



Islamabad POST

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Indonesia survived all hurdles by exercising national character

Detailed News On Page-08

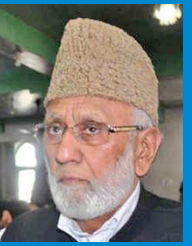
Australia aids Iftar meals for street children

Detailed News On Page-08



IIOJK leader Ashraf Sehrai dies in detention

Detailed News On Page-04



Sehr & Iftar Timings

CITY	SEHR	IFTAR
ISLAMABAD	03:39 am	06:56 pm
FAISALABAD	03:46 am	06:52 pm
LAHORE	03:41 am	06:47 pm
KARACHI	04:28 am	07:05 pm
SARGODHA	03:46 am	06:54 pm

FIQA JAFARIA

CITY	SEHR	IFTAR
ISLAMABAD	03:29 am	07:06 pm
FAISALABAD	03:36 am	07:02 pm
LAHORE	03:31 am	06:57 pm
KARACHI	04:18 am	07:15 pm
SARGODHA	03:36 am	07:04 pm

4 FC soldiers martyred in border attack

Capt Faheem and two soldiers Sepoy Shafi and Sepoy Naseem embrace shahadat in Waziristan during IBO operation

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Four Frontier Corps (FC) soldiers were martyred while six others got injured after terrorists ambushed them near the Pakistan-Afghan border on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the attack happened during the fencing activity in Manzakai Sector of District Balochistan along the Pakistan-Afghan border. "Today during fencing activity in Manzakai Sector, Distt Zhob, Balochistan along Pakistan - Afghanistan Border, Terrorists from across Afghanistan ambushed FC troops moving for fencing," the statement said. The ISPR said terrorists from across Afghanistan ambushed the FC troops moving for fencing. The FC troops responded promptly. However, the gun-battle left behind four FC soldiers martyred while six got injured. The ISPR said the wounded soldiers were evacuated to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Quetta.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan condemns 'organized' attacks

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has condemned organized attacks on Pakistani troops along the Pak-Afghan border and considers such acts as detrimental to ongoing peace and stability along the frontier. Responding to some media queries regarding attack on Pakistani troops in Zhob District, he said around 20 terrorists carried out attack on Pakistan fencing party this morning using small arms and heavy weapons, which resulted in martyrdom of four Pakistani soldiers and serious injuries to six. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said Afghanistan's Embassy in Islamabad has been asked to convey Pakistan's concerns to the relevant Afghan authorities.

Briefs

Bilwal slams power tariff hike

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that increasing power tariff by 29 percent in just one year is height of animosity with public. Bilawal Bhutto, in his statement about rising inflation in the country, said that rents of houses have increased by 9.3 percent while prices of everyday commodities increased by 15.9 percent. PPP Chairman further said that in these difficult times, Sindh government has issued Benazir Mazdoor Card, which will provide medical grant to 0.6 million registered industrial workers. He further announced that the card will also provide grant for educational expenses and weddings. PPP will issue the card to all laborers of the country when it forms federal government, he added.

First PSX woman Board Chairperson

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Renowned economist Dr Shamsad Akhtar has been unanimously elected as the PSX Board Chairperson in the first meeting of the newly elected PSX Board held on Wednesday. For the first time in the 73-year history of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), a woman chairperson has been elected on the Board of Directors, said a press release issued by PSX. Akhtar is a veteran of the financial markets of Pakistan and has also held the honorable position of Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, in the past. She spearheaded the capital market development reforms during her tenure at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1990s.

'China should manufacture products in Pakistan'

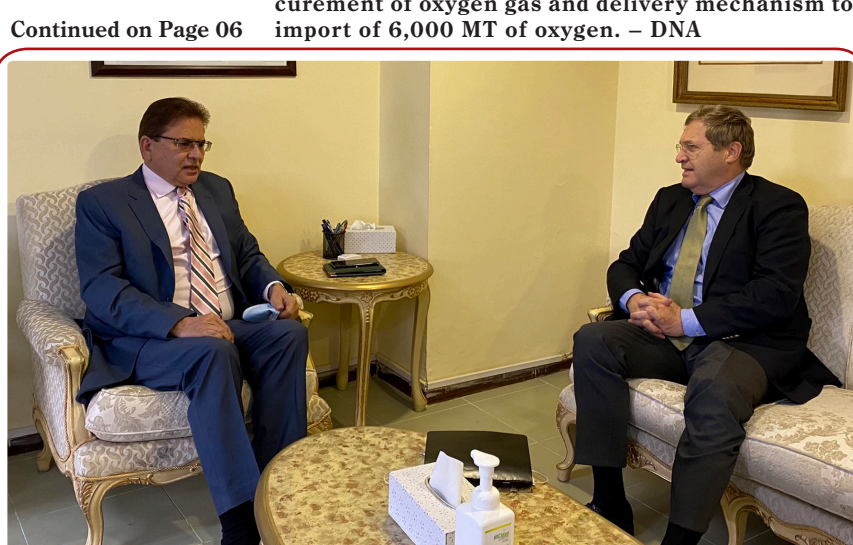
Tarin urged Chinese govt to set up manufacturing plants in Pakistan as it does in ASEAN countries

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin on Wednesday underlined the importance to utilize China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for promoting exports from the country.

ECC approves over Rs44b for various projects

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee of the cabinet has approved over 44 billion rupees for various projects, including 1.8 billion rupees for import of oxygen gas to meet the emergency requirement for supply of oxygen to hospitals for treatment of COVID-19 patients. The ECC, which met in Islamabad on Wednesday with Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin in the chair, approved technical supplementary grant for the National Disaster Management Authority for procurement of oxygen gas and delivery mechanism to import of 6,000 MT of oxygen. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Bénédicte de Cerjat in a meeting with Pakistan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammed Sadiq. Ambassador Bénédicte acknowledged the widespread and sincere demand of the Afghan people for a lasting and just peace and an end to the war. - DNA



RIYADH: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) called on Lieutenant General Fayyad Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS), Saudi Armed Forces. - DNA

Army Chief meets Saudi CGS

DNA

RIYADH: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) called on His Excellency Lieutenant General Fayyad Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS), Saudi Armed Forces at Riyadh, on Wednesday. According to a statement from Inter Services Public Relation (ISPR), matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including Afghan Peace Process, defence & security and military to military cooperation were discussed during the meeting. Chief of Army Staff emphasized the need to further enhance military to military cooperation between the two Armed Forces and said that Pakistan-KSA cooperation will have positive impact on peace and security in the region. CGS KSA thanked the Chief of Army Staff for his sentiments and assured of full cooperation and support from KSA in all initiatives aimed at improving regional cooperation, peace and stability.

PM directs embassies to help expatriates

"Overseas Pakistanis are precious assets of the country," the premier said

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday addressed Pakistani ambassadors stationed across the globe, days after he had called back Pakistan's envoy to Saudi Arabia over the mistreatment of the Pakistani expat community by the latter's staff. "Overseas Pakistanis are precious assets of the country," the premier said, adding that it is unfortunate that Pakistani ambassadors do not treat them well. "The feedback provided by Pakistani expats living in Saudi Arabia was shocking," the premier said. "An indifferent attitude towards the expat community is unforgivable."



He also read out complaints received on the Citizens Portal and slammed the "callousness" displayed by embassy workers. "The job of embassies is to serve their citizens," the premier said. It should be recalled that last week, PM Khan had recalled Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Raja Ali Ejaz and members of the latter's staff after reports of

their alleged 'mistreatment' of the Pakistani expat community surfaced. Special Assistant to PM on Overseas Pakistanis Zulfi Bukhari, making the announcement, said the ambassador was recalled as the Pakistani community and Embassy staff had repeatedly lodged complaints against him over the past couple of months. Following Amb Ejaz's removal, retired Lt Gen Bilal Akbar had taken over the post, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in a statement. Chaudhri said the Pakistani community residing in the Kingdom had reservations against the officials recalled from their posts.

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India relabeled Saudi oxygen containers

Oxygen containers bearing Saudi flag with brightly written kalmia were covered with panaflex by BJP government workers

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: No one has expected that Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian regime could stoop so low to relabel the oxygen containers donated by Saudi Arabia with a trademark of a local company to hide the fact from its masses that a Muslim country has helped New Delhi to meet its oxygen needs amid coronavirus ravages. According to Kashmir Media Service, oxygen containers bearing Saudi flag with brightly written kalmia, the

first Muslim article, were covered with panaflex by BJP government workers to mislead their people. In this regard, videos are making rounds on social media. Even some Indian video bloggers criticized Modi saying that instead of being grateful to Saudi Arabia for donating hundreds of oxygen containers for the much needed Indians amid ravages of COVID-19 pandemic, he showed his utter meanness by relabeling these oxygen containers with Reliance trademark, a local company run by Mukesh Ambani, the right hand of Modi.

Embassy of Japan condoles ex-CNS death

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: SHINDO Yusuke, Chargé d' Affaires a.i., Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Admiral (Retired) Karamat Rehman Niazi, former Chief of the Naval Staff. In his message of condolences, Shindo on Wednesday conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family of the ex-Naval chief and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

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Turkey shows concern over Bosnian territorial integrity - Page 06

Biden urged to extend scope of duty free market access Bill - Page 07

'Indonesia survived all challenges by exercising national character' - Page 08

EU concerned over state of freedom of press

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The European Union (EU) has expressed deep concern over the lack of freedom of the press and violence against journalists in Pakistan. The EU said it is concerned about the frequently reported cases of violence, intimidation, abduction, and killing of journalists in Pakistan. Over the past couple of years, restrictions on media in Pakistan have grown and backtracking by the government in this area is having a detrimental impact on the overall climate of freedom of expression in Pakistan. Such acts are also reflecting negatively on Pa-

"Over the past couple of years, restrictions on media in Pakistan have grown and backtracking by the government in this area is having a detrimental impact: European Union"

kistan's image abroad. The EU is also concerned about widespread and systematic harassment online, especially of female journalists, through coordinated campaigns that include abusive language and threats of violence. The Union said it actively advocates the importance of the freedom of expression and the need for protection of journalists around the world, including those in Pakistan. In the fifth EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue with Foreign Minister Qureshi on November 3, 2020, HR/VP Josep Borrell reiterated concerns

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Briefs

Farmer community hails Kisan Card

LAHORE: The launch of Kisan Card is epoch making initiative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government to uplift the socio-economic condition of farmers and strengthening of agriculture sector which is backbone of the national economy.

Under this initiative farmers would get fertilizer and seed on concessional price. Farmers could use 'Kisan Card' on ATM machines to get instant cash. More than 1 million registered farmers would get subsidy of billions of rupees over a period of one year, Punjab Agriculture department sources told APP on Wednesday.

Hailing Prime Minister Imran Khan's initiative of launching Kisan Card, representatives of the farmers said the decision reflects importance of agriculture sector in the eye of the PTI government.

They said the step would bring about a revolution in the country by making the life of farmers easy through the use of technology, enhancing agricultural production, and saving foreign exchange.

A farmer from Narang Mandi Mehar Rizwan Yousaf said there was no example of such initiative in the past and added that during the tenure of previous governments farmer community faced various problems and it was one of the badly neglected sectors.

He said the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken timely measures for the prosperity of farmers and to ensure food security. — APP

CTD foils terror bid in Lower Dir

DNA

LOWER DIR: Foiling a major terrorist activity, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Lower Dir district, recovering a large cache of arms and ammunition.

The CTD Malakand region conducted the operation on a tip-off in Lower Dir's Landi Shah Khorgai area and recovered nine hand grenades, one mortar shell, two RPG-7 shells, three anti-person mines, two RPG-7 cartridges and 20 other cartridges buried in the ground.

A case has been registered under anti-terrorism laws whereas further investigation is underway in this connection.

Last month, CTD claimed to have preempted a terrorist attack on the Police Training Centre in Saeedabad, Karachi, by arresting five suspected terrorists. The suspects were taken into custody during a raid in Jamshoro district on Sunday night. The CTD conducted a joint operation with the Rangers near a hotel on Sehwan-Jamshoro road after a tip-off from an intelligence agency.

The department claimed two suicide bombers were among the five arrested. It added that the group's involvement in six terror attacks, including one on the armed forces and Data Darbar, had been traced.

In another raid in April, at least four suspected terrorists were killed by the CTD during an IBO in Balochistan's Kachi district.

16 criminals held; drugs, weapons seized

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Wednesday to have arrested 16 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during last 24 hours.

According to police, raiding teams nabbed one proclaimed offender and 9 drug pushers and recovered 7.1 kg hashish and 87 liters liquor from their possession. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 6 persons and recovered 5 pistols, one rifle and a number of bullets from them. Further investigation was underway. — APP

Long Eid holidays will slowdown economic growth: President FCCI

Commenting on the six official holidays announced by the Government of Pakistan, he said that six days closure will cause at least Rs. 60 billion loss to the Faisalabad economy in addition to delaying the dispatch of export consignments

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Pakistan cannot afford long holidays with limited working hours as it will further slowdown the growth of the national economy, said Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Commenting on the six official holidays announced by the Government of Pakistan, he said that six days closure will cause at

least Rs. 60 billion loss to the Faisalabad economy in addition to delaying the dispatch of export consignments and having negative impact on the social life of the daily wage earners. He said that our economy was already experiencing negative growth and long holidays will further complicate our socio-economic problems. He said that three holidays are more than enough and hence the Government must reconsider its decision and re-notify Eid holidays only

for three Eid days.

FCCI hold online meeting

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) had a zoom meeting with Chaudhry Muhammad Tariq Member Inland Revenue. This meeting was exclusively held to discuss the budget proposals

presented by the FCCI for the year 2021-22. President FCCI Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed said that comprehensive proposals have been formulated on the pattern recommended by the finance ministry. He said that the ultimate objective of these proposals

is to facilitate the business community. He said that is our joint effort to enhance the tax net by creating maximum facilities for the business community. Mr. Asad Malkana Tax Consultant explicitly explained the technical rationales of the budget proposals and hoped that FCCI has presented best proposals in consultation with the concerned stakeholders. "These proposals have potential to be incorporated in the next federal budget", he opined.

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PTI govt pursuing policy of composite development: CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the PTI government is pursuing the policy of composite development and the journey of development will be expedited to ensure that the rights of any city were not compromised. He was talking to various parliamentarians who called on him at CM office. The CM said that proposals of the parliamentarians were given importance in the formation of district development package. Punjab was leading other provinces in every respect, he said adding the government would complete its constitutional tenure and general elections would be held in 2023. — APP



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan chairs meeting to review progress on development projects in Merged Tribal Districts. — DNA

PTI govt exposes Indian brutal activities in IIOJK: Afridi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Shehryar Khan Afridi on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), government has exposed Indian forces brutal activities against the innocent Kashmiri people. Prime Minister Imran Khan has raised the plight of Kashmiri people at all international forums, he said while talking to a private television channel. Imran Khan has very clear policy and the incumbent government would never compromise on the issue of Kash-



mir with India he added. "We will take all decisions in the larger interest of this

country," he said. Pakistan has learned a lot from Afghanistan, he said adding

that we will not repeat the mistake in future. The government will continue to play its role for peace and tranquility of the region, he stated. Replying to a question, Shehryar Khan Afridi said that Pakistan has good relations with Arab countries and every country had its own policy and limitation, he added.

To another question, he said the present leadership had demanded the world community to resolve the issue of Kashmir with India without further delay. He said the people of IIOJK should be given due rights as mentioned in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Education ministry to decide on students' exams after Eidul Fitr

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Education Minister will take the final decision for holding exams of students enrolled in different grades after the Eid festival. An inter-provincial session of education ministers was chaired by Federal Education Minister Shafiqat Mahmood via video link Wednesday in order to discuss the strategy for conducting exams of schools, colleges and A-level students. It has been decided to conduct exams of 10th Class and 12th first, whereas, the decision for the examinations of the students of Class

9th and 11th will be taken in accordance with the Covid-19 situation, sources said.

A recommendation was tabled to conduct exams of only optional subjects to shorten the examination process. The provinces will issue exam schedule of Class 10th and 12th at the earliest, whereas, A-level exams will be held in accordance with the schedule, sources added. Earlier on May 2, Federal Education Minister Shafiqat had said that it is impossible to award grades among student without holding exams as the authorities witnessed irregularities in the grading system after deciding to promote the students.

DC Faisalabad inspects Corona SOPs implementation

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali visited vegetable Market GM abad and inspected the bidding process of vegetables. He visited various sheds and checked the bidding procedure and also checked the record of supply of vegetables and fruits. He urged the Assistant commissioners to be present during the bidding process in the vegetable markets and ensure that the fruits of reduction in quotas are reaped by the common man. He also reviewed the cleanliness situation in the vegetable markets while directed to implementation of

Corona SOPs in letter and spirit. He checked the security arrangements in the vegetable market and directed to make them more strengthened. Earlier the meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Anti Dengue was held at DC office which was presided by DC Muhammad Ali. ADCG Khuram Pervaiz, DHO Dr. Bilal Ahmad, District Coordinator Epidemics Control Dr. Zulqarnain and other officers from different departments attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner directed the departments to gear up the surveillance against dengue and collective efforts were required to stop the breeding of larvae in this regard.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali inspecting the compliance on Corona SOPs in different areas. — DNA

Mazari for consensus on issue of Al-Quds

Pakistan is unique as it is the only non-Arab country which participated in two Arab Israeli wars on the side of our Arab brothers, the 1967 and the 1973 wars in which Pakistani pilots fought with Jordan and Syria respectively and even shot down Israeli planes

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr Shireen Mazari on Wednesday urged Muslim countries to play their role in developing a consensus on the issue of Al-Quds.

She said this while talking in a ceremony held under the auspices of National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad. The day was observed to commemorate International Al-Quds day to echo the muslims commitment to the sacred cause of Palestine and to express solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian brethren.

She added that Pakistan and Iran share the same common perspective on Palestine as we oppose any

attempt at undermining the just cause of the people of Palestine and we remain committed to the formation of an independent Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital as enshrined in the United Nations resolutions. Pakistan is unique as it is the only non-Arab country which participated in two Arab Israeli wars on the side of our Arab brothers, the 1967 and the 1973 wars in which Pakistani pilots fought with Jordan and Syria respectively and even shot down Israeli planes. In 1974, at the OIC Summit in Lahore, PLO was recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. And even today, Palestinian military personnel are being trained in Pakistani institutions. In every cause, there is always a

choice and the choice is either to surrender or to struggle. In the cause of Palestine today, some have chosen to surrender to brute force and recognize Israel as it represses the people of Palestine. This undermines all United Nations resolutions. For Pakistan, which has a principal stance on Kashmir as well, Palestine is a sacred cause and surrender is not an option. Pakistan is therefore committed to supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people till the achievement of their goals. In these times of the Corona virus and in the context of the human siege of Palestine and Gaza we affirm our solidarity with the people of Palestine and we feel that our solidarity with the heroic people of

Palestine must be supported and sustained, she added. Dr Mazari said OIC had not been effectively supporting the freedom movements in Kashmir and Palestine. Earlier this year Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Said, The defining situation in Palestine is "exactly the same situation" in Indian-administrated Kashmir, Pakistan's prime minister said Wednesday, stressing that his country cannot recognize Israel and what Israel has done to Palestine. In an interview with a Turkish television station, Imran Khan said there are two reasons why Pakistan cannot recognize Israel. "The situation in Kashmir is exactly the same situation in Palestine.

If we recognize Israel's takeover of Palestine territories, then we also have to recognize what India has done in Kashmir, so we completely lose moral standing," he said. On the second reason, which he prefaced with "much more importantly," he recalled Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan's policy regarding the issue, who said that unless injustice done to the people of Palestine is removed and unless the people of Palestine are given their homeland, Pakistan cannot recognize Israel. Responding to a question on Islamophobia in the West, Khan said there are Western leaders who have exacerbated Islamophobia since they do not understand how Muslims feel about Prophet Muhammad and the Holy Quran.

Three robbers held with booty

FAISALABAD: Madina Town police claimed on Wednesday to have arrested three dacoits and recovered illicit weapons and looted items from their possession.

On a tip-off, the police conducted a raid in Chak No.208-RB and arrested three outlaws identified as Subhan, Haidar Ali and Abdur Rehman who were wanted by Madina Town, People's Colony and other police stations in a number dacoity, robbery and other cases. The police recovered illegal weapons, mobile phones, cash and other looted items from their possession.

Five die of coronavirus
As many as five patients died of COVID-19 in the district, while 168 people tested positive during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Health department said on Wednesday that 1,060 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 2,201 while 16,213 patients have so far recovered from the disease. He said that 334 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 133 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COVID-19 patients. At present, 252 patients were under treatment at the Allied Hospital, 93 at DHQ Hospital and 78 were admitted to General Hospital. — APP

DC visits vegetable, fruit market

MAHBOOB AHIR

SARGODHA: Deputy Commissioner Naila Bagir on Wednesday directed the officers of the market committee to pay special attention on demand and supply in the vegetable and fruit markets. Ensure availability of sufficient quantity of standard vegetable, timely price lists should be issued and process of bidding should be completed in a transparent manner, she issued these instructions during a visit to the vegetable and fruit market.

Body found
The body of a man was found from a deserted place in Jhawariyan police limits on Wednesday. A police spokesman said passersby witnessed the body near Lak Morr and informed the police. The police reached the spot and sent it to a mortuary for post-mortem. The man was identified as Abdul Hafeez, 60, of Sada Kamboh village.

31,750 subsidized flour bags sold out in day

FAISALABAD: As many as 31,750 flour bags were sold out at a subsidized price of Rs 375 per 10 kg in 19 Ramadan Bazaars set up across the district on Wednesday.

According to official sources, 1,462 bags were sold out in Akbar Chowk Gulistan Colony Ramadan bazaar, 1,204 in Jinnah colony, 1,440 in Faizan-e-Madina Chowk, 1,972 in Fawara Chowk, 2,064 in Iron Market, 4,496 in Kaleem Shaheed Park, 912 in Millat road, 832 in model bazaar Millat Road, 1,520 in Riaz Shahid Chowk, and 3,832 in Model Bazar Jhang road, 872 bags in Sir Syed Town factory, 912 in Thikri-wala, 1424 in Dijkot, 1520 in Ramadan Bazaar Jarranwala Adda Khurrianwala, 2128 in Masjid Bazar Jarranwala, 490 in Pull Seim Mamoon Kanjan, 1,326 in Quaid-e-Azam Road, tandlianwala, 1,976 in Gojra Road Samundri and 1,368 bags were sold out in Chinoti Road near Jinnah park Chak Jhumra. — APP

PFA imposes fines on 263 food points

LAHORE: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) food safety teams carried out inspection and imposed fines on 263 food points over non-compliance with SOPs, on Wednesday. PFA Director General Razaqat Ali Nissoana said that 1755 sweets points had been inspected in difference areas of the province and 459 points were served with warning notices over minor violations. He added food safety teams have discarded 2578 rotten eggs, 1430 litre drinks, 645 litre substandard oil, 100kg unwholesome sweets and loose colors. In Lahore zone 601, Rawalpindi 595, Multan 360 and in Muzaffargarh 199 production units had been inspected by PFA teams. — APP

Briefs

Vaccine being administered to everyone

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Corona vaccine is being administered to all those coming to vaccination centers and every possible facility is being provided to them. Incharge Corona Vaccination Dr. Kashif said this while talking to the journalist. He said that at present four vaccination centers had been established at Danish Jan, Pindigheb, Attock and Hasanabdal and soon two more centers will be established at Fatehjang and Hazro. Dr Kashif while giving details said that so far 2497 front line health workers have been administered first dose and 1249 health workers have been administered second dose. While giving details of the corona vaccine administered to general public he said that so far 32449 persons got themselves registered from across the district and vaccine has been administered to 21427 individuals. While giving details of the vaccination done he said that so far 15315 persons above sixty years of age have been registered and vaccine has been administered 13487, 10257 persons ageing between 50 and 60 years were registered and vaccine has been administered to 4698 persons. Dr. Kashif said that 6877 persons ageing between 40 to 50 years have been registered and vaccine has been administered to 745 individuals.

Covid-19 Vaccination to cops begins

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police have started campaign to vaccinate the police officials and cops to contain the coronavirus pandemic. As many as 100 police officers and cops has been vaccinated here on Wednesday, informed a police spokesman. The cops were given corona vaccine doses at Police Lines Headquarters. The COVID-19 doses are being administered to cops and police officers on directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas. He added some 200 police officers and officials are being given the doses on daily basis. He said all the cops aged 40 to 50 years old would be able to get COVID-19 vaccine after registration with the department. He said so far 4 policemen have embraced shahadat while fighting against coronavirus whereas many others affected with the lethal virus. - APP

Metro bus service being upgraded

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Vice Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority Malik Abid Hussain, said that the government was considering a comprehensive strategy to use the Punjab Metro bus stations and their corridors to increase the revenue of the bus authority. He said this while inspecting the decorative work on the sides of Murree Road and Metro Pillars. In this regard, he said, various options are being considered to use Rawalpindi / Islamabad, Lahore and Multan metro bus stations and their corridors for business purposes. The Chief Minister has already approved in principle the formation of a separate force for the security of the Punjab Metro Bus Service, which will save the expenditures of the Punjab government spent on security of metro bus services.

Malik Abid Hussain said that the Punjab government was considering various proposals to improve the metro bus service and make it financially self-sufficient. A number of options including making the advertising spots for national and multi-national companies and safe business activities in metro bus stations and corridors are being considered, he added.

Dr. Sania speaks to all DCs of Balochistan

Dr. Nishtar outlined details of multisector Ehsaas programmes specifically conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes being executed in Balochistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Dr. Sania Nishtar along with senior officials convened Ehsaas briefing with Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of Balochistan on Wednesday. The virtual meeting was held on special invitation of Balochistan Chief Secretary aimed at to inform the district administrations of the province about the ongoing Ehsaas programmes and initiatives and to seek collaborations for making enhancements in Ehsaas payment operations. The chief secretary and Secretary BISP

also joined the briefing. Dr. Nishtar outlined details of multisector Ehsaas programmes specifically conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes being executed in Balochistan. In particular, the ongoing Ehsaas Kafaalat operations in the province were discussed in detail. It was described to DCs that all Ehsaas payment campsites arrangements in Balochistan around Ehsaas Kafaalat had been made in coordination with the provincial government. Beneficiary centered instructional communications plan for Ehsaas was also discussed in detail. Dr. Sania appreciated the cooperation of district administrations of Balochistan



in setting up specialized Ehsaas Kafaalat campsites across the province. To facilitate easy payments in remote regions of Balochistan, enhancements in Kafaalat payment operations were discussed

bilaterally. It was agreed that the number of Ehsaas campsites, BVS enabled bank branches and point of sales agents will be increased in far flung sub-Tehsils of Awaran, Sherani, Surab and Kech.

Also, a roadmap was discussed to increase the provincewide network of Ehsaas registration desks in collaboration with district administrations. Currently, Ehsaas registration desks for self-enrolment of deserving families have temporarily been closed owing to the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Aiming to serve a maximum number of households residing in geographically scattered areas of Balochistan, it was decided that the office of CS Balochistan will share the lists of new areas to open registration centers. In this regard, all administrative arrangements to set up registration centers will be made by the office of the CS Balochistan.

Since Ehsaas' digital system of payments is based on SMS service, it was raised by DCs from bordering districts of Balochistan that mobile connectivity is very low in those areas. Therefore, people are unable to receive SMS for cash withdrawals. It was agreed that Ehsaas will introduce a supplementary system for the bordering areas of the province to resolve the issue. The result oriented discussions were widely lauded by DCs. Dr. Nishtar assured full support to DCs to solve the highlighted issues in the field. To expand and upscale several Ehsaas operations across Balochistan, another meeting will be held next month.

4 more die, 19 tested positive

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: The number of coronavirus positive cases in Attock keeps escalating as 11 more tested positive on Wednesday raising the number of positive patients to 2028 while four patients lost their lives due to the virus in the district. According to health officials, those died of coronavirus included Adeel Shah, Shoukat and Hanif residents of Attock city while Gulam Sabir a native of Hazro succumbed to the virus in the district during past 24 hours. District focal person for COVID-19 Kashif Hussain has informed that among all new patients detected on Wednesday belonged to Attock city. He informed that the number of active patients in the district is 169 of which 165 were home isolated while 4 others were hospitalized. He informed that as many as eight suspected patient were also admitted in district headquarters hospital and were in critical condition. The number of suspected patients in the district raised to 32,913 while screening of as many as 36,165 persons was carried out across the district out of which 30,798 were tested negative. Responding a question, he said the results of as many as 87 suspected patients were awaited. He informed that 1,820 persons have recovered from the virus in the district so far.

HEC to curb menace of drugs in universities

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) was making all-out efforts to address the growing menace of drug usage in the universities. With an aim to provide a drug free environment at the educational institutions, the HEC was formulating new policies, the sources told media on Wednesday. They said that there was dire need for creating awareness and ensuring prevention against use of narcotics inside the universities. The Higher Education Commission, the sources added, on the directions of President of Pakistan, will constitute a committee of Vice Chancellors to develop content for a campaign to create awareness against the use of drugs. - DNA

134,339 Covid-19 vaccine shots administered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as 134,339 people have been administered jabs of anti-COVID vaccine at 24 centers across the district since March 10. Some 17,796 frontline workers and 116,543 people, including senior citizens, had received the shots so far. District Health Officer (DHO) Rawalpindi Dr. Jawad Zahid told media on Wednesday. He said the vaccination of people of 40 years and above was also being carried out at all the vaccination centers of the district. Dr. Jawad said the district health authority had registered 112 new infections during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 24,373 in the district. About 22,499 of the positive cases belonged to Rawalpindi and 1874 to other districts. The DHO said 22,031 patients had recovered, while 3,040 were suffering from the deadly illness, 1,762 of the quarantined at homes and 1,278 in isolation. "Presently 161 confirmed patients were admitted to hospitals, including 28 in Holy Family Hospital, 29 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 75 in Institute of Urology, 20 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, eight in Hearts International Hospital and one in Begum Akhtar Memorial Trust Hospital," he added. He said 32 of the patients reported during the last 24 hours belonged to Rawal Town, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Lahore.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday issued a power suspension programme for Thursday 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 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Mandra-II, Hamid Jhangi, Old Mandra, LTC, Ward No. 8, Scheme-1 Feeders, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Pandoriyan, Al-Rizwan Mill, Qadir Mill, Chakral, Sarkal, Sarkal, Megan, Sarai Alamgir, Old Exchange, Old United, I-10/1 Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM Dhudial Rural Feeders and surrounding areas.



ISLAMABAD: Religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Wednesday. The meeting focused on matters pertaining to social and regional importance. - DNA

InfraZamin Pak awarded 'AAA' Credit rating

The strong positive rating by PACRA comes as InfraZamin is gearing up to launch business operations and lends further support for InfraZamin's plans to develop the infrastructure financing market in Pakistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: InfraZamin Pakistan Limited (InfraZamin) has been assigned the highest credit ratings possible by the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA), with a long-term rating of AAA (Triple A) and short-term rating of A1+ (A One Plus). The strong positive rating by PACRA comes as InfraZamin is gearing up to launch business operations and lends further support for InfraZamin's plans to develop the infrastructure financing market in Pakistan by offering credit enhancement solutions. InfraZamin Pakistan is a commercial credit enhancement facility, developed by GuarantCo, that seeks to crowd-in funding from the local market for sustainable and socially responsible infrastructure projects in Pakistan. The facility is an initiative of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG). InfraZamin's sponsors include PIDG companies InfraCo Asia Invest-

ments (InfraCo Asia) and GuarantCo, in partnership with non-profit Karandaaz Pakistan. This will be the first-of-its-kind facility in Pakistan that seeks to provide local currency guarantee solutions and is expected to be vastly beneficial in bringing new projects and borrowers to the market. The establishment of InfraZamin benefitted from the advisory support of Capital Partners Group. InfraZamin will serve as a catalyst for greater private sector participation in long-term, local currency financing of infrastructure in Pakistan. At present, infrastructure financing in Pakistan is characterized by the dominance of commercial bank lending, underdeveloped capital markets, the public sector crowding out private sector borrowers, and a heavy reliance on external markets. InfraZamin's credit enhancement solutions are intended to address these gaps in infrastructure financing in order to provide new and improved access to basic

infrastructure, create jobs, as well as promote inclusive growth and sustainable development. Development impact, trust and additionality form the core of InfraZamin's business values along with a commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The guarantee solutions will target sectors which typically face bankability issues, and which present the opportunity to create high development impact in Pakistan. These sectors range from digital communications, to renewable energy, education, healthcare, and water and sanitation, where there is still chronic underinvestment. InfraZamin has a total of PKR 4.125 billion of equity capital from InfraCo Asia as 60% shareholder and Karandaaz as 40% shareholder. In addition to the paid-in capital, GuarantCo will provide a Contingent Capital Facility with a callable capital of up to PKR 8.125 billion. InfraZamin has the ability to leverage its capital when issuing guarantees.

IGP directs officers for record maintenance

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Qazi Jamil ur Rehman paid surprise visit to Golra police station and directed for proper maintenance of its record. He checked conditions of locks-up, front desk of police station, police record and also observed the process of dealing with public. The IGP read the content of First Information Reports (FIRs) and directed to properly maintain record of SHO office, Muharrar office, store room, record room and ensure cleanliness of wash rooms. The Islamabad police chief said that Golra police station was amongst old police stations of the capital city and asked for its renovation keeping in view cultural and traditional aspects so that visitors may also know about it. He also asked to specify separate place for parking of impounded vehicles. He met with the police officials as well as jawans, listened to their problems and gave directions to immediately resolve them. The IGP directed all police staff to adopt courteous attitude with citizens and ensure decent policing culture.

Rawalpindi to be clean & green as per PM's vision

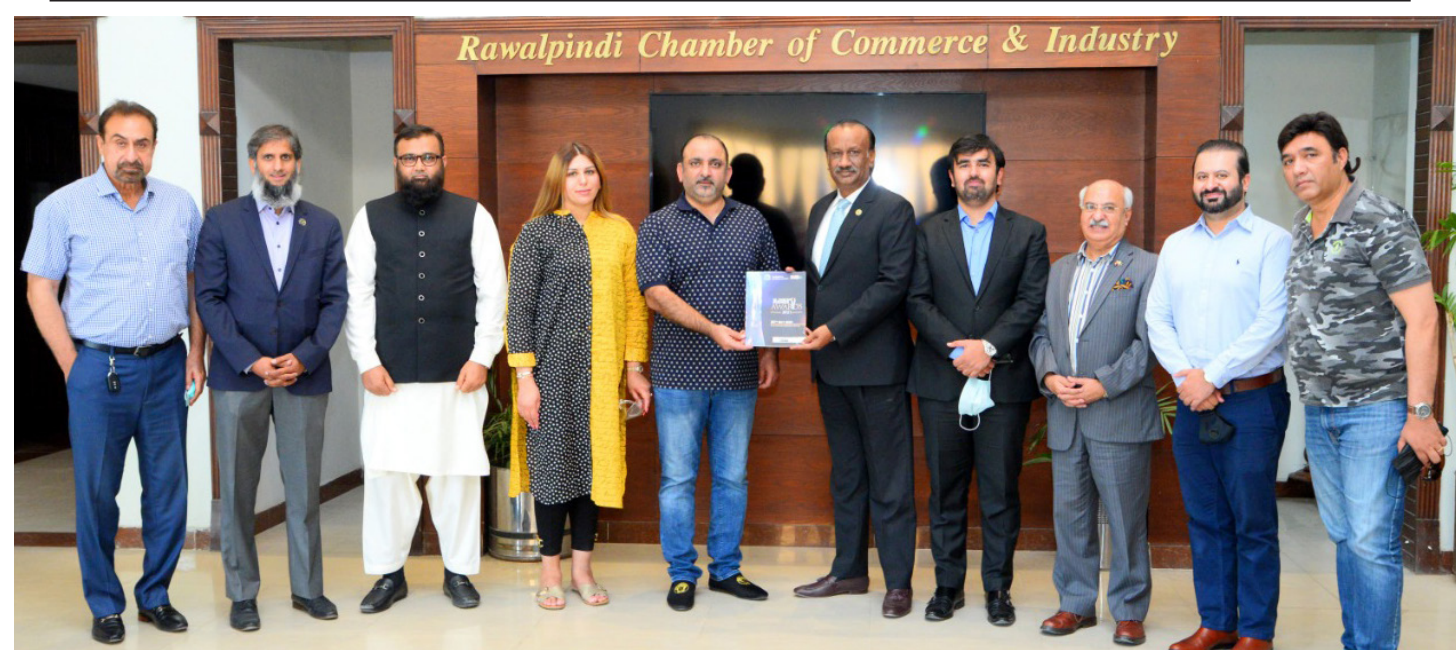
SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Col (R) Ajmal Sabir Raja said that Rawalpindi would be made clean and green city in accordance with the vision of the Prime Minister and in this regard, its citizens would see the change very soon. Ajmal Sabir said that to realize this, the Company needs cooperation and assistance of the people and the government. He expressed the resolve to provide and utilize all out available resources to meet this goal. He was talking to the President PTI Metropolitan Raja Muhammad Ali, accompanied by PTI leasers Raja Barjees Janua, Asim Kazmi and Gul Zarif Bhatti, who called on him at his office here Wednesday. The Chairman RWMC said that the opinions and proposals by the citizens were given utmost importance in cleanliness activities and added, our doors are open for the citizens and their proposals for the betterment of cleanliness condi-

tion in the city are always welcomed. He said that the Clean and Green Pakistan was the only solution to the environmental issues of the country and the sanitary workers of the Company were excellently playing their role as frontline soldiers during the prevailing Covid situation. Extending their full support to the Company in its cleanliness drive, the PTI leaders expressed satisfaction over the cleanliness condition in the city and said that the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was engaged all the times to provide all kind of facilities to the people and it was paying due importance to the cleanliness. They said that the city would be made neat and clean through cooperation with the Company. They stressed upon paying special focus on eradication of Covid and cleanliness drive at mosques and Eidgahs of the city ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. Earlier, the PTI leaders congratulated the Chairman RWMC on assuming his office and expressed their well wishes.

Govt to ensure SOPs observance

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination on Wednesday said that the government will ensure proper implementation of COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during Eid holidays. According to an official of the ministry, in this regard, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to formulate monitoring teams at the federal, provincial, and district level to ensure implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) SOPs from May 8-16. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Delegation of the UK-Pakistan Business Council led by M.Khushid Barlas, President UKPBC Pak Chapter, visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce had a very fruitful meeting with Mr. Nasir Mirza President RCCI. - DNA

Briefs

Prof Khurshid expresses grief over the demise of Ashraf Sehrai

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former senator and veteran Pakistani politician Professor Khurshid Ahmad has expressed great grief over the demise of Kashmiri separatist leader and chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Mohammad Ashraf Khan on May 5, 2021, terming it a great loss for the freedom struggle of Jammu and Kashmir. The professor expressed these views in a condolence statement issued on Wednesday. It is pertinent to mention here that the Hurriyat leader, who was popularly known as Ashraf Sehrai, was detained under the Public Safety Act in July last year. Ahmed, in his condolence message, stated that Sehrai was a front-line soldier of the Kashmir's freedom struggle since last 60 years. He was also a brave journalist and an inspirational poet and writer.

He was a close confidant of Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Gillani and worked day and night for the freedom of the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir. He prayed that may Allah Almighty bless the deceased soul for his services for Islam and freedom struggle of the Muslims of occupied Kashmir, and empower his family with patience and strength to bear the loss.

Crackdown against alm-seekers in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior-Superintendent of Police (Operations) Islamabad Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer said on Wednesday that a campaign against professional alm-seekers and their handlers was in full swing to eliminate the menace from the city. The anti-beggars squad deputed at major thoroughfares in the city has rounded up around 241 beggars including 53 handlers during the last four days, he said in a press release. The child beggars were shifted to shelter homes and protection centers for their proper upbringing and make them a responsible citizen. All the deputed personnel were asked to keep vigilant eye against beggars outside Masajid, Imambarahs as well as at markets and ensure their arrest in time. Strict action would be taken against those who force children and women to adopt the ugly business, he maintained.

20% reduction in fee of private schools lauded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parents of the students studying in the private educational institutions have welcomed the decision of the government of bounding private educational institutions in the federal capital to provide 20 percent discount in the fee charges back from April till reopening of schools and demanded implementation of the decision in true letter and spirit.

The decision of 20 percent reduction in the fee of private educational institutions charging fee above Rs 8000 was announced by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafiqat Mahmood recently in response to the demand of parents. "The decision of 20 percent fee waiver is a right and justified move since the classes were being digitally conducted for a short time period. My son is attending two hours class during which I assist and teach him more than the teacher, bought laptop and pay internet charges", Ejaz Rehman, a parent of a child studying in one of the leading private school said.

Registration of differently-abled crucial for their inclusion

"The registration will help categorization of differently-abled persons and ensure them facilities as per their disability and individual needs," she said in her address at virtual Policy Roundtable themed 'Mainstreaming Interventions to address Disabilities in the National Youth Priority Action Agenda (NYPA)'

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Alvi, the wife of President of Pakistan on Wednesday said a system of nationwide registration of differently-abled people was crucial to ensure their access to the facilities provided by the government, particularly in areas of education and health. "The registration will help categorization of differently-abled persons and ensure their facilities as per their disability and individual needs," she said in her address at virtual Policy Roundtable themed 'Mainstreaming Interventions to address Disabilities in the National Youth Priority Action Agenda (NYPA)'. Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazar, parliamentarians, experts on disability, representa-

tives of World Health Organization (WHO) and officials of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives participated via video-link.

Begum Alvi said a survey about differently-abled people being conducted under Ehsaas socio-welfare programme would complete by June, however stressed that inclusion of such persons in census was equally important for their accurate categorization. "This data can guide the government in allocating special resources for health and education facilities for differently-abled people," she added.

She said one in seven people worldwide had disability, adding that by year 2050, the population over 60 years of age would touch two billion needing physical aid. She said an estimated 15 percent of the world's



population suffered from some form of disability and according to preliminary estimates, Pakistan had the same percentage of its population with disabilities. Begum Alvi stressed the need for measures to ensure access and mobility of differently-abled people so

as to integrate them into social mainstream. She called for raising awareness through seminars and media about the loan facility offered by State Bank of Pakistan and other private banks aimed at making the differently-abled people financially independent.

She said provision of skill-based education in line with market needs and equipped with knowledge information technology could prove helpful in enabling differently-abled persons start their own businesses.

Well-being of persons with disabilities was a matter close to her heart and mentioned that she was working to create awareness about the subject, she added.

She called for national campaign run by Ministry of Information, digital media and awareness drive at school and local levels regarding availing of two percent job quota by special persons. She said private sector could play a positive role by employing differently-abled people in their respective fields according to their skills.

These jobs, she said, should not be given under welfare

but rights-based approach but be provided as per needs of the institution, individual capacity of the differently-abled person.

Begum Alvi said besides providing vocational and technical education to differently-abled people, their enrollment at mainstream educational institutions was important so that they did not feel isolated in society.

"We need to make them realize that they are second to none. They are not disabled, but differently-abled with special needs," she said, adding that they could play their part in national development if given opportunities.

She expressed confidence that holding of Roundtable would lead to formulation of an inclusive policy for differently-abled persons and lead to its implementation.

Steps afoot for youth development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Technology and Telecommunication Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui Wednesday said the government was taking special steps for the development and empowerment of the youth especially women. "Youth are our valuable asset and they can play very important role in the economic development of the country," he said in a statement.

The secretary said that Ministry of IT & Telecom through its different programs was equipping the youth with digital skills and making them able to generate substantial income through freelancing. Talking about National Freelancing Training Program (NFTP), he said the program of Ministry of IT & Telecom is aimed at to empower country's youth especially women and enabling them to work through internet based freelancing.

He noted that National Freelancing Training Program was playing important role regarding the development of the youth in the field of information technology as well as their economic prosperity. The program was also helping reducing unemployment and empowering women to work as equal to men through freelancing thus reducing disparity, he added.

ColoED disposes of 5,536 cases by April end

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (ColoED) has disposed of 5,536 cases by April 30, 2021, says monthly progress report released by Secretary (ColoED) on cases of alleged enforced disappearances for the month of April 2021.

According to the report, a total number of 7,802 cases were received by the Missing Persons Commission up to March 2021. During April 2021, some 71 more cases were received by the commission and total numbers of cases reached 7,873. The Missing Persons Commission disposed of 330 cases in April 2021 and thus total disposal of missing Persons up to April, 2021 is 5,536 and balance as on April 30, 2021 is 2,337. The Missing Persons Commission in the month of April 2021 has conducted 477 hearings, 173 in Islamabad and 304 in Quetta. Missing Persons Commission Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal, and other members have disposed of 5,536 cases up to April 30, 2021.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Shibli Faraz called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. – DNA

Exhibition of Qur'anic manuscripts concludes

The exhibition also contained 700-year-old Quranic manuscripts besides masterpieces of art works by Muhammad Azeem Iqbal

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The week-long unique and impressive exhibition of ancient Quranic manuscripts and works of Prophet (PBUH) Era, organized by Punjab Arts Council and Khaneh Farhang Iran Rawalpindi, was concluded at Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) here Wednesday with an impressive moment of heavy attendance by art lovers of ancient Islamic calligraphy.

The exhibition also contained 700-year-old Quranic manuscripts besides masterpieces of art works by renowned calligraphist Muhammad Azeem Iqbal.

Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League (Q) Zeba Naz graced the ceremony as the chief guest who visited the exhibition along with Naheed Manzoor and Director Waqar Ahmad. Addressing the closing ceremony, Zeba Naz said that the

exhibition of manuscripts of Holy Quran was a source of spiritual joy and a manifestation of the common property of Muslims. She said that promotion of mutual harmony and tolerance among Muslims was essential in the current situation and the Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi had played an important role in this regard.

Zeba Naz said that after seeing more than 50 works of calligraphic art by Muhammad Azeem Iqbal, the memory of the Prophet's era was also refreshed because this calligrapher has tried to fill his works with the same color as at that time where so many facilities were not available and the Qur'an was preserved by writing on whatever was available.

Naheed Manzoor said that seeing the exhibition refreshed the faith of a Muslim. Looking at such ancient Qur'anic manuscripts, it is clear that even then, artists were putting their talents

to good use, she added. She also appreciated the efforts of Khaneh Farhang Iran on the marvelous exhibition. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad remarked that the purpose of holding this exhibition was to honor the Holy Quran and to promote and expand the Quranic culture, concepts and to create a spiritual atmosphere for the promotion of love and affection with the Quran.

Forty-one manuscripts were displayed in this exhibition and these manuscripts were presented to the public for the first time. Most of the Qur'anic manuscripts were mostly four hundred years old and were handwritten. The calligraphy of the copies of the Holy Quran was very beautiful and some of them were decorated with gold water and other colors and some of them were also decorated with flowers. The exhibition was heavily attended by the visitors and art lovers from twin cities.

Islamabad reports lowest Covid cases in 10 days: DHO

ISLAMABAD: The capital city Wednesday reported the lowest number of new cases of Covid-19 in 10 days, health officials said. Islamabad has registered gradual decline in new cases of Covid-19. District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad Dr. Zaeem Zia has stated that 204 new cases reported in the capital territory in 24 hours, which is minimum in last 10 days. The ratio of positive cases in the city has been recorded 5.06 percent in last 24 hours. In

the said time 4,035 tests were conducted in Islamabad, the DHO stated. Five Covid-19 patients were died in the city in last 24 hours, the health official said. DHO Islamabad termed the coronavirus situation stable in Islamabad. The citizens should strictly follow the coronavirus SOPs, the official said. He advised people to avoid travel in Eid holidays. The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed 119 more lives across Pakistan during the past 24 hours. – DNA

IESCO extends bills' date

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has extended date of submission of electricity bills till May 17-18 to facilitate the consumers due to Eidul Fitr holidays. The IESCO Spokesman said that necessary directions have been issued to the all banks in the Company's region in this regard. He said the consumers could deposit their electricity bills till the extended dates without paying any surcharge. – DNA

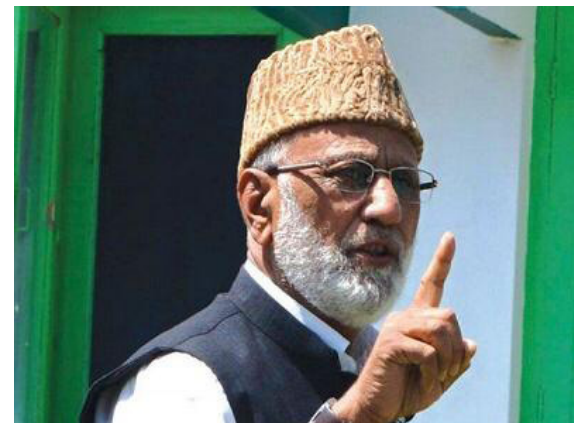
Chairman JKSM termed demise of Ashraf Sehrai cold blooded murder

While condemning the inhumane behaviour of the Indian Occupying Administration Chairman Bhat said that the Detention assassination of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman Muhammad Ashraf Sahrai is extreme cruelty of the occupying administration

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement Altaf Ahmed Bhat termed the sad demise of Chairman Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Ashraf Sehrai a cold-blooded murder by denying Health care.

While condemning the inhumane behaviour of the Indian Occupying Administration Chairman Bhat said that the Detention assassination of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman Muhammad Ashraf Sahrai is extreme cruelty of the occupying administration. The occupying administration arrested him under the Public Safety Act



(PSA) and transferred him to Adhampur Jail a year ago. Despite drawing the attention of the occupying administration to Sahrai's ill health, but instead of

providing medical care, the elderly leader was physically abused and denied access to medicine and doctors. Relatives were barred from visiting him, and even all

doors to court proceedings were closed to seek justice and possible concessions. Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat has strongly condemned the martyrdom of Ashraf Sahrai and called on all international human rights organizations to conduct an impartial inquiry into the killing of the leader. He also urged the World Community, International organizations, UN, UNSC, Human Rights Organizations to put pressure on India to release all the political leaders of Kashmir immediately as Covid-19 is spreading like wildfire in India, and the detention centres are overcrowded with no healthcare facilities.



آغوش کالج مری

(قیمتوں کے لیے مشیل آگوش اور)

کفالت تھیم ہے... جنت کا حصول بھی... رفیق رسول بھی

لاکھوں زندوں کی پاکستانوں کے ہوتے ہوئے

تم اکیلا نہیں

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Climate change education

IT was highly necessary for the government to incorporate climate change as part of the national curriculum of Pakistan; it is good to see that this is in motion now. We have remained ignorant of its impacts on our environment, health and food security for far too long. The hope with this initiative is that future generations will be informed and motivated enough to welcome a new era of sustainability that mitigates the harms of environmental degradation.

The federal government is moving in the direction of the National Climate Change Policy of 2012 which emphasised the importance of the environment as a compulsory subject matter. The merits of such reform in the educational sector are clear; awareness and positive reactive action. Only when students understand the sanctity of the earth, its atmosphere and the inner workings of each ecosystem is when they can understand the degree of damage being done to it globally. Subsequently, this mindfulness is what can transition into active effort for restoring balance, if not globally then at least nationally.

According to details released, the intention is to introduce the subject in schools and universities alike. This means that all provinces will need to come together and pool in their resources to create lesson plans for each level of schooling. Perhaps, as seniority increases, specific electives and specialties can be offered to relay technical information and expertise.

Regardless of the specifics, it is vital that the focus remains on encouraging ways to transform knowledge into actionable change that will help the country recover. Prompting a change in mindset is just the first step to a greener future. However, it is reassuring to see that the government is at least prioritising climate change as an issue that needs to be resolved.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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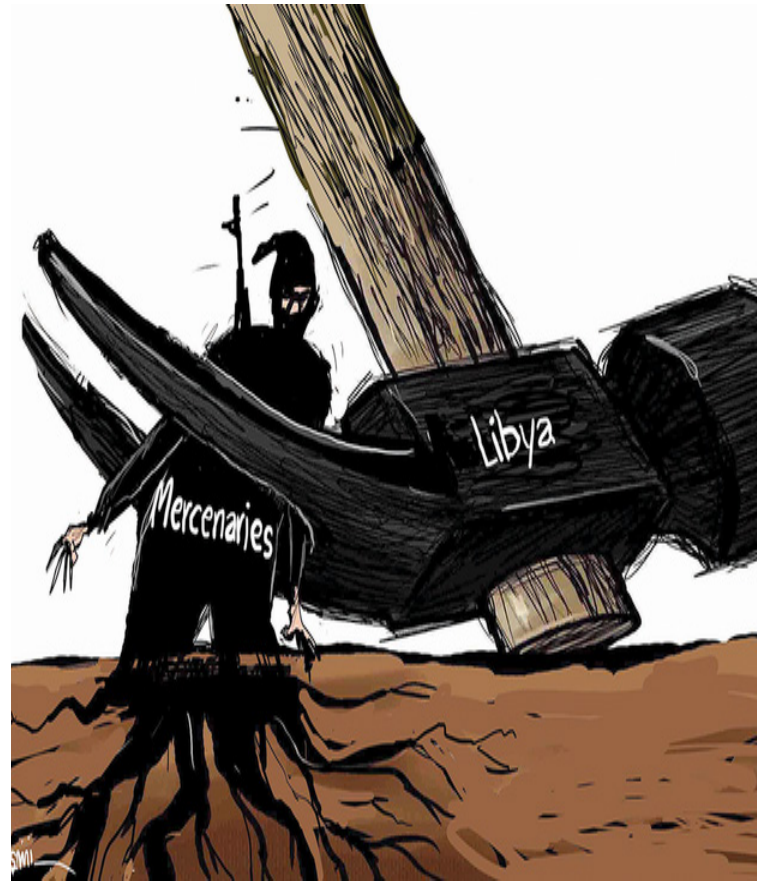
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Staying safe this Eid

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE second wave of the pandemic is sweeping across the country. While the doctors and health-care staff are diligently working to help patients recover, the virus is spreading – this is an alarming situation indeed. With the Eid al-Fitr right around the corner, people need to decide how to keep themselves safe. Eid festivities do elate us as people go shopping. However, the pandemic and the continuous deaths caused by it have certainly made the situation ever too gloomy.

In such a situation, one needs to remain cautious and protective. There is no harm in celebrating Eid by wearing an old wardrobe. There is no harm if one decides not to visit the market for shopping. Indeed, to buy essential items is necessary and one can strategically plan the visit to the market. It can be done swiftly in the morning when there are fewer people in the market. The Eid shopping, however, must be contained for the greater good.

The members of the family must think about their children and elders – parents and grandparents – who may contract the virus from them. With such an uncertain situation and a possible lockdown to be implemented, we need to be careful when planning to go out of our homes.

If it is extremely necessary to leave the house, one must wear a mask and keep sanitizing hands after every ten minutes. After returning home, they should sanitize themselves and leave their shoes out in the open for a while before spraying them with a sanitizer and then bringing them inside. Eid is an occasion that we celebrate to cherish our prayers and efforts done during Ramazan. Children enjoy Eid the most for obvious reasons. This time, parents and elders must protect themselves and their children by staying at home.

Biden's worst: Framing Turkey for Armenians 'genocide'

Munir Ahmed



Turkey has fairly acknowledged the deaths of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War-I, but has steadfastly denied that the killings were systematically orchestrated and constitute a genocide. In a statement, Turkey's foreign ministry has rejected Biden's statement as being without any "scholarly and legal basis" and said the conditions required to describe the events as a "genocide" are not met under international law

UNITED States President Joe Biden is briskly realizing his political promises made during his election campaign. No segregation, whether the promises were logical or merely politically motivated to win from the unconventional States for the Democrats. In the last two weeks, he has taken up three of his promises being termed very significant globally. The most important one is to pull out the NATO and the US troops from Afghanistan. It began this weekend without finalizing any roadmap for a sustainable solution for peace in the region. All stakeholders genuinely fear that it would lead to talibanization of Afghanistan once again. All the years-long hectic efforts go uncultivated. The question is if the pullout is being done in haste to charm the Taliban or it is a deliberate action for some hidden strategic reasons for the region? This part of the story needs to be discussed at length. Maybe next time.

The United States has returned to the Paris Agreement 2015 with an online Biden's Climate Conference on April 22-23, 2021. Indeed a rational decision that culminated with an outline for the US interventions on climate change and a roadmap to COP 26. It is much appreciated globally.

Another globally weighty step President Biden has taken is to formally recognize the mass killing of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War-I as a "genocide", a move that was immediately rejected by Turkey. Pakistan has also shown its solidarity with Turkey immediately after the US president made his decision public.

In a statement on last Saturday April 24, Biden became the first US president to formally recognize "the killings of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians" in the Ottoman Empire, which began in 1915, as an act of "genocide".

Armenians mark April 24 as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day" to remember the lives of all those who died in the Ottoman-era terming it 'genocide' and recommit themselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever

again occurring.

Biden's declaration that "the American people honour all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today." It comes amid strained ties between the US and Turkey, which had earlier warned that recognizing the killings as a genocide would further harm relations between the NATO allies. The US recognition of Armenians' 'genocide' is not a sudden decision based on an election campaign commitment. The Armenians campaigned for years to force the US and other countries around the world to recognize the killings as a genocide. In a letter written by more than 100 members of the US Congress a week before the decision was taken urged Biden to recognise the killings as genocide. It shows a political pressure was built on the US president. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has termed it "the US unwavering commitment to protecting human rights and universal values". A US-based Armenian advocacy group, The Armenian Assembly, also called it "a watershed moment in U.S. history".

Turkey has fairly acknowledged the deaths of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War-I, but has steadfastly denied that the killings were systematically orchestrated and constitute a genocide. In a statement, Turkey's foreign ministry has rejected Biden's statement as being without any "scholarly and legal basis" and said the conditions required to describe the events as a "genocide" are not met under international law.

"The nature of the events of 1915 does not change according to the current political motives of the politicians or domestic political considerations. Such an attitude serves only a vulgar distortion of history."

Framing Turkey for the Armenians "genocide" after 106 years without any scholarly research is being termed President Biden's worst decision in the first 100 days of his regime. The decision is being clearly judged as politically motivated to pressurize Turkey for his independent decision-making. Turkey has also been raising

voice against the blasphemous acts and actions of the West and the United States very bluntly for quite long now. Promoting and propagating Islamic values and traditions of the Ottoman Empire globally, and taking steps for gradual transformation of Turkey to a more Islamic environment are said to be the other reasons.

US-Turkish relations have been strained in recent years over a number of strategic issues including closing ties with Russia and China. Ankara's purchase of Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems is being considered as a big bump. Surprisingly, Biden while informing Erdogan of the planned "Armenian genocide" recognition during a phone call also conveyed his interest in building "a constructive bilateral relationship with expanded areas of cooperation and effective management of disagreements". Well conveyed.

The two presidents also agreed to hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a NATO summit in June. So, Turkey has about two months for his lobbying across the friendly and like-minded countries and to get the 'symbolic decision' reversed or its impact defused. The Muslim leadership and the independent media shall stand united against the US decision to defuse pressure that is mounting on Turkey at the moment. Indeed an urgent counter narrative needs to be developed and propagated against the US, the EU and the UN statements against the Muslim sentiments and religious prejudices. Turkey needs to have more dynamic and active ambassadors leading from the front in mobilizing political and diplomatic support from their respective stations through advocacy, media and communication interventions. I hope the Turkish embassy in Islamabad would also be more active and responsive in the days to come.

— *The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, Director Devcom-Pakistan, a policy advocacy and outreach think tank in Islamabad. His email: devcom.pakistan@gmail.com Twitter Handle: @EmmayeSyed*

Palestinians should not be denied representation

Chris Doyle



The United States and European governments were quick to voice their criticisms. The European Union described the decision as "deeply disappointing" and said a "new date for elections should be set without delay. We reiterate our call on Israel to facilitate the holding of such elections... including in East Jerusalem"

PALESTINIANS have extraordinarily little say over their own affairs. Most are in exile, more than 5 million are refugees and about 5 million live under military occupation. It is, therefore, tough for many to swallow that all three Palestinian elections scheduled for 2021 – for the legislative council, the presidency and the Palestinian National Council – have been postponed indefinitely. At best, the Palestinian Authority (PA) is no more than an enfeebled, aid-dependent entity with highly limited quasi-municipal authority. Palestinians would, in theory, only be able to elect a Palestinian president who cannot leave Ramallah unless soldiers at an Israeli checkpoint let him through. Only in March, Israel confiscated the travel pass of the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki just because he had the temerity to go to The Hague to visit the International Criminal Court. He shrugged it off when I asked him about it. "They confiscated my pass so I have to go through intrusive Israeli searches, which I had to do all my life before becoming foreign minister," he said. Which other foreign minister in the world has his pass confiscated and has to submit to full body searches?

The Israeli authorities did everything they could to thwart these elections. They refused to allow any electoral activity in East Jerusalem and even arrested Palestinian candidates for daring to hold a press conference. If anyone had any doubt about the power relationship between Israel and the PA, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dispatched the head of Shin Bet to meet President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah in March. He reportedly demanded that the elections be canceled. The Israeli government feared that elections would allow Hamas to become the largest party in the Palestinian Legislative Council. This approach merely demonstrated the colonial attitude of the occupying power – Palestinians may be allowed to vote, but only where and when the occupier permits, and only if they vote the right way. This colonial approach raises a significant question: Given Israel's almost complete control over the Occupied Territories, what is the point of having Palestinian elections?

Critics are also right to point out that delaying the elections suits Abbas and Fatah. Last week's move was self-serving and widely interpreted as an attempt to

hold on to the little power they have. With this, Abbas and Netanyahu share at least one thing in common – a dogged determination to remain in office.

As in 2006, Fatah is massively divided. This time, the party had three competing lists running for the legislative council and even competing candidates for the presidential election, which was scheduled for July. Marwan Barghouti was strongly rumored to be considering running against Abbas, even as he remains in an Israeli jail. Polls indicated he would win handsomely. The postponement harms the Palestinian national movement and, despite its leaders' protests, will not necessarily displease Hamas, which can continue to act as the warden of the prison that is Gaza. The renewal of the Palestinian leadership is an integral part of ensuring legitimacy and effectiveness. It has been 15 years since the last legislative elections and Abbas has just started the 17th year of his four-year term.

The US and European governments were quick to voice their criticisms. The EU described the decision as "deeply disappointing" and said a "new date for elections should be set without delay. We reiterate our call on Israel to facilitate the holding of such elections... including in East Jerusalem." The US administration, however, refrained from even mild criticism of Israel's blocking of the election in East Jerusalem.

Criticisms from many Western governments ring rather hollow. Where were these champions of Palestinian democracy in 2006, when they refused to accept the verdict of the Palestinian electorate after Hamas had won? Notably, none stated unequivocally that they would accept the results of the 2021 vote. There are many valid reasons not to approve of Hamas, including its attacks on civilians and its regressive politics, but democracy is about respecting the result.

The US government also made it clear that it opposed any candidates who did not recognize the state of Israel or who supported terrorist activity. Imagine if the US government had opposed Israeli candidates in Israeli elections who opposed a Palestinian state or who backed war crimes, including settlement building. Moreover, when the Israeli government refused to budge on allowing Palestinians to vote in East Jerusalem, what did the US and European governments

do? Well, they issued more statements, to add to the mountains already issued, expressing concern about Israeli actions. Israeli governments have ignored each and every one of these statements for decades, so it was no surprise that the Netanyahu government did not shift.

The reality is that the European governments in particular know perfectly well that only real and sustained pressure has a chance of working with Israel. There have been thousands of condemnations of Israeli settlement building but never any consequences. This means that European governments are, in reality, quite content with settlements, home demolitions and Palestinians being denied their freedoms. Put another way, if the EU said that its partnership with Israel would be suspended if Palestinian elections were not permitted, it would shatter the complacency in the Israeli corridors of power.

However, the EU is right to call for new election dates. This should be a very brief postponement, though it is hard not to see it as an out-and-out cancellation. To thwart that, concerted efforts, including pressure on Israel, must be made to ensure that Palestinians in East Jerusalem will be allowed to participate fully in this exercise. A failure to allow this must finally trigger hard consequences.

Palestinian politics have always been vibrant if, sadly in recent times, bitterly polarized. In all, 93 percent of eligible Palestinians registered to vote. But Palestinians need the space and the avenues to debate their future as part of the process of their liberation and self-determination. Right now, with the prospects of negotiations so slim and the occupation at full throttle, a reinvented strategy is crucial. Israeli leaders, not least Netanyahu, have relished the Palestinian political divisions and done everything to encourage them, knowing full well this weakens their hand. What would truly scare the Israeli leadership would be a Palestinian counterpart with a full and legitimate political mandate to demand its people's national and individual rights. This should not be postponed.

Above all, proper, fair and full Palestinian elections are a Palestinian requirement and aspiration that should be realized immediately, without obstacles or interference.

— *Courtesy: Arab News*

Briefs

Shamsi wishes to play PSL

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: South Africa's left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi has expressed his wish to play Pakistan Super League (PSL). In an interview with PakPassion.net, the No.1 ranked T20I bowler Shamsi when asked if he wanted to play Pakistan's biggest cricket extravaganza, he replied "Yes definitely". Tabraiz revealed that after playing Caribbean Premier League (CPL), domestic teams in South Africa started to take him seriously. "I've been fortunate enough to play in the Caribbean Premier League and it was after I went to the CPL and did well that domestic teams in South Africa started to take me seriously and giving me regular game time and then I got picked for the national team after playing CPL and IPL," he said. Shamsi also turned down the notion that players go to play in franchise leagues for money. "I find that it has helped my game quite a lot playing in the CPL, IPL and English County Cricket. People see it as a money thing and say that the players are participating in these tournaments for greed. Personally speaking, of course you do earn a bit of money but what is most important are the things that you learn from the people who are not really in your circle," he maintained. It must be noted that Shamsi has played two Tests, 24 ODI and 32 T20Is for South Africa. He has claimed 64 wickets overall.

4 FC soldiers martyred..

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The martyrs included Havalidar Noor Zaman, Sepoy Shakeel Abbas, Sepoy Ehsan Ullah and Naik Sultan. The fence barrier it is building on the Durand Line, the 2,640km land border between Afghanistan and Pakistan that passes through rugged mountains, densely forested valleys and narrow rock passages, is nearing completion.

Islamabad started fencing its porous border with Afghanistan in March 2017, after facing a spate of deadly attacks from Afghanistan-based militant groups in the previous year. Despite a slow-performing economy, disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and a volatile security environment, the work on the border continued mostly uninterrupted in the last four years. So far, 90 percent of the border has been fenced, and the remaining work is expected to be completed soon. The border barrier consists of two sets of chain-link fences, separated by a 2-metre space filled with concertina wire coils. The double-fence, which is 3.6 metres high on the Pakistani side and 4 metres high on the Afghan side, is fitted with surveillance cameras and infrared detectors. Meanwhile, Security forces conducted IBO in Dosalli, North Waziristan on reported presence of terrorists. 2 terrorists killed. In exchange of fire an officer Capt Faheem and two soldiers Sepoy Shafi and sepoy Naseem embraced shahadat

PM directs embassies...

From Page 01

"The Government of Pakistan attaches high importance to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis. Overseas Pakistanis are our greatest asset. Their role in national development is indispensable," the spokesperson said. There is zero tolerance, whatsoever, for any lapse in service delivery, he said. "Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi oversees the working of all our diplomatic missions himself, particularly with regards to the services being provided to the Pakistani community," the spokesperson said. "In this regard, Pakistan's missions all across the world have standing instructions to extend maximum facilitation to the Pakistani community in their respective jurisdictions," he said. As regards the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh, Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed an inquiry.

Turkey shows concern over Bosnian territorial integrity

Recent reports claimed that Slovenian PM Janez Jansa sent to EU bodies in Brussels a "non-paper" suggesting changes to borders in the Western Balkans. Jansa has denied the claims. Cavusoglu stressed that projects that unite the countries of the region

FOREIGN DESK

SARAJEVO: Turkey's foreign minister on Wednesday expressed deep concern over a document questioning the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. "A document that no one supports should not be popularized. From the very beginning, Turkey has strongly supported the political unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and will continue to do so in the future," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a joint news conference with his Bosnian counterpart Biser Turkovic in the capital Sarajevo. Cavusoglu said any document which questions the country's territorial integrity is "very dangerous" for both the Balkans and Europe at large. Recent reports claimed that Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa sent to EU bodies in Brussels a "non-paper" suggesting changes to borders in the Western Balkans. Jansa has denied the claims. Cavusoglu stressed that projects that unite the countries of the region - not separate



them - should be the focus. "Turkey places importance on this Sarajevo-Belgrade highway, a project for stability in the region, and we will continue to support this project in all ways," said Cavusoglu. In 2018, Turkish firm Tasyapi signed

a contract with the Serbian government to build the landmark roadway. Cavusoglu added that they were also pleased with the holding of elections in Mostar last December, the first in the historic city in 12 years. Cavusoglu also invited Turkovic to the meeting of the foreign ministers of Southeastern European countries and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum this June, both in the famed Turkish resort city.

At the press conference, Turkovic said: "Turkey plays a constructive and stabilizing role in the region. Turkey not only supports the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina but also supports our European Union membership (bid)."

Turkovic stressed that strong relations with Turkey will strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina and it is in the interest of all people living in the country. She added that Turkey is the most important ally backing Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the NATO alliance. Cavusoglu later met with Milorad Dodik, chairman of the country's Presidential Council, and its other members as well as Prime Minister Zoran Tegeltija.



MANCHESTER: Players of Manchester City and PSG vying during Champions League semi-final match. - DNA

KSA releases detailed images of Maqam Ibrahim

DNA

MECCA: Saudi Arabia released never-before-seen detailed images of the Maqam Ibrahim, or the Station of Abraham, located in Mecca's Grand Mosque.

The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques captured the details of the Station of Abraham with a new technique that uses stacked panoramic focus.

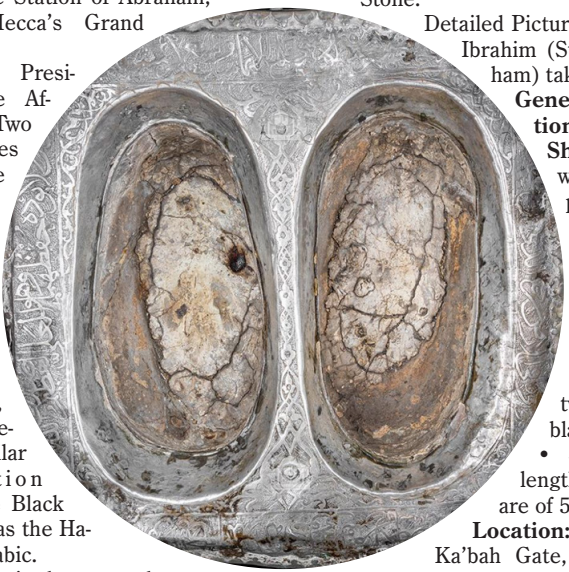
A day earlier, authorities released similar high-definition pictures of the Black Stone - known as the Harjar Aswad in Arabic. Maqam Ibrahim is the stone that bears the imprint of where the Prophet Ibrahim stood while building the Kaaba when the walls became too high. The stone is enshrined with a gold, silver,

and glass frame to preserve the prophet's footprints. Muslims believe that the stone in which the footprints are imprinted descended directly from heaven along with the famous Black Stone.

Detailed Pictures of Maqam e Ibrahim (Station of Abraham) taken recently.

General information:

- Shape:** a square, with the footprints of the Prophet Ibrahim - peace be upon him - which are two oval pits in the middle.
- Color:** between white, black and yellow.
- Size:** Wwidth, length and height are of 50 cm.
- Location:** In front of the Ka'bah Gate, 10-11 meters east of the Kaaba, in the part leading to Safa and Marwah.
- The archaeological stone upon which Ibrahim - upon him be peace - stood was built when building the Holy Ka'bah



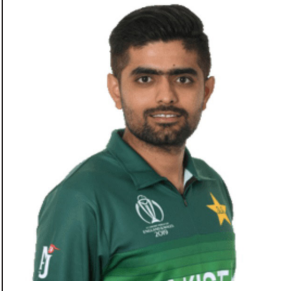
NZ slams China for 'HR abuses'

WEB DESK

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's parliament on Wednesday termed China's treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang province as "severe human rights abuses." All parties supported the motion that was tabled by ACT Party deputy leader Brooke van Velden. It was allowed for debate after dropping the word "genocide" from the text following an objection from the ruling Labour Party. "Our conscience requires that we support this motion, we know that a genocide is taking place ... genocide does not require a war, it does not need to be sudden, it can be slow and deliberate and that is what is happening here," Velden said. Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said that while the government has not described the treatment of the Uyghurs as genocide, it has directly addressed their concerns about the situation with the Chinese government.

Babar Azam, Fakhar nominated for ICC Player of the Month

DNA



KARACHI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman are nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for April following their brilliant performance in the limited-overs series against South Africa. The ICC on Wednesday announced the nominees to recognise the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket. Besides the Pakistan duo, Nepal batsman Khushal Bhurtel was the

other player to be nominated in the men's category. In the month of April, Babar became the No.1 ranked batsman in the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings, ending India captain Virat Kohli's long reign at the top of the charts. Babar's match-winning 82-ball 94 in the third ODI against South Africa helped him gain 13 rating points to reach a career-best 865 points. He also contributed 122 from 59 balls in Pakistan's successful chase in the third match of a T20I series against the same opposition.

Hasan, Fawad achieve best Test rankings

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali and batsman Fawad Alam have achieved career-best rankings in Tests after their brilliant individual performances in the first Zimbabwe Test. The 27-year-old Hasan, who picked nine wickets, gained 15 slots and reached a career-best 20th position among bowlers. Meanwhile, Shaheen Shah Afridi reached to 31st, left-arm spinner Nauman Ali jumped to 54th from 66th. On the other hand, the 35-year-old Fawad moved up to 31 places to a career-best 47th position after he smacked 140 in the first innings of the Test. Opener Abid Ali is up six places to 78th position. Pakistan captain Babar Azam received a shocker after he dropped down 3 places to number 9th rank. Remember, he was dismissed for a golden duck, his first of Test career.

EU concerned over state...

From Page 01

over the state of freedom of expression and the press in Pakistan. The European Union External Action (EEAS) has a regular dialogue on human rights with the Pakistani government, where the issues of freedom of expression and media are important points on the agenda. The forum also expressed concern about the recent attack on Absar Alam, a senior journalist in Pakistan. These kind of attacks threaten Pakistani citizens' rights to freedom of expression and freedom of media, and underline the importance of adequate protection of journalists and their work, said the EU. Meanwhile, the Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić urged European governments to show stronger political will to protect journalists and independent journalism in order to put a stop to the deterioration of media freedom. "Media freedom is an essential pillar of our democracies which is too often taken for granted. Respect for freedom of the media is in decline in many countries. In the last [couple of] years, we have witnessed an increase in the number of cases of violence and intimidation against journalists," she said.

'China should...

From Page 01

He said that China had made huge investment now it was time that Special Economic Zones are established here so that industries manufacture products for the export purpose. Addressing his first press conference in Islamabad after assuming the charge as finance minister, Tarin said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had been informed that Pakistan didn't currently have the capacity to raise its tariffs or taxes under the IMF programme, adding that the World Bank and IMF had been sympathetic to the point of view. Tarin added: "Pakistan has not yet come out of the IMF programme, we have discussed with them and told them that our revenues were increasing at 92 per cent but the third wave of Covid came and they decreased after that."

"At this time, we don't have the capacity to increase tariffs or [adopt] incremental taxes, our common man is completely fed up of this inflation," he said, adding that this had a cascading effect and inflation would increase once fuel charges were increased. He added that this stance was conveyed and both the World Bank and the IMF had been very sympathetic to it. "We have to tell them that we won't come out of the IMF programme but give us some space and we will change the method. Tariff increase is not the only way to raise money." He said they were concerned that Pakistan's circular debt was increasing and there "should be some brakes" and stability in it. Tarin added that the government would prove that through various measures, but it didn't mean that it would increase tariffs on the common person since Prime Minister Imran Khan was against it.

India's Modi slammed for Covid-19 handling

The fragile healthcare system was not upgraded enough, said Gautam Menon, a science professor at Ashoka University, "and with the current surge, we are seeing precisely the consequences of not doing this"

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India's hospitals were packed with coronavirus patients, relatives of the sick scrambled to find supplies of oxygen, and nearly full crematoriums worked feverishly to deal with the dead. Yet, despite those clear signs of an overwhelming health crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pressed ahead with a densely packed campaign rally. "I have never seen such a huge crowd before!" he roared to his supporters in West Bengal state on April 17, before key local elections. "Wherever I can see, I can only see people. I can see nothing else." As another deadly wave of COVID-19 infections was swamping India, Modi's government refused to cancel a major Hindu festival attended by millions. Cricket matches, attended by tens of thousands, carried on, too. The catastrophic surge has led to

criticism at home. The 70-year-old, whose image as a technocrat brought him deep approval from a middle class weary of corruption and bureaucratic dysfunction, has been accused of stifling dissent and choosing politics over public health. Journalist Elizabeth Puranam, reporting from New Delhi, said the government is facing a lot of criticism from courts around the country. "The Delhi High Court told the government that it is living in an ivory tower while people die from a lack of oxygen," she said. Modi was also called a "super-spreader" by the vice president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr Navjot Dahiya. With deaths mounting and a touted vaccine rollout faltering badly, Modi has pushed much of the responsibility for fighting the virus onto poorly equipped and unprepared state governments and even onto patients themselves, critics say. "It is a crime against humanity,"

author and activist Arundhati Roy said of Modi's handling of the virus. "Foreign governments are rushing to help. But as long as decision-making remains with Modi, who has shown himself to be incapable of working with experts or looking beyond securing narrow political gain, it will be like pouring aid into a sieve." When the official COVID-19 death toll crossed 200,000 - a number experts say is a severe undercount - Modi was silent. His government says it is on a "war footing," ramping up hospital capacity, supplies of oxygen and drugs. "The present COVID pandemic is a once-in-a-century crisis," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar told The Associated Press. "All efforts are being made to overcome the situation by the central government in close coordination with the state governments and society at large." When Modi won national elections in 2014, he presented himself as

someone who could unlock economic growth by merging business-friendly policies with a Hindu nationalist ideology. Critics saw him as craving power over the national welfare and catering to his Hindu nationalist base. They blamed him - although courts exonerated him - in the bloody 2002 anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat state, where he was its chief minister. The economy tumbled after his government overhauled India's cash supply and introduced a goods and services tax. Yet he easily won reelection in 2019 on a wave of nationalism following clashes with archrival Pakistan. Despite a second term marred by a souring economy, widening social strife, and deadly clashes with neighbouring China, "Modi has proven to be incredibly politically resilient," said Milan Vaishnav, the director of the South Asia programme at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. When the coronavirus hit,

Vaishnav said Modi took an approach different from former US President Donald Trump and current Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. "He never called the virus a hoax. He took it seriously. He encouraged mask-wearing, social distancing. He encouraged the sorts of things health authorities everywhere have been calling for," he added. A strict nationwide lockdown last year, imposed on four hours' notice, stranded tens of millions of migrant workers who were left jobless and fled to villages with many dying along the way. But experts say the decision helped contain the virus and bought time for the government. Cases rose when the country started reopening in June 2020, and the government developed emergency infrastructure plans. When the wave receded and reported cases plummeted over the winter, many officials saw it as a triumph.

Briefs

One killed in Israeli attack

FOREIGN DESK

DAMASCUS: Syrian air defences have intercepted an Israeli attack on several areas in northwest Syria, including the port city of Latakia along the Mediterranean coast, killing one person and wounding six, Syrian state media said. The Israeli dawn attack on Wednesday also hit the town of Hifa, east of Latakia, and Masyaf in Hama province. An unnamed military source was quoted by SANA news agency as saying that the attack took place at 2:18am targeting southwest Latakia and other "coastal areas". "Our air defense units confronted the aggression's missiles and dropped some of them," he said. Earlier, state media had reported explosions near Latakia, which were heard by residents across the city and its outskirts. According to state media reports, a civilian plastics factory was hit in Latakia city, causing material damage. Those wounded in the attack were all civilians, and among them was a woman and her son, SANA reported. Latakia is a Syrian government stronghold and is the ancestral home of President Bashar al-Assad.

UNDP to support reconstruction of Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will support the reconstruction work in Azerbaijan's liberated territories, UNDP Resident Representative in Azerbaijan Alessandro Fracassetti has said. During the meeting with Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov, Fracassetti noted the effective cooperation between UNDP and Azerbaijan in a number of areas. Speaking about Azerbaijan's effective cooperation with various specialized UN structures, Jabbarov noted that a number of documents have been signed and joint projects have been implemented. The minister recalled the signing of the framework document on cooperation in the field of sustainable development for 2021-2025 between the UN and the Azerbaijani government on March 1, 2021. Jabbarov underlined that the document is aimed to contribute to the socio-economic reforms in the country, achievement of development goals in accordance with national priorities, and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Belarusians file criminal case against Lukashenko

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: Ten Belarusians have asked Germany's federal prosecutor to open a criminal investigation against President Alexander Lukashenko and Belarusian security officers for alleged crimes against humanity during a crackdown on anti-government protests. Lawyers who brought the case for the 10 people, who are now living across Europe, cited universal jurisdiction laws that allow countries to prosecute crimes against humanity, including war crimes and genocide, regardless of where they were committed. Germany has been particularly active in pursuing such cases linked to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government. The lawyers said their clients had documented more than 100 examples of "violence, systematic torture and other abuses" during the Belarusian government's crackdown on protests, which broke out after Lukashenko won a presidential election last August that the opposition claims was rigged. "The incumbent government is severely oppressing its own population with a crackdown including arbitrary arrests, politically motivated criminal persecution and other forms of repression," they added.

Biden urged to extend scope of duty free market access Bill

There must be an incentive package for Pakistan in this bill for being a front-line state in combating terrorism with the US he added. He said Pakistan suffered colossal irreparable economic losses running in trillions of dollars in war on terrorism in the region

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pak-US Business Council Wednesday vehemently urged US President Joe Biden to extend the scope of zero duty free market access US Bill to whole of Pakistan rather than specifically focusing exclusively on war torn border areas. It was stated by Iftikhar Ali Malik, founder Chairman Pak-US Business Council and President SAARC

Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today while chairing high level core committee meeting of United Business Group. Prominent among others were FPCCI Vice Presidents Muhammad Arif Yousaf Jeewa, Raja Muhammad Anwar, Adeel Siddiqui and Muhammad Nawaz. He said US Senate moved a bill "Pakistan-Afghanistan Economic Development Act" on last Friday to establish duty-free export zones along the Pak-Afghan Border. "There must be an incentive package for Paki-

stan in this bill for being a front-line state in combating terrorism with the US he added. He said Pakistan suffered colossal irreparable economic losses running in trillions of dollars in war on terrorism in the region. Iftikhar Ali Malik said it's world record that Pakistan has been hosting 2.7 million Afghan refugees for over the last four decades besides laying down the highest number human lives against war on terror. and entire world widely acknowledged Pakistan's his-

toric sacrifices. He said that whole of economic structure of Pakistan was not only fractured but badly collapsed in war against terror. He said entire business hoped that in principle under new era, Pakistan will be provided free market access to United States at zero duty and the US private sector will further enter into joint ventures in economic sphere. Iftikhar Ali Malik said what we need is expansion of the scope of new US Senate Bill to whole of territory of Pakistan and to opt the

model of joint ventures on the pattern of Egypt and some African countries to enhance trade ties with biggest economies like the US. He said Pakistan had been keen to explore potential trade concessions as it could import more US cotton in return for preferential US market access for its apparel export. Iftikhar Ali Malik said new US leadership should remove the bottlenecks in bilateral investment treaty and efforts be made on priority to better FTA and it is now imperative that US

Hamas warns Israel over occupied East Jerusalem attacks

GAZA: The armed wing of the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, has issued a warning to Israel over its attacks against Palestinian residents in occupied East Jerusalem, saying Israel will pay a "heavy price" for its actions. "The Qassam Brigades will not stand idly by in the face of attacks on the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood," Mohammed Deif, the brigades commander, said in a written statement on Tuesday night. "They will pay a heavy price if the aggression against our people in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood does not stop immediately," he said, adding they are closely following developments.

Foreign Desk



ISLAMABAD: Angela P. Aggeler, Charge d' Affaires of the United States to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin at the Finance Division. – DNA

SAARC CCI Presidium expresses sympathy with India

SHUJAT HAMZA

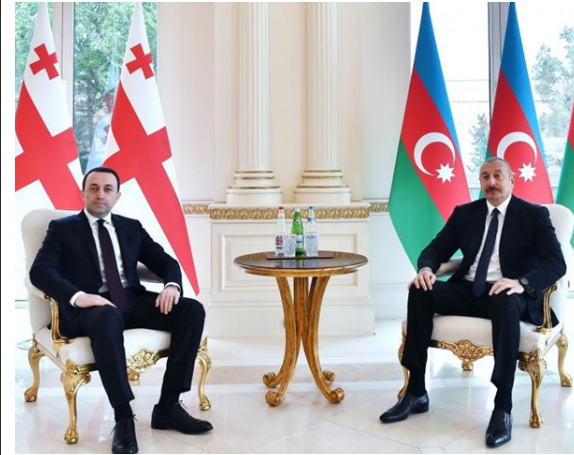
ISLAMABAD: In the wake of outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in India, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik along with Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President SAARC CCI, on Friday, extended a letter to Honorable Mr. Uday Shankar, President, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, India and expressed their solidarity with the people of India in the midst of the "destructive" second wave of Covid-19,

adding that "We stand with the people of India as they are battling with a very severe, lethal and dangerous wave of COVID-19". While the uncontrolled surge in the new Covid-19 infections each day has negatively affected the delicate framework of the country, it is not only the absence of beds and prescriptions that is worrisome. A huge deficiency of clinical oxygen is representing a more noteworthy test to the nation combating an emergency situation in the second Covid-19 wave. Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President SAARC CCI,

on behalf of Pakistan Chapter, expressed his deep concern over the serious Coronavirus outbreak in India which has brought about an extreme shortage of clinical oxygen and beds. During these unprecedented times, people of Pakistan and business community are determined to extend their help and support to India. It is high time that the South Asian countries collectively stand united against the pandemic. Given that isolation is certainly not a draw-out arrangement, the South Asian countries need to deplete the obvious vacuum in regional collabo-

ration, and understand that only multilateral endeavors and participation will have a synergetic effect. We stand next to each other with India as a companion and accomplice during what is a profoundly unsettling time in the battle against Covid-19, said President SAARC CCI. The battle against the pandemic is our common battle. South Asia stands in solidarity with India and is willing to contribute to the relief efforts being made by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, India, added Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik.

Azerbaijan among Georgia's top investors



DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has said that Azerbaijan is one of the largest investors in Georgia's economy and praised joint regional projects carried out by the two countries. Receiving the Georgian Prime Minister in Baku on May 5, Aliyev said that there is good history of implementation of joint projects, like energy projects, transportation projects and these projects have changed the map of the region, political, economic, transportation and energy map. "Without strong partnership between our countries the implementation of this project wouldn't have been possible," Aliyev said. The president also thanked the Georgian government for constant support in implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor that will take Azerbaijan's

natural gas to European markets and that was put into operation on December 31, 2020. The president stressed that Southern Gas Corridor project has a tremendous importance for general development, for stability, predictability, cooperation not only in the region of Caucasus but in a broader Eurasian region. Furthermore, he spoke about the friendly ties between the Azerbaijani and Georgian people "that are based on the long history, centuries of history of good neighborhood and friendship." In turn, Garibashvili said that the two countries have excellent relationship and our relationship counts centuries. "We are absolutely determined and motivated to continue to implement even more projects together that will strengthen our relationship and brotherhood," the PM said.



Seoul: Pakistan ambassador to South Korea Mumtaz Baloch met administrator of Cultural Heritage Administration Kim Hyun-Mo to discuss cooperation in protection of cultural heritage. Korean assistance in protection of Gandhara heritage of Pakistan also discussed. – DNA

Bill, Melinda to continue work for Foundation

DNA

NEW YORK: After shocking the world with the announcement of their divorce after 27 years of marriage, Bill and Melinda Gates said that they would continue to work together at the foundation. However, the upcoming divorce has raised questions about the future of their hugely influential charity. Here is a look at the Gates Foundation, from how it works and what projects it finances, to its impact on the pandemic and how the non-profit may be impacted by the split. **Its mission, and vast budget** The couple says the idea for the foundation came to them as young parents when they read a newspaper article about millions of children in developing countries dying

from easily treatable illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. In 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was launched to fight disease and poverty around the world. In the United States, an initial focus on providing access to computers and the internet was expanded to improving education in general. With 1,600 staff members in offices around the world, the Gates Foundation gives away roughly \$5 billion each year in areas like global public health and development. The foundation says it has spent \$54.8 billion since its inception. More than \$2 billion has gone towards fighting malaria alone with the aim of eradicating the mosquito-borne disease "within a generation." The charity has also contributed several billion dollars towards a global campaign to

end polio through the widespread immunization of children. It donated more than \$50 million during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Dozens of other programs it funds include nutrition, sanitation, maternal and newborn child health and agricultural development. **Battling the pandemic** Last year, the foundation pledged about \$250 million to help fight the pandemic, with some of the funds channelled to the distribution of life-sav-

ing doses of Covid-19 vaccines to parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The money also went to testing, personal protective equipment and support of overwhelmed health services, particularly in developing countries. **Who runs the Foundation?** Bill, 65, and Melinda, 56 are co-chairs of the charity while Warren Buffett is a trustee. The CEO is Mark Suzman. In its early years, when Bill still ran Microsoft on a daily basis, Melinda was seen as leading the foundation. In 2008, Bill moved to a part-time role at Microsoft to devote himself to the foundation. Last year, he left his board positions at Microsoft and Berkshire Hathaway for the same reason. It's hard to say which, if either of them, is more influential. In her 2019 memoir, "The

Moment of Lift", Melinda wrote that they argued over who would write the foundation's annual letter, which Bill had typically done. "I thought we were going to kill each other," she said. They have been writing it jointly since 2014. **Where does the money come from?** The Gates transferred some \$20 billion in Microsoft stock to the foundation in its early days. In 2006, Buffett announced that he would donate the bulk of his fortune to the foundation in the form of shares in his company Berkshire Hathaway. Four years later, Gates and Buffet launched the Giving Pledge initiative, which encouraged the rich to donate at least 50 per cent of their wealth to charitable causes, including the Gates Foundation.

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Facebook upholds Trump's suspension

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: A semi-autonomous oversight board for Facebook has upheld a suspension of former President Donald Trump, but orders a review to be conducted by the social media giant within six months. "The Board has upheld Facebook's decision on January 7, 2021, to restrict then-President Donald Trump's access to posting content on his Facebook page and Instagram account," the 20-person panel said in its decision. However, the board determined it was "not appropriate for Facebook to impose the indeterminate and standardless penalty of indefinite suspension", with Michael McConnell, co-chair of the panel, telling reporters "indefinite penalties of this sort, do not pass the international or American smell test for clarity, consistency, and transparency". The panel called on the company within six months to "review this matter to determine and justify a proportionate response that is consistent with the rules that are applied to other users of its platform".

Turkey develop kit to detect COVID variants

WEB DESK

IZMIR: Turkish scientists have developed a detection kit for the British, South African and Brazilian variants of the novel coronavirus. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Dr. Osman Doluca from the Izmir University of Economics said the university and local biotech company Genz Biotech decided to cooperate five months ago to develop the kit. Doluca said that in the first experiment last month, the kit successfully detected the three variants. Emphasizing the importance of determining the mutation of COVID-19 in treatment, Doluca said the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method is used to detect the virus, adding that while the test is being done, a small portion of the virus' RNA is examined. "By interpreting the PCR results with the software we developed, it is easily understood whether the sample taken from the patient is a South African or Brazilian variant, a UK variant or the first wild type variant," he added. He went on to say that during the pandemic, many biotechnology companies developed diagnostic kits. "However, the most important advantage of the detection kit we prepared is that it minimizes the risk of giving false negative results."

"Germany must never forget Nazi crimes"

DNA

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged on Wednesday to keep alive the memory of Nazi crimes committed during World War II. In an online speech to an audience in The Hague on the occasion of Dutch Liberation Day, Merkel called this remembrance "Germany's eternal responsibility." Citing the great suffering of the Dutch under Nazi occupation from 1940 to 1945, she said, "The (Nazi) crimes do not expire over time," adding that one "cannot put an end" to their legacy. Over 200,000 Dutch people lost their lives during the war, and more than 100,000 Jews were murdered in German concentration camps in The Netherlands. For decades, the suffering under World War II occupation put a strain on German-Dutch ties. The occupation of the Netherlands ended 76 years ago, on May 5, 1945. Merkel is only the second top representative of Germany ever to deliver the traditional Dutch freedom speech. The chancellor was supposed to give the speech on the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in 2020, but had to postpone it due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Briefs

Pakistan cuts international flights by 80pc

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has slashed 80 international flights in the light of National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) directives to contain the surge of the third wave of coronavirus. The restrictions will remain imposed till May 20. Following the directives of the CAA, international flights operation has been reduced to 123 weekly international flights from 590. Only 40 international flights weekly would be allowed to land at Karachi International Airport amid the COVID threat, while the earlier number was 189. Similarly, Islamabad airport will entertain 25 international flights instead of 120, Quetta airport two instead of ten flights, Faisalabad airport eight, and Multan airport will receive eight inbound flights instead of 41. Due to prevailing global and regional disease trends, Pakistan has decided to reduce inbound international travel from 5 May to 20th May. All international travelers coming to Pakistan will require to produce a mandatory negative COVID-19 PCR test that has to be taken within 72 hours of the travel date.

Complete lockdown from May 8-16 in Punjab

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The government of Punjab has decided to impose a complete lockdown in the province from May 8 to May 16, owing to the increasing number of coronavirus cases. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by the provincial health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid. During the session, the government decided that all activities will be banned in the province on the designated dates, while public transport will be suspended and all recreational spots will also remain closed. The provincial government said that checkpoints will be set up at all the entry and exit points of the city, where police, Rangers and army personnel will be deployed to monitor the situation. "In order to control the coronavirus situation in the province, the next 20 days are crucial," Dr Rashid said, adding that the government is employing efforts to curb the spread of the virus. She stressed that owing to the third wave of the virus, people should celebrate Eid ul Fitr in a simple way, adding that people should follow the government's mandated coronavirus SOPs and prove themselves to be responsible citizens.

Two Indian officials test covid positive in G7 moot

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Two members of an Indian delegation for this week's G7 London meeting have tested positive for coronavirus, throwing the future of the summit in danger. The UK government confirmed the Indians had tested positive for coronavirus after rapid tests. It's understood that the delegation members arrived from India less than 72 hours ago for the important meeting. India is not a G7 member but the UK government invited India to attend the first in-person meeting of the group's foreign ministers in two years, which is scheduled to be held in London this week. According to sources, the future of the summit is in danger as the meeting was described as "COVID-secure" and every measure had been taken to ensure that those in attendance had tested negative for the infection. There are fears that a lot more delegates could be infected and the virus could spread further.

'Indonesia survived all challenges by exercising national character'

Amb. Adam M. Tugio expressed these views during certificate distribution ceremony for participants of online internship programme organized by Embassy of Indonesia and CGSS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan has highlighted the political history of Indonesia and its gradual economic development. Furthermore, he highlighted that Indonesia has survived through all challenges by its strong nationalism, national resilience, devolution, and the true spirit of democracy. He expressed these views during a certificate distribution ceremony held for the participants of Online Internship Program, "Contemporary Dynamics of Indonesia" jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan and Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. The ambassador further said, "Prospects for 'Prospects for Strengthening Bilateral Relations between Pakistan-Indonesia'". He also His Excellency appreciated the management of the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad for their dedicated efforts in planning and organizing the Internship Program. He was of the view that this internship has familiarized the participants with the cultural, historical, and linguistic characteristics of Indonesia. It has played an important role in developing academic linkages between both countries. He was of



ISLAMABAD: Participants of online internship programme jointly organized by the CGSS and the Indonesian embassy in a picture with Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio, Vice President CGS Maj. Gen Hafiz Masroor (RTD), former Pakistan ambassador to Indonesia Sanaulah and others. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Team CGSS led by Maj. Gen Hafiz Masroor (Rtd) in a group photo with the Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio. - DNA

the view that this internship will open new avenues of cooperation. The speeches were followed by an interactive session with His Excellency Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan. The Online Internship Program was organized to facilitate the academic exchange between the two countries and to familiarize the participants with the contemporary characteristics of Indonesia. The ceremony commenced with the opening remarks of Khalid Taimur

Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies. He highlighted that students from across Pakistan participated in this program, these students were provided with an opportunity to interact with renowned experts, analysts, and academicians from Indonesia. Mr. Khalid further applauded the Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan for his efforts in enhancing connectivity between Pakistan and Indonesia through this online internship. Letters and Certificates of appreciation were also presented to the interns and organizers of the Online International Internship Program. In his concluding remarks, Maj. Gen. Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, Vice-President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. He appreciated the enthusiasm of students during the internship and suggested that these kinds of opportunities play a significant role in the professional and academic profile building of students. The event was moderated by Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. The interns who couldn't attend the ceremony due to the COVID-19 situation participated virtually.

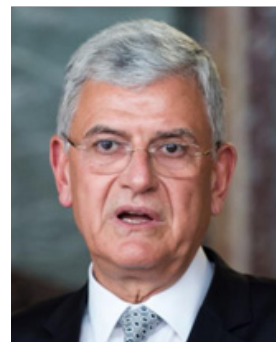
(Full coverage in the coming issue of CENTRELINE magazine)

UNGA asks for refraining from changing IJK status

General Assembly President, Volkan Bozkir said "I support dialogue and diplomacy"

DNA

NEW YORK: United Nations General Assembly President, Volkan Bozkir, while reiterating that the position of the United Nations on Jammu and Kashmir is governed by the UN Charter and applicable Security Council resolutions has stressed that the status of Jammu and Kashmir should not be changed. Addressing a news conference at the UN headquarters, he said, "I call on all parties to refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir." "I support dialogue and diplomacy, and I encourage both Pakistan and India, neighbours, to resolve this dispute through



peaceful means," he said. While answering a reporter's question about Kashmir, he said that he would repeat the statement he made last August about it at a news conference when he visited Pakistan as the president-elect. He recalled that he had said, "The position of the United Nations on Jammu

and Kashmir is governed by the UN Charter and applicable Security Council resolutions. And I also recall India and Pakistan's Simla Agreement of 1972, which states that the final status of Jammu and Kashmir is to be settled by peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter. "So there again, I mentioned that I call on all parties to refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir." Without naming India, Bozkir asked "all parties" to refrain from changing the status of Kashmir. It is a fact that Narendra Modi led fascist Indian government abrogated in 2019 the Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which granted special status to IIOJK.

Australia supports Iftar meals for street children

Pehli Kiran Schools is supporting more than 3000 out-of-school street children, especially girls, through free and quality education

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission in Islamabad joined Pehli Kiran Schools to distribute Iftar meals as well as stationery and learning materials for street children in Islamabad. The initiative aimed to support some of Pakistan's most vulnerable children. "Ramadan is a time for charity and compassion. The Australian High Commission is pleased to support these children who are in need of some of life's most basic necessities, such as food and tools for education," Australia's High Commissioner Dr Geoffrey Shaw said. Australia's investments in education help children, particularly girls, gain the skills they need to go on to further study and lead productive lives.



"Before the pandemic, 22 million school-aged children in Pakistan were missing out on an education. Added household pressure due to COVID-19 has seen more children drop out and at risk of never returning. For children enrolled in school, prolonged school closures are impacting the quality of education. To harness the talents and potential of Pakistan's

young population, ensuring education for all is vital," High Commissioner added. Pehli Kiran Schools is supporting more than 3000 out-of-school street children, especially girls, through free and quality education. The initiative focuses on helping children from marginalised communities. The founder of the Pehli Kiran Schools, Sabira Qureshi said, "The Pehli Kiran Schools have been providing quality primary education to out-of-school children for the last 25+ years. We use a unique, low-cost model, which takes the school to the community, and moves with the community if it is evicted. We thank the Australian High Commission for their support to our Pehli Kiran students and appreciate their thoughtful gesture of serving Iftar and providing learning materials."

احتیاط میں ہی حیات ہے



کورونا کی تیسری لہر انتہائی خطرناک ہے
احتیاط کا دامن ہرگز مت چھوڑیں

ہمارے ہمسایہ ملک میں کورونا کی بگڑتی صورتحال کے سبب لوگ بے بسی کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں اور ہر لمحہ اپنے پیاروں کو کھو رہے ہیں۔ ہمیں اس وبا کو شدیدگی سے لینا ہے تاکہ صورتحال کی سنگینی سے بچا جاسکے۔

اس لئے احتیاط لازمی

اسی میں آپ کی اور آپ کے پیاروں کی بھلائی ہے

مہنگی اور ہموار ماسک ہر وقت پہنیں

ہاتھوں کو بار بار صابن سے دھوئیں

کورونا ایک وباء ہے، احتیاط جس کی شفاء ہے

منسٹر آف انفارمیشن اینڈ براڈ کاسٹنگ
حکومت پاکستان

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