of SAMP Zulfikar Bukhari

and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda.

companies, in Pakistan.

Unfortunately, both the countries were devoid of linkages for human resource in the past, but now there was a Memorandum of Understanding between the two states for manpower export,

lated in one region.

The SAPM said the chief aim of MoC was to boost footprint of Pakistani workforce in Jamaintained. pan through extensive marketing of the jobs' demand,

needing around 5,00,000 of workforce in future, it is our priority to fetch maximum quota for Pakistan out of this," Zulfikar Bukhari

employment needs of Paki-

"Since Japan is an aging

population and will be

stan.

The SAPM said the ministry's prime focus for export of manpower to Japan was on IT sector as Pakistan had the best block chain developers in the world. The IT sector was not given due attention in the past which was 'very unfortunate', he added. He said the ministry was exploring new markets to create maximum job opportunities for Pakistani workforce

in other than gulf countries. "We want to digress as a country and ministry and do not want to be heavily popu-

> en to minorities by the Constitution of Pakistan and Islamic

He said that recommendations as put forward by the one-member minority commission have also been opposed by the National Minorities Commission.

ments of Pakistanis on the