



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Sadiq Khan wins his second term as the Mayor of London

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Sehr & Iftar Timings

CITY	SEHR	IFTAR
ISLAMABAD	03:34 am	06:59 pm
FAISALABAD	03:43 am	06:54 pm
LAHORE	03:38 am	06:49 pm
KARACHI	04:26 am	07:07 pm
SARGODHA	03:42 am	06:57 pm

FIQA JAFARIA

CITY	SEHR	IFTAR
ISLAMABAD	03:24 am	07:09 pm
FAISALABAD	03:33 am	07:04 pm
LAHORE	03:28 am	06:59 pm
KARACHI	04:16 am	07:17 pm
SARGODHA	03:32 am	07:07 pm

Imran shows solidarity with Palestinians

– Meets secretary general of OIC; urges the organization to play its rightful role

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday met the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). According to a Prime Minister Office tweet, the Prime Minister and Secretary General discussed Pakistan-OIC collaboration on a range of issues. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan was looking forward to hosting the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. It was noted that following the Prime Minister's letter addressed to Heads of State of Muslim countries, the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Niamey had adopted a unanimous resolution on observing 15 March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The Prime Minister emphasised that it had to be a collective endeavour of the Muslim leadership to make sure that the world recognised the special love and reverence that Muslims had for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

PM performs Umrah

NEWS DESK

MAKKAH: Prime Minister Imran Khan along with delegation on Sunday performed Umrah and offered Nawafil in Holy Ka'aba. As a special respect, the doors of Ka'ba were opened for the prime minister where he, besides offering Nawafil, prayed for peace and prosperity of the country as well as the Muslim Ummah. Earlier while being in Masjid-e-Nabvi on Saturday, the prime minister was given a rare respect to visit the Sacred Prophetic Chamber, also known as Al Hujrat-un-Nabawiyat-ul-Sharifa. The Sacred Chamber was once the house (Hujra) of Hazrat Aisha (R.A). The prime minister paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (Peace be Upon Him). He and his delegation broke fast (Iftar), offered Namaz-e-Maghrib, Nawafil and prayed at the Masjid-e-Nabvi (SAW).



JEDDAH: Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife performed Umrah, on Sunday. – DNA



Briefs

Israeli apartheid shameful

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday said it was a shame that the Israeli apartheid against the Palestinian people continued. On Twitter, the president said that the atrocious attack on peaceful praying Muslims in Palestine was given the usual media spin of 'clashes'. "My brothers don't lose hope. Time is near when International Politics will be based on morality & not on vested interests," the president hoped. The Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades towards rock-hurling Palestinian youth amid growing anger over the potential eviction of Palestinians from homes on land claimed by Jewish settlers.

Truth prevailed in by election

NAZIRY SIYAL

KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday congratulated the PPP's workers and supporters after the party's candidate Qadir Khan Mandokhail emerged victorious in the NA-249 by-election, after votes were recounted. The party had much to celebrate for, as its candidate was declared the victor by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) with an even wider margin after votes were counted once again on the Opposition's insistence. "Congratulations to workers of Pakistan Peoples Party on winning NA249 Karachi. After recount we've expanded our lead to over 900+ votes. False accusations have been exposed, the truth has prevailed," tweeted the PPP chairperson. Bilawal took a shot at the government as well, saying that Karachiites "have rejected selected & placed their hopes in PPP".

MBS expected to visit Pakistan after Eid

The Crown Prince last visited Pakistan in Feb 2019



NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has accepted Prime Minister Imran Khan's invitation to visit Pakistan and it is expected he embark on an official visit to the country after Eid. PM Imran Khan is in Saudi Arabia to hold meetings with the top Saudi leadership in a bid to strengthen ties between Islamabad and Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, as per Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood

Qureshi, has committed to provide \$500 million (Rs 75.50 billion) to Pakistan from the Saudi Development Fund for development of infrastructure, water resources and hydropower projects in Pakistan. Touching upon the crown prince's upcoming visit to Pakistan, FM Qureshi said a Saudi delegation will visit Pakistan in advance after Eid to discuss the Saudi foreign minister and the crown prince's visit. The Crown Prince last visited Pakistan in February 2019. Later, in a video message Qureshi said, "The prime minister's visit is proving

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Sadiq Khan wins second term as London Mayor

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who won re-election Saturday, has risen from humble roots to spar with prime ministers and presidents since taking charge of the British capital five years ago. The 50-year-old politician from the main opposition Labour party, a former human rights lawyer brought up on a London public housing complex, won a second stint at City Hall with victory over Conservative rival Shaun Bailey. This con-



tinues a remarkable journey for the Pakistani immigrant bus driver's son, who became the first Muslim mayor

of a Western capital when initially elected in 2016. He has made a name for himself as a vocal critic of Brexit and successive Conservative prime ministers, including his mayoral predecessor Boris Johnson, as well as for a feud with former US president Donald Trump. The pair became embroiled in an extraordinary war of words, after Khan criticised Trump's controversial travel ban on people from certain Muslim countries. – APP

Malaysian envoy completes term

The business community of Pakistan especially owes a great deal to the outgoing high commissioner

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Malaysian High Commissioner Ikrum Mohammad Ibrahim is leaving Pakistan after completing his term. High Commissioner Ikrum stayed in Pakistan for three years and few months. He is scheduled to leave on May 30. The Malaysian high commissioner contributed greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations. During his term many a milestones were achieved. Pakistan's national flag carrier started direct flights from Islamabad to Kuala Lumpur. Similarly, a famous Malaysia car brand came to Pakistan thus providing the people of Pakistan with more options of having durable and efficient cars and that too at highly competitive prices. Despite covid, High Commissioner Ikrum Mohammad Ibrahim continued his efforts meant for solidification of bilateral relations. The leaderships of the two countries established direct contacts with a view to giving new meaning to bilateral engagement.

EU envoy welcomes COVAX initiative

Pakistan felicitates EU on 71th Europe Day



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara has welcomed the opportunity to concretely show our solidarity with the Government of Pakistan and support its efforts to fight the corona virus through

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has addressed a letter of felicitation to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. Appreciating the vision of Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and the leaders from Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany, Prime Minister Khan underscored that Schuman Declaration became the harbinger of peace, prosperity and European integration. Europe Day is an occasion to celebrate peace and unity in Europe. The Prime Minister further emphasized that incorporation of economic interest and creating commercial interdependence among the European countries led to a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe. Peace, prosperity and stability in Europe also contributed to the prosperity in other regions of the world and the Union has, today, become a model of cooperation and solidarity.

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- Pakistan stands steadfast in support of Palestine cause – Page 08

Government to challenge LHC order allowing Shehbaz to travel abroad

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led Government has said the court decision to let Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif go abroad depicts an old mindset and vowed to challenge the Lahore High Court decision. Federal government on Sunday announced that it would file an appeal challenging the Lahore High Court (LHC) decision giving one-time permission to PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif to go abroad for medical treatment. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry who was also accompanied



by PM Advisor on Accountability and Interior Shahzad Akbar said that PTI reserves the right to appeal the Lahore High Court decision which allowed PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif to go to England for medical treatment. He said the court decision is in fact a manifestation of an outdated system. He said if Shehbaz Sharif could not bring back his elder brother Nawaz Sharif, for whom he had become a guarantor in the court, then how his own guarantee that he would return the country could be acceptable? Fawad said that they were expecting that the court would inquire from Shehbaz about his guarantee in Nawaz's case and would

direct him to bring Nawaz back. But some people in PML-N are misleading the court, Fawad added. Fawad said that the government would challenge the LHC decision in the higher court. He rejected the impression that the government was not implementing the LHC decisions. Fawad said that two political parties have ruled over the country for 20 years. He said they laundered money from here and stashed it in foreign countries. He said the government had no enmity with the Sharif family. He said a German newspaper revealed the Panama scandal. He said billions of rupees were laundered and expensive properties were bought abroad.

Continued on Page 06

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Briefs

Pakistan condemns attack on Palestinians

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the attacks on innocent worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli Occupation Forces, that led to a number of injuries. Such attacks, especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan are against all humanitarian norms and human rights laws. We pray for the speedy recovery of the injured, reiterate our steadfast support to the Palestinian cause, and once again urge the international community to take prompt action to protect the Palestinian people.

For lasting peace in the region, we once again underscore the need for a two-state solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions, with the pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of a viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State.

PTI push every citizen under Rs 175,000 debt

DNA

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has criticized the economic policies of the PTI regime and said that the only thing Imran Khan struggled for 25 years, was to push every Pakistani under 175,000 rupees of debt.

In a statement issued from Media House Bilawal House, the PPP Chairman said that the PTI government has been running a farcical campaign of self reliance and freeing Pakistan from the debt trap, it has so far borrowed more than \$33 billion in foreign loans. He pointed out that due to the burden of the mounting interest on these loans, Pakistan would have nothing left over for development let alone defence, after paying government salaries.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that while Imran Khan preaches austerity, the PTI government has increased expenditures to the highest they've been in 28 years. Imran Khan had sold the people on his allegedly crack team of economists, but they ended up costing Pakistan Rs10 trillion more than the country's income by creating the conditions for them to borrow on tough terms. Even after the percentage increase, "The circular debt in the power sector alone has gone up to Rs 2.5 trillion and in the gas sector to over Rs 350 billion despite multiple increases in power and gas tariffs", he added.

He said that the puppet Prime Minister had declared not to take any loans, but had in fact paid 82% of the national exchequer, up to Rs2.5 trillion rupees, on loan repayments. "PTI has created a new circular debt by not refunding Rs 710 billion in taxes to the people and traders."

50 business centres sealed

MULTAN: The district administration launched a massive crackdown against violators of Corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and sealed 50 business centres across the district during last 24 hours. Two persons were apprehended while cases lodged against two others over violation, an official told APP. Taking action Assistant Commissioner (AC) city Kahawaja Umair sealed 21 shops at Cantt, Gulshan market and Hussain Agahi. AC Sadar Adnan Badar sealed ten big restaurants and AC Shujabad Muhammad Zubair sealed eight shops. Price magistrate Nouman Abid sealed three shops at Ghanta Ghar and Gulgasht over violation of Corona SOPs. Secretary Regional Transport Authority Rana Mohsin impounded 13 buses and imposed Rs 52,000 fine to transport owners. He also imposed Rs 100,000 fine to shopkeepers over opening of shops at Sehri time. — APP

Farrukh directs FDA to expedite work on PM housing project

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Saturday directed the officials of Faisalabad Development Authority to expedite work on the housing project under the Prime Minister's Affordable Housing Programme. Farrukh Habib chaired a meeting of the Faisalabad Development Authority at the Prime Minister's Office to review the housing scheme in Faisalabad under the Prime Minister's Affordable Housing Programme. The meeting was co-chaired by Chairman of Naya Pakistan Housing



and Development Authority Lt. Gen. Anwar Ali Haider. The meeting was also attended by officials of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) through Zoom. Farrukh Habib directed the Lahore Development Authority to extend full cooperation to the Faisalabad Development Authority in the early launch of the housing project in Faisalabad. He also reviewed the initial details of the project. The minister also directed the authorities to intensify efforts for early completion of the project. He said this project would help to resolve the housing problem in Faisalabad to a great extent.

FPCCI chief greets Dr. Shamshad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has congratulated Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on taking over the charge of the first female chairperson of the Pakistan Stock Exchange board.

In a statement, he said that earlier, she had successfully performed the duties as Governor State Bank of Pakistan and now hopefully being a seasoned and mature economist, she will try her optimum best to reorganize Pakistan Stock Exchange on the modern scientific line to attract maximum capital from local and foreign investors for investment through PSX. He said that we are expecting a boom immediately after corona and Dr. Shamshad Akhtar will try to win the confidence of local and foreign investors with her prudent policies. He has also invited her to visit FCCI despite her busy schedule.

Distribution of Eid package to the families of PHP Martyrs

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of Addl: IG Punjab Highway Patrol, Akram Naeem Bharoka, Eid Package was distributed among the families of Martyrs. While talking to media, SP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal reiterated the resolve that the welfare and wellbeing of PHP officers/Officials is his prime task. In order to materialize the vision, the families of Martyrs of PHP Region Faisalabad was visited.

SSP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal gave a message of condolence and expressed his resolve to stand with the Shuhdas family in all times. According to spokesperson of Patrolling Police, Rizwan Bhatti, the Martyrs of Patrolling Police are sub Inspector Rana Hafeez Ur Rehman, ASI Imran Liaqat, Constable Rifaqat Ali and Constable Ishaq Ahmad. They sacrificed their precious lives for the safety of homeland fighting against criminals of society. DSP PHP Faisalabad Malik Muhammad Amin along with Incharge MEU Condoleed with the families and distributed Eid Gift package to them comprising Rs-5000/-for each family and package of commodities of daily usage and showed con-



solidation with the bereaved families. Martyrs are assets of police department. They are alive and became immortal due to sacrifice for good cause.

The bereaved families expressed the words of gratitude that the department is all looking for their well being and welfare. SP Mirza Anjum Kamal further said that the no stone will be left unturned to provide relief to the families of Martyrs and deceased. The recent MOUs with Labs, Hospitals and Academic institutions have approved 100% discount to the families of Shuhda. The health facilities to

the sick and injured PHP officers are a noble task and morale boosting is natural concomitant of this wellbeing exercise.

MURDER CASE ACCUSED ARRESTED
D-Type Colony police arrested four accused in Shahbaz murder case. The accused include Nasreen, her two sons Ali Raza, Bilal and nephew Irfan. The court remanded accused Ali Raza to police custody till May 10, while accused Nasreen and Irfan were sent to jail. The SHO is not showing the arrest in the record of Bilal, the fourth accused named in the murder FIR.

The accused had gone to the house of the slain Shahbaz in a PIA vehicle while one accused Ali Raza is the brother-in-law of the slain Shahbaz. Police recovered a pistol and a PIA vehicle from the accused. According to police sources, accused Ali Raza had recently kicked his wife out of the house after the violence. Accused Ali Raza was outraged at the court's decision to take the child into custody and arrived at his father-in-law's house in D-Type Colony on April 2 in a PIA vehicle with his brother Bilal, mother Nasreen and cousin Irfan.

FIA committed contempt of court: Marriyum

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has said the FIA has committed contempt of court by stopping Shehbaz Sharif from going abroad revealing its diminutive stature. PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb was talking to media outside the FIA office in Lahore on Saturday. She was accompanied by Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Atta Ullah Tarar, Ali Pervaiz, Ghazali Butt, Waheed Alam Khan, Bilal Yaseen and other PML-N activists.

Ms Aurangzeb said that the Federal Investigation Agency committed contempt of court at the best of the government which had belittled itself by flouting the court order. She said on Prime Minister Imran Khan's order, PML-N

leader Shehbaz Sharif was offloaded from his Qatar flight. She said now the names of Prime Minister Khan and his adviser on accountability Shahzad Akbar should be placed on Exit Control List. She said Shehbaz's name was not on the ECL. She alleged that 'person not in list' was actually drafted by prime minister so that Shehbaz could not go abroad. She said that in black list, only the names of terrorists have been placed. She said the court had allowed Shehbaz one time permission to go abroad. She said the deputy director law was present during Shehbaz's hearing in the Lahore High Court but he didn't mention anything. She said NAB resorted to the Supreme Court before going to the LHC, but the apex court rejected NAB's petition.

Sikhs receiving applause for respecting holy month of Ramzan

PESHAWAR: The Sikh dwellers of Peshawar are receiving applause from people belonging to all walks of life for extending respect to fasting Muslims during their holy month of Ramzan by arranging iftar dinners, providing food to poor faithfuls and selling groceries to them on cut prices.

From the last several years as Ramzan begins, Sikh residents in Peshawar come out for according reverence to the holy month of Muslims and arrange iftar dinners for them, announcing special dis-

counts on their grocery shops besides helping the poor fasting faithful by providing them edible goods at their doorsteps. The scene of turban wearing Sikhs offering sweet drinks to fasting Muslims for Iftar, or a Sikh community member handing over edibles to a deserving faithful reflects strong bond of interfaith harmony and mutual co-existence in our country. In the current Ramzan, Sikhs maintained their past practice of according respect and reverence for Muslims' holy month. — APP

81.3 pc wheat procurement target achieved

MULTAN: Food department have procured 5,18,972 metric ton wheat against set target of 638,507 metric ton across Multan division which is 81.3 percent. The 5,81,432 metric ton gunny bags were also distributed among wheat growers so far which is 91.1 percent of the total target.

According to Food department official sources, the disbursement of the gunny bags and procurement of wheat on fixed price of Rs 1800 per mound was continued in a transparent manner across the division.

The all facilities were being extended to wheat growers at procurement centres while implementation of Corona SOPs also being ensured there.

The food department have distributed 1,67,413 metric ton gunny bags which is 90.7 percent of the total target while procured 1,54,540 metric ton wheat so far in Multan district.

Similarly, 87,392 metric ton gunny bags distribution in Lodhran with 91.3 percent ratio and 85,008 metric ton wheat procured, 96,224 metric ton gunny bags distributed in Vehari so far with 75.1 percent of the total target and 81,951 metric ton wheat procured so far.

Likewise, 2,30,403 metric ton gunny bags distribution with 100.2 percent has been completed so far at Khanewal district while 1,97,574 metric ton wheat was also procured. — APP

NCOC directs provinces to ensure strict adherence to SOPs

The meeting decided that tourism points all across the country will remain closed from 8th to 16th May

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday directed the provincial governments to use all resources and ensure strict implementation of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the lockdown. A meeting of the NCOC was held with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and Lt Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan in the chair in Islamabad to discuss the overall COVID-19 situa-

tion in the country. The meeting decided that tourism points all across the country will remain closed from 8th to 16th May. All travel nodes leading to tourist/picnic spots will also remain closed. All routes to the tourist spots will be closed including northern areas, Seaview and other coastal areas, according to NCOC. Shopping malls, markets, hotels and restaurants will also be closed including the hotels and restaurants located in the surroundings of picnic places. However, the restrictions will not be applied to food serv-

ices, grocery, petrol pumps, bakeries, medical stores and other shops of essential commodities. Groceries shops, Bakeries and Sweet shops are allowed to remain open on daily basis till 06:00 pm for the duration from 8 to 16 May 21. Tandors and milk shops will remain open 24/7 with immediate effect. Takeaways are allowed 24/7 with immediate effect. E-Commerce (Home Delivery), Utility Services (Electricity, Natural Gas, Internet, Cellular Network, Telecom) and Media are allowed 24/7 operation with immediate effect.

Eidul Fitr on May 14: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Sunday said as per the calendar of Ministry of Science and Technology and Ruet app, the moon of Shawal would be sighted on May 13 and Eid ul Fitr would be observed on May 14 (Friday).

In a tweet, the minister said that the final decision would be made by Ruet-Hilal-Committee after its meeting for the moon sighting. Ramzan, the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, would consist of 30 days in Pakistan and some other countries this year.

PNS Saif participates in Drills with US & Canada

Under the realm of Focused Operation, PNS SAIF participated in the Passage Exercise with US naval ship USS LABOON and Canadian ship HMCS CALGARY

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy ships are regularly deployed for PN's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrol to ensure maritime security in Indian Ocean Region. In addition, as part of CTF-150, PNS SAIF participated in Focused Operation CHINOOK ARCHER along with ships and aircrafts of United States and Canada. The exercise was aimed at impacting narcotic smuggling trade along the hash highway to the East of Oman. Under the realm of Focused Operation, PNS SAIF participated in the Passage Exercise with US naval ship USS LABOON and Canadian ship HMCS CALGARY. The aim of the exercise was primarily to demonstrate



interoperability between participating navies and interdict illegal smuggling/trade emanating along the hash highway. Pakistan Navy promotes peace and stability in the region and has remained com-

mitted to maritime security and order at sea. Participation of PN in such internationally organized Focused Operation is a manifestation of PN's resolve in curtailing terrorism at sea in all forms. PN Ships being flag

bearers of Pakistan continue to remain poised at sea in an effort to curb menace of illegal smuggling/narco trafficking so as to ensure safe regional trade corridors for maritime community.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(ROADS DIVISION NO-V)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are hereby invited on percentage basis from the approved contractors of Civil Work and having valid Pakistan Engineer Council (PEC) License 2020-21 for the work:-

S#	Name of Work	NT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date & Time of Opening
1.	Providing Fixing Streets Sign Boards in Sector I-14 Islamabad.	Rs.9.604M	Rs.288,139/-	Rs.3000/-	26-05-2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)
2.	Rehabilitation of Service Road (North) in Sector I-11 Islamabad.	Rs.8.144M	Rs.244,346/-	Rs.3000/-	26-05-2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)
3.	Construction of Remaining VR's in Sector I-14 Islamabad.	Rs.67.042M	Rs.2,011,260/-	Rs.5000/-	26-05-2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)

Detailed terms & Conditions can be seen from CDA Website: www.cda.gov.pk and www.ppra.gov.pk

- Application for issuance of tender documents 24-05-2021 upto 5:00 PM must be accompanied with valid copies of PEC License obtaining Tender Category S # 01 & 2 C-6 & S# 3 C-4 and above for the year 2021, NTN Certificate, CNIC, Registration of Firm / Partnership Deed / Sole Proprietorship / Power of Attorney / Authority Letter from the contractor in favor of their representative. No tender will be issued without all required document in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director Road - V, CDA located at Old Naval Headquarter Room No.43, Sector G-6, Melody, Islamabad on cash payment a mentioned above per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on or before 25.05.2021 up to 05:00 P.M against written request which should be on letter head pad having name, address, phone No's and signature of the contractor. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.
- The prospective bidders are required to submit Bid Security (Deposit at Call) above mentioned works in favor of Deputy Director Road-V, CDA, issued from any scheduled bank against firm's account. Name of Firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at Call). Tender documents shall not be issued without Earnest Money.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank Account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the Contract with the successful bidder.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e. at least three Number of work in last two (02) financial years may be observe / fulfill before issuance of tender documents.
- Certificate is required on judicial stamp paper worth of Rs.50/ their firm are not involved any litigations and non relation ship.
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Roads (South), CDA located at Room No.59, Ground Floor (Old Naval H/ Qtrs) Islamabad.
- Tender rates on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any / all tenders as per PPRR Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained

Deputy Director

Roads Division No-V,

CDA, Islamabad

PID (I) No. 6171/20

Briefs

UNICEF Pak needs US \$ 55.73 mln

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Pakistan office needed some US \$ 55.73 million during the current year to carry out the support of in-country humanitarian response. According to a document of UNICEF, only US \$ 14.08 million (17 per cent) have been received to provide humanitarian support in the country. The additional funds have been received from Japan to provide health services in areas of response. A significant funding gap of US\$ 46.34 million (83 per cent) still persists to provide critical emergency services nationwide, the document said. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to Japan, Austrian Committee for UNICEF, Asian Development Bank, CERF Secretariat, CDC, WB, ECHO, Global Partnership for Education, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance, Solidarity Fund, Standard Chartered, UK, US along with all its public and private donors for contributions, the UNICEF document said.

Qadri denounces Israeli shelling

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Sunday vigorously denounced the Israeli shelling on a group of unarmed Muslim worshippers in Al Aqsa, mosque, the first qibla, on last Friday. In a statement, he said the attack on worship place was a worst kind of terrorism and an inhumane act of Israel to target innocents praying during Ramadan. Pakistan would continue supporting the just cause of the people of Palestine, he added.

Urging international community to take notice of Israeli aggressions against Palestinians, the minister said brutalities against innocent worshippers in the holy month of Ramadan were unfortunate. - APP

Support provided to 2,769 health sites

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: A total of 2,769 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported health sites had provided country wide nutrition services in response to covid-19 pandemic during the year 2020. From out of 2,769 health sites 1,710 provided services in Punjab, 774 in Sindh, 122 in KP and 163 in Balochistan. A total of 161,702 SAM children including some 86,511 girls and 75,191 boys, which was 58 per cent of the target have been admitted for Severe Acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment provided to 29,856 in KP; 27,421 in Baluchistan, 43,697 in Punjab and 60,728 in Sindh. With UNICEF's support, Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) on IYCF practices in the COVID-19 context through Lady Health Workers (LHWs) and other community-based networks reached 1,575,665 pregnant and lactating women (142 per cent of target) in 2020 (Punjab 1,168,101, Balochistan 95,545, KP 106,330 and Sindh 205,989).

IESCO extends bills' due dates

DNA

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

UN urged to break silence on Palestine & Kashmir

Rehman Malik also condemned the highly discriminatory resolution passed by EU Parliament against Pakistan and urged the President EU Parliament to withdraw it

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Institute of Research and Reforms (IRR) Senator A. Rehman Malik has strongly condemned the Israeli forces attack on worshippers in Al Aqsa mosque on Friday and urged the UN and International Human Rights bodies to break silence on Palestine and Kashmir. He said that the brutal attack by Israeli forces against unarmed peaceful worshippers was against all humanitarian norms and human rights laws, said a press re-

lease issued here on Sunday.

Rehman Malik was addressing a webinar as keynotes speaker on the Palestine issue which was organised by Ambassador Dr. Shaikh Amin and was attended by a large number of speakers. The speakers included Parliamentarians, diplomats and human rights activists from across the globe. From the forum, he appealed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) to dispatch COVID vaccines to people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on urgent basis as people there were living under cruel



curfew in the most difficult time of Coronavirus pandemic without free access to medicine and hospitals. He suggested that activists,

diplomats and parliamentarians attending the conference should use their influence to visit the IIOJK to observe the human rights violations and deliver medicines and vaccines to people there.

The participants of the webinar seconded his suggestion and resolved that they would leave no stone unturned to arrange a visit to the IIOJK. They also agreed on arranging a monthly seminar on the issue of Kashmir and Palestine.

Rehman Malik expressed grave concerns on the condition of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders

and activists in various Indian jails. He said that the life of Kashmiri detainees were in dangers due to increase in COVID-19 pandemic. He demanded their immediate release and urged UN to play its role to release Kashmiri leaders.

Rehman Malik also condemned the highly discriminatory resolution passed by EU Parliament against Pakistan and urged the President EU Parliament to withdraw it.

He demanded a Resolution against India in EU Parliament for state sponsored crimes against humanity and minorities.

Local POL production increases 12.71%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The overall production of petroleum commodities has witnessed an increase of 12.71 percent during the first three quarters of financial year 2020-21 as compared to corresponding period of last year. The Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) products that showed growth including kerosene oil production, which increased by 0.44 percent during the period under review, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Similarly, the production of Motor Spirits, High Speed Diesel, Furnace Oil, lubricating oil, jute batching oil, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and petroleum products.



ISLAMABAD: First COVAX delivery with free vaccines for Pakistan has arrived. German ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck says it is an important milestone for fighting pandemic together with TeamEurope. It is a very strong token of multilateralism & international solidarity. Germany is proud to be 2nd largest donor with 1.5 billion EUR. Envoys of European Union, UK, Germany also seen in the picture. - DNA

CDA develops six new parks in sector D-12

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completely developed six new parks in the sector D-12 of the federal capital, aimed at providing maximum recreational spots to the people of area. CDA Director Environment (West) Akhtar Rasool has confirmed APP that the development work of five small parks in multiple sub-sectors of D-12 and one big park in its Markaz had been completed. He said 100 per cent civic work at the parks had been completed which included fencing, and installation of new swings, kerbstones, jogging tracks, benches, playing gadgets for kids and others. To a query, he said landscaping was another subject which would be started after the vacations of Eid-ul-Fitr. Tenders had already been floated for the purpose, he added. Akhtar Rasool said all the nine designated parks in the sector D-12 were now fully developed as the development work on three parks were carried out several months ago. He said more parks were being developed in different sectors on direction of CDA Chairman Amer Ahmed Ali, who had been very keen in development and beautification of the city since taking the charge of civic agency. Three parks were being developed in sector I-14, whereas one at sector I-16, he added. Meanwhile, another senior official of the CDA Environment Wing said the civic agency would complete development and beautification work involving millions of rupees in Sector D-12 by end of this month. - APP

PAL organized an online women's mushaira

ISLAMABAD: In the holy month of Ramzan-ul-Mubarak, an online women's Hamdiya and Naatiya Mushaira was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), said a press release issued here on Sunday. Mushaira was presided over by Sarwat Mohi-ud-Din (Lahore). Dr. Sehar Imdad Hussaini (Karachi), Najma Mansoor (Sargodha) and Yasmeen Sehar (Jhelum) were the chief guests while Abida Taqi (Islamabad), Bina Govindi (USA) and Dr. Syeda Amna Bihar (Muzaffarabad) were the guests of honor. Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL, gave the introductory speech. Ayesha Masood was the moderator. Poetess from all over the country and abroad recited Hamdiya and Naatiya poetry. Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL, while giving the introductory speech said that mother's lap is the child's first school from which the children are truly trained. The role of women has been significant in introducing children to Islam and Islamic civilization, which history has shown in different periods. Let us look at the historical testimonies regarding poetry. In particular, we find Naatiya poetry in the words of Jahangir's Begum Noor Jahan. Hamdiya & Naatiya poetry also found in the poetry of Aurangzeb Alamgir's daughter Zeb-un-Nisa. - DNA

Influx of women beggars irks residents

ISLAMABAD: The resident of twin cities on Sunday demanded the authorities concerned to take strict action against the professional beggars as the growing trend of professional beggars is on rise. They were of the view that influx of women beggars and children with begging bowl can be seen in different markets, bus stops and signals using different tactics to seek alms from people. A group of women carrying infants, bandaged arms of young men accompanying them, middle-aged men showing disabilities, barefooted children, shemales and others selling low quality products, are the most common tools of getting sympathies of people. - APP

Eid moon sighting on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee would be held in Islamabad on Wednesday evening for sighting the crescent moon of Eid-ul-Fitr 1442. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad would preside over the meeting.

The zonal committees would meet in their respective areas, while the central Ruet-e-Hilal committee would gather witness from across the country. "There were almost no chances of Shawaal moon sighting on Wednesday evening, according to astronomical considerations," Malik Qadri, an expert said in a statement. He said Ramzan, the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, would consist of 30 days in Pakistan and some other countries this year. - DNA

UNESCO seeks nominations for International Award for Women

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The promising and outstanding young women scientists can apply for the L'Oreal-UNESCO International Award for Women in Science-2022 by submitting their nominations throughout the world including Pakistan till May 31. According to an official source, the award identifies and support eminent women in science throughout the world. Every year five awards laureates are recognized for their contributions to the advancement of science, in Life and Environmental Sciences or Physical Sciences, www.forwomeninscience.com before

Mathematics and Computer Science and alternating years.

The 2022 edition of the awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in the field of Life and Environmental Sciences working in one of the following regions i.e. Africa and the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America the Caribbean and North America. Each of the five laureates will receive an amount of Euros 100,000 for her great contribution to advances in scientific research. Women scientists from all over the country can submit their nominations electronically by using the website

May 31, 2021. Since 2000, the 'L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science programme' has highlighted the achievements of younger women who are in the early stages of their scientific careers. Each year, the international rising talents programme selects the 15 most promising women scientists among the more than 250 national and regional young talents of the L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science programme. These young women are first selected by local juries, and are then invited to apply. The 15 International Rising Talents, selected by an international selection committee, receive an additional endowment of 15,000.

ذرا سی لاپرواہی زندگی کو کہاں لے آئی

صرف

عید گھر پر بیٹھنا

صابن سے ہاتھ بار بار دھوئیں

ہاتھ ملائے، گلے ملنے سے گریز کریں

ماسک ضرور استعمال کریں

عید کی نمازیں سماجی فاصلہ برقرار رکھیں

بزرگ اور بچے گھر پر بیٹھیں عید کی نماز کا اہتمام کریں

نیشنل کمیونڈیشن آف سائنسز سنٹر
حکومت پاکستان

گھر رہیں، محفوظ رہیں

Briefs

Rescue 15
responds to
99903 phone
calls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Helpline of Islamabad Police, 'Rescue-15', has responded to 99903 phone calls during the month of April for the convenience of the citizens, DG Safe City, Muhammad Saleem said on Saturday. Sharing the monthly performance report of the police emergency help line, he said majority of the responded calls were regarding general information, ambulance service, fire brigade service, and information about corona patients and their shifting to hospitals. He lamented that the Helpline has received 95 per cent bogus and meaningless calls, an average of around 3300 calls per day. He appealed to the citizens to avoid making hoax call to 'Rescue 15' as such calls only waste time of the police and deprive the deserving people of immediate help in a difficult time. Meanwhile, in a news release, the IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman has directed the staff of 'Rescue 15' to give importance to every call and try their utmost to resolve the public complaints. He said that it is the duty of police to provide protection to the citizens and provide them immediate help in case of any emergency. Appreciating the performance of 'Rescue 15' the IGP directed DG Safe City to ensure a 'friendly police ecology' and aware citizens through social media and electronic media to avoid placing unnecessary calls to the emergency service. He further asked him to register maximum cases against such persons and bring them to justice.

43
shopkeepers
arrested

RAWALPINDI: As many as 43 shopkeepers were reportedly arrested in Rawalpindi here on Saturday for violation of preventive measures against coronavirus and directives of Punjab government to keep control on COVID-19 pandemic. On special instructions of City Police Officer of Rawalpindi, the police held 43 shopkeepers for opening shops and registered cases against them while 29 shops were sealed on the violation. Police along with the local administration conducted raids in Murree Road and Sadiqabad localities. CPO Rawalpindi DIG Muhammad Ahsan Younis said that police was committed to ensure implementation on directives of Punjab government against coronavirus lockdown. He made it clear that strict action would be taken against the violators. — APP

World
Thalassemia
Day observed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: World Thalassemia Day was observed across the globe, including Pakistan, on Saturday with emphasis to involve the community by raising awareness, promoting partnership and mobilizing resources. Speaking at a ceremony organized by Al-Aqsa Welfare Trust, Deputy Commissioner Capt (Retd) Anwar Ul Haq said that every year about 10 to 12 thousands children fell victim to this deadly disease in Pakistan. He said the parents, who are usually asymptomatic, are the carriers of this disease and have a great chance of passing this disease to their children. Anwar said the thalassemia patients were required regular blood transfusions every few weeks and wide-ranging effort was urgently needed to prevent thousands of new infections and increasing deaths because of it. He said the media's role is important in this regard, through which people could be apprised about the disease and preventive measures for protection from it. Later, he distributed gifts and a cash of Rs 5000 to various infected children each on the occasion.

Troops' drawdown sans peace deal to dent regional security

Devcom-Pakistan webinar highlights the repercussions of hurriedly drawdown of the US-NATO troops from Afghanistan without finalizing any peace deal for the stakeholders

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The geopolitical experts from different countries in the region have warned of the worst consequences of pulling out the US-Nato troops from Afghanistan without any sustainable peace deal. It would lead the region to geopolitical chaos, instability and rise of insurgency as seen on the first day of the drawdown from the Kandahar airfield. About 150 lives perished in an armed fight between the Afghan soldiers and Taliban to capture the vacated airfield. They said the investment made for almost 20-years in Afghanistan against terrorism and lives sacrificed are likely to go waste in hurriedly withdrawal of the troops. Somehow, it seems intentional and strategic on part of the US and Nato to dent the ever increasing Chinese, Russian and Iranian strategic and economic interests in the region. Economically weaker, Pakistan has to suffer more with the rise of insurgency particularly on its border areas with Afghanistan.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN organized the regional webinar on "Pulling out the US-NA-

TO troops from Afghanistan without any sustainable peace mechanisms – Repercussions for the Region" on Saturday.

The guest speakers included former ISI chief and geopolitical analyst retired Lt. General Muhammad Asad Durrani, former senator Farhatullah Babar, senior journalist from Pakistan Rahimullah Yousafzai, Beijing-based China Centre for Globalization chief Victor Gao, senior journalist from Washington Anwar Iqbal, geopolitical commentator and broadcaster from UK Reham Khan, PhD scholar on Afghanistan affairs from India Chayanika Saxena, and Dr. Somaye Morovati, an expert from Iran on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed conducted and hosted the webinar. Lt. General (ret'd) Muhammad Asad Durrani said a sustainable peace mechanism post the US withdrawal from Afghanistan is indeed desirable but also an uphill task. Several rounds of talks were managed but the parties could not agree to the mechanisms proposed. Taliban were not convinced on the power-sharing as proposed and discussed in the larger perspective. He said foreign occupation cre-

ates some serious contradictions, and the polity gets divided between the freedom-fighters, a warrior class and the opportunist collaborators. Same has happened in Afghanistan about two decades of war against terrorism.

A prolonged war of resistance gives rise to a war economy, and its beneficiaries were unlikely to be pro-peace. The resistance believes it won against a powerful external aggressor, who understandably strives to get a good post-exit deal for its client regime. Victors of war too split over the spoils of victory. Some might favour a general amnesty – the others would rather hang the "traitors". He said the onus is thus on the neighbours with stake in the stability of the war ravaged country and on credible figures within, to restore peace. Pakistan and some others in the Region had plenty of time to position themselves for this purpose. It's all up to them now.

Rahimullah Yousafzai said the 20-year war is not won by the US and Nato but Taliban won the Doha negotiations, the pull out is the result of that. Without ensuring their fair role in the future of Afghanistan, Taliban will

not accept anything but may join the Istanbul talks afterwards. There is fear of a surge in the radicalization in Afghanistan and its spillover to neighbouring countries. So, all the countries and stakeholders in the region shall join hands for a consolidated peace deal.

Farhatullah Babar said only a political solution would ensure peace in the region. The big players of the region such as Russia, China, and also India have to play their positive role. otherwise the spillover of radicalization would not spare anyone at all. Victor Gao suggested urgently the UN Security Council meeting to discuss the issue as the US cannot leave Afghanistan in such an irresponsible way. There is a huge task of reconstruction and rebuilding of the economy by engaging natives and Taliban. America shall allocate sufficient funds for post drawdown development in Afghanistan.

He said China is also the victim of spillover of the radicalization emerging from Afghanistan to some parts of China.

The Chinese government would be willing to contribute to the economic development and engagement of the natives including Taliban.

Reham Khan said the war that was started to end terrorism has ended rather unceremoniously with America leaving those they accused of terror activities, the Taliban, with a dominant role in Afghanistan.

While the US is selling the withdrawal of American troops at home as their success in bringing their boys back home safely and honouring campaign promises of the Trump manifesto, the fact is that it is a crushing defeat of the narrative of eradicating terrorism peddled years ago by America. Afghanistan and its neighbours, Pakistan, India and regional big players Russia and China would bear the brunt of the destruction left behind.

Anwar Iqbal said America cannot stay in Afghanistan for a lifetime to manage the forces there.

They need to strike a win-win situation while the regional peace should be taken up by all other stakeholders too. Pakistan is likely to suffer the most post-drawdown of the troops. It may offer US airfields in Pakistan for good bucks to support its nose-dive economy if desired by the Biden government. Chayanika Saxena said the impending US-Nato withdrawal from Afghanistan has come

when the entire world is reeling under the impact of a contagious virus. It comes as no surprise then that both the wretched and interest of the international actors, including the US, to deal with the simmering conflicts in Afghanistan have taken a hit. Thus, while it is only rational to have expected an eventual American departure, it could not have come at a worse time than this. She said in the circumstances of increasing attacks against the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to killing of young representatives of progress and peace and media persons, it is crucial for the international and regional powers to shore up their support for the Afghanistan government. The High Council for National Reconciliation shall make sure to bring Taliban back to the table of talks to give the ongoing conflict a sustainable end.

Dr. Somaye Morovati said Iran's role is very crucial in the post withdrawal but always undermined. Iran can play a strategic role in bringing Taliban to a meaningful peace solution and to abide by the defined parameters. A larger agreement to work together is required in the given circumstances.



ISLAMABAD: Vendor displaying and arranging fruit boxes to attract the customers at Fruit and Vegetable Market. — DNA

Tarin's steps a
breath of fresh air

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the National Business Group (NBG) of FPCCI Mian Zahid Hussain on Sunday said steps of the Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin is bringing refreshing change in the economic situation of the country. The pro-growth policies of the finance minister, decision to invest heavily in the agriculture sector and plan to expand tax net while shielding masses from more burden are very positive moves, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said this while speaking at an Iftar dinner arranged by Deputy Convenor of Central Standing Committee on Insurance (NBG) Qazi Asif Saeed in honour of Dr. Murtaza Mughal, Group County Manager of United International Group. He said that now the government will not compromise developmental projects to reduce the fiscal deficit while indirect taxes will not be increased providing some relief

to the masses. The government is spending 82 percent of the revenue on debt servicing therefore it has to borrow to run the affairs which can be resolved through tax reforms, he said.

Zahid Hussain said that Govt plan to boost spending on large infrastructure projects by as much as 40 percent to create jobs and foster productivity is a timely decision that will bring a dramatic change. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that investment is flowing towards stock, property, and commodity markets which should be diverted towards the industrial sector to boost production, exports, jobs, and investment. Members of Central Standing Committee for Insurance Zeeshan Pasha, Adeel Asim, Zeeshan Chaudhry, Faisal Ali, Fahim Hanif, Ajmal Khan, Asif Anwar, Turab Shah, Major Saad, Khalid Mughal, Altamish Malik, Saifuddin, Naeem Qureshi, Haseeb Sultani, and Mubashir were also present on the occasion.

Ministry issues guidelines for
AstraZeneca covid vaccine

In condition of fever, AstraZeneca vaccine should not be administered to a person. "Those infected with coronavirus will be administered the vaccine after recovery from the disease"

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health has issued guidelines with regard to the use and storage of the AstraZeneca vaccine. It is to be mentioned here that Pakistan has recently received 1.23 mln vaccine doses of Oxford University's AstraZeneca.

According to the guidelines, AstraZeneca could be administered to a specific age group of men and women. The vaccine shot could be given to the male aged 18 years or above, and the women above 40 years of age.

In condition of fever, AstraZeneca vaccine should not be administered to a person. "Those infected

Pak receives COVAX
COVID-19 vaccines

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan has received its first shipment of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines (SII-AZ AZD1222) from the COVAX Facility. The consignment of 1,238,400 doses of vaccines, which will be followed by another of 1,236,000 in a few days, will support the Government of Pakistan's ongoing historic drive to bring the pandemic to an end. Further allocations from June onwards will be confirmed in due course. The goal of the COVAX Facility is to supply Pakistan with enough doses to vaccinate 20% of the population depending on availability.

Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, welcomed this first consignment together with representatives of COVAX technical and funding partners at the headquarters of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC). — Staff Report

with coronavirus will be administered the vaccine after recovery from the disease," according to the guidelines.

AstraZeneca vaccine could also be administered to the hypertension, sugar and patients of heart ailment.

Govt Amazon
achievement
praised

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday said the addition of Pakistan into the world's largest e-commerce website Amazon approved sellers list is a great achievement as it could prove a game-changer.

The development will unleash enormous business opportunities for small businesses, start-ups, and women entrepreneurs lacking a costly export set-up to sell their products across the world opening a new window of opportunity, he said.

The business community should exploit the opportunity to market and directly sell their products globally to become empowered, he said.

CIA police
busts wanted
member of a
criminal gang

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has arrested a wanted member of a criminal gang and recovered cash, mobile phone and weapons from him, a police spokesman said on Saturday. According to details, DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmad Kausar has categorically directed all the police officers to accelerate their efforts to curb crime and secure the city against criminals.

Following these directions, SSP (Investigation) Atta ur-Rehman constituted a special police team under the supervision of DSP Crime Investigation Agency, including ASI Haider Ali Shah and others that nabbed wanted member of a criminal gang, identified as Mohsin Iqbal s/o Muhammad Iqbal resident of Fazaia Rawalpindi.

A case has been registered against him at Koral police stations and further investigation underway.

10 suspects
held during
last 24 hours

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police Saturday claimed to have arrested 10 criminals across the city during last 24 hours. Aabpara police arrested two accused Samad Khan and Dansih Zaheer, recovering four bottles of wine and 115 gram hashish from their possession, said a news release issued here.

Shams Colony police arrested a Nigerian National lady accused Ekegbo Lijunwa and recovered 228 gram hashish from him. Similarly, Karachi company police arrested accused Siraj Amjad and recovered 10 liters of alcohol from him. Bhara Khau police arrested accused Ali Shah and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him.

Likewise, Shalimar police arrested accused Sajjad Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Gola police arrested accused Kashif Ali and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him.

Furthermore, Margalla police arrested two accused Saddam Hussain and Mumtaz All and recovered one 12 bore gun and one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from their possession.

Koral police arrested accused Hammad Satti and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Separate cases have been registered against the nabbed persons and further investigation underway.

Re-connecting with nature to combat diseases

With the passage of time life has become more artificial and less natural. It would not be wrong to say that alongside facilities, the modern way of living has also brought about a range of novel physical and mental illnesses

ISLAMABAD: The old generation, despite having lesser or no modern-day facilities, has probably lived longer, healthier and happier lives for being closely connected with nature to avail its life-giving physical and psychological benefits.

During the last few decades, the natural mode of life has slowly changed. Huge transformation occurred from house (open-to-close) and family structure (extended to single-parent) to mode of socialization (real-to-virtual) and medicines (herbal/homeopathic to allopathic), sleeping timings (early to late night) to eating habits (organic to inorganic) and mode of travelling (almost with no walk).

Therefore, working against the natural mode of life has created lots of tensions and a number of modern-day diseases.

With the passage of time life has become more artificial and less natural. It would not be wrong to say that alongside facilities, the modern way of living has also brought about a range of novel physical and mental illnesses. This may also be attributed to environmental degradation, air and water pollution, overpopulation, lack of socialization, uncontrolled urbanization and artificial foods. Similarly, productive agricultural land and natural landscapes are also being swallowed up by urbanization with declining human connection with natural landscape.

Likewise, the virtual options of indoor recreations and technological transformation that provided alternate means to almost everything without any mobility has also disconnected people from their surroundings.

The longer disconnect from life-giving benefits of nature has also affected lifespan. Therefore, recently more and more people have started re-connecting to desi stuff and natural lifestyle from food choices to kitchen gardening, pottery utensils to healthy socialization, visiting natural areas to hiking, tree plantation to herbals, more sunlight to oxygenated rooms and pollution-free environment to pure drinking water.

It was due to the fact that nature has more restorative and soothing powers and positive outcomes for mental health. Similarly, natural living also helps minimize mental stress. Clean and green surroundings, organic foods, socialization, physical work and early to bed and early to rise help people to live long and healthier lives.

According to research studies, people have slowly distanced from natural mode of life. Nature has proved helpful both for physical and psychological well-being. And those who remain closely connected with nature have been found happier and more active in life.

The studies said, "Even in small doses, nature is a potent elixir:

When their hospital room had flowers and foliage, post-surgery patients needed less painkillers and reported less fatigue. And merely looking at pictures of nature does speed up mental restoration and improves cognitive functioning."

Another study published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives has also found that people living in green spaces and more vegetation around them had a lower risk of mortality. Talking to APP, Islamabad based working Journalist, Khalid Aziz said that large scale practical shifts would be difficult due to the fact that only a lesser number of people could repatriate back to their rural areas. — APP

Artificial inflation

THE Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) found 19 leading poultry feed mills to be guilty of price coordination, aiding artificial inflation in the poultry industry as a whole. The government must be commended on the efficacy of the price surveillance mechanisms that it imposed to regulate the market. Now, what remains is ensuring that all suspects are held responsible for this abominable act that continues to deprive the masses at an unprecedented scale. Reports assert that the CCP's online complaint platform, the PM's Citizen Portal and the data received by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) provided sufficient evidence to launch an investigation to get to the bottom of the matter. What they uncovered was a WhatsApp thread where all producers would collude with each other about an increase in prices. This is especially criminal considering that the Competition Act of 2010 prohibits such acts by law. Not only by this standard should they be tried, but also because they robbed the average population of vital sustenance. The prices of basic commodities like chicken and eggs rose by 3.21 and 14.08 percent respectively, only because they increased feed prices by Rs250 per bag. With the majority barely living on one basic meal a day, perpetuating such profit-driven inhumanity cannot be condoned. Artificial inflation is a phenomenon that plagues various sectors of our economy. In order to remain afloat and mitigate losses, companies are all too willing to jack up prices at the expense of the average consumer. What this particular incident has shown is that each sector is interlinked. Thus, if one sector charges exorbitant prices, there will be a ripple-down effect on the others that will have to follow suit. Fortunately, it seems as though the authorities are intent on eliminating this menace from society and are taking all necessary precautions to control prices across the board. If it wants to continue protecting the masses, such proficiency must continue.

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Special courts

THE prevalence of rape and sexual abuse cases indicate that the legal system is failing rape victims in some way. Despite progressive legislation being passed to make the process more efficient, the conviction rate in rape and sexual assault cases is abysmally low, under 3 percent, as estimated by the Karachi-based War Against Rape (WAR). The judicial system is slower than we would like—but in cases like rape, the slightest delay can make the difference between justice and injustice. In order to tackle this, the government is moving to implement Section 3 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance, 2020, which allows for the establishment of as many Special Courts as necessary throughout the country to try rape crimes. The aim of these special fast-track courts is to speed up the process and pronounce a verdict within four months. While the idea may prompt hesitation from some, since criminal cases require a standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and thus must be adjudicated extremely thoughtfully, research shows that fast-track courts are effective and have a deterring impact on the crime. Special fast track courts for rape crimes have been established in many countries like South Africa and most notably India. There are several benefits; firstly, special courts are bound to be more gender-sensitive. The fast-track courts may mitigate some of the harm done by untrained, though well-meaning, lower court judges by removing gender-based violence cases from the general pool. Secondly, longer delayed proceedings in rape cases greatly harm the victim. There is a giant social taboo of rape—the longer a case goes without conviction, the more a victim is likely to be subjected to societal harassment and tarnishing of her reputation. Fast-track courts have been established in Pakistan before to close the backlog of cases and has been mostly successful. In an issue as sensitive as rape, the government must work to implement Section 3 right away, and should ensure that the appointment of judges is a fair process, so that the courts are set up as quickly as possible.

Shusha: The cultural capital of Azerbaijan

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Molla Panah Vagif's Tomb is located in Shusha city. Construction of the tomb was completed in 1982 and Heydar Aliyev, the father and president of Azerbaijan, attended the opening of the monument. The tomb was built based on the project of the full member of ANAS, doctor of art criticism A.V.Salamzada and the honoured architect

MOST recently, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev declared SHUSHA the "Cultural Capital" of Azerbaijan. It is a "historical" important city in Nagorno-Karabakh region recently liberated after 30 years from illegal occupation of Armenian. Shusha has historically been one of the important centers of historical, cultural, socio-political life of Azerbaijan. Paragraph "32 of Article 109" of the Azerbaijani Constitution, the President Ilham Aliyev decided to restore the historical appearance of Shusha, restore its former glory and reunite it with a rich cultural life, as well as promote Azerbaijan's rich culture, architecture and urban planning in the international arena. The President Aliyev showcased it as "Cultural Capital" of the entire region. It was "massacred" and illegally "captured" by Armenia on May 8, 1992. During all these "painful" years, it has been "symbol" of "human resistance", "purity", "dignity", "cultural diversity" and "peaceful struggle". Ultimately the "Pearl of Karabakh" Shusha was liberated on November 8, 2020.

It is known as a "symbol" of Azerbaijani history and culture. Many prominent Azerbaijani musicians and scholars were born in the city. The President Aliyev "reiterated" that development work has already begun to restore the historic city Shusha. He affirmed that after proper inspection of the housing stock, historic sites and collateral damages the restoration of Shusha would be started. He stressed the need to protect the original appearance and the historical image of Shusha.

He shared that during the occupation Armenian forces intentionally destroyed over 60 mosques. Moreover, pigs and cows were kept in the Aghdam mosque along with insulting inscriptions can be seen on the walls of the Aghdam mosque. He assured "peaceful living" of the Armenian people and terming them citizens of Azerbaijan. He instructed the culture minister to organize music and poetry festivals in Shusha during this year. He highlighted that Azerbaijan will also build an international airport in Fuzuli province this year, adding that at least runways will be ready in 2021.

Shusha was called "Paris of South Caucasus", "Art Temple of the Caucasus", "Cradle of Azerbaijani Music" and "Conservatory of the Transcaucasia". The historic part of Shusha having a mysterious beauty was declared a historic and architectural reserve in 1977. Historical and architectural monuments of Shusha occupied by Armenian armed forces were destroyed on May 8, 1992 but now it hopes to be restored again. It has "astounding" beauty. It has lots of fauna around, great hiking trails and the waterfalls. Historically, Shusha was a cultural and commercial centre and maintained trade relations with many countries in the East and Europe. It has 17 neighbourhoods namely, Seyidli, Julfalar, Guyulug, Chukhur neighbourhood, Dord Chinari, Dordlar gurdu, Haji Yusufli, Chogala, Gurdlar, Saatli, Kocharli, Mamayi, Khoja Marjanli, Damirchilar, Hamamgabaghi, Merdinli and Taza mahalla. They belonged to the Azerbaijani people who built it. In addition to the natural fortress, the city itself was surrounded by magnificent castle walls. The entrance-to-exit from the city was through the gates of Ganja, Aghoghlan and Yerevan. Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque or Shusha Juma Mosque is the oldest mosque located in the central Square of Shusha city and built in the territory of the city. The mosque was registered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a historical and cultural monument of state importance. In 1992, as a result of the occupation of Shusha by Armenia, the mosque was partially destroyed.

Mehmandarovs' house is a palace type historic residential complex located in Shusha city. It is one of the most interesting examples of 18th century civil architecture in Azerbaijan. The residential complex, formerly owned by the Mehmandarovs' family, includes a Big residential building, a Small residential building and a family mosque. After the Armenian occupation, the big building was destroyed, the small residential building functions as Shusha History Museum and the mosque turned into Geological Museum. Chol Gala Neighbourhood is one of down neighbourhoods of Shusha built in the 18th century. It was the closest to the Castle walls. Like other neighbourhoods, this neighbourhood also had a mosque, a bath, a small square and a spring. Khurshidbanu Natavan's Palace, Asad bay Javanshir's Palace Complex, Khan

Shushinski's House, the property of Uzeyir Hajibeyov's father are located in this neighbourhood.

Haji Yusufli Neighbourhood is one of the down neighbourhoods of Shusha built in the 18th century. The neighbourhood took its name from the well-known divanbashi Haji Yusuf agha Mughanli Haji Rahim agha. Like other neighbourhoods, this neighbourhood also had a mosque, a bath, a small square and a spring. In addition to the neighbourhood's mosque, the famous Azerbaijani poet Gasim bay Zakir's house, Ashagi Govhar agha Mosque Complex is also in this neighbourhood. Gara Boyukkhani Castle is a historical palace located in the historic centre of Shusha city. The inscription on the entrance gate of Gara Boyukkhani Castle shows that it was built in 1182 in Hijri calendar (1768).

This house, in which the world famous Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibayov was born and grew up in Shusha, was built in the 19th century. Uzeyir Hajibayov's Museum was established here in 1959 and operated until the occupation of Shusha by the Armenian armed forces on May 8, 1992.

Molla Panah Vagif's Tomb is located in Shusha city. Construction of the tomb was completed in 1982 and Heydar Aliyev, the father and president of Azerbaijan, attended the opening of the monument. The tomb was built based on the project of the full member of ANAS, doctor of art criticism A.V.Salamzada and the honoured architect, candidate of architecture E.I.Kanukov. Shusha was a mountain recreation resort in the Soviet era. Shusha is often considered the cradle of Azerbaijan's music and poetry and one of the leading centres of the Azerbaijani culture. The city is particularly renowned for its traditional Azerbaijani genre of vocal and instrumental arts called mugham.

Shusha is the "conservatoire of the Caucasus". Khurshidbanu Natavan, Azerbaijan's most famous woman poet, Uzeyir Hajibeyov and one of Azerbaijan's first twentieth-century novelists, Yusuf Vezir Chemenzeminli, were born in Shusha. Shusha is also well known for sileh rugs, floor coverings from the South Caucasus. Those from the Caucasus may have been woven in the vicinity of Shusha. A similar Eastern Anatolian type usually shows a different range of colours.

During the Soviet period, Shusha was home to museums such as the Shusha Museum of History, the house museum of Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov, the house museum of the Azerbaijani singer Bulbul, and the Shusha Carpet Museum. The Azerbaijan State Museum of History of Karabakh was founded in Shusha in 1991 shortly before the outbreak of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War. In 1977, Azerbaijan's national leader Heydar Aliyev declared the historical part of Shusha as the historical and architectural reserve. As a result, major steps were taken to protect monuments in Shusha and perpetuate the memory of prominent cultural and artistic figures. However, Armenia occupied the city of Shusha on May 8, 1992 and pursued a policy of destroying the historical and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people in the city. Shusha, along with 300 other city centers, villages and settlements were liberated from around 30 years of Armenian occupation during the war between September 27 and November 10. Historical and cultural riches of Shusha, southwestern Azerbaijan, make it more than

just a city for Azerbaijanis. The key town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region was liberated from the Armenian occupation. Besides being one of the symbols of Azerbaijani history and culture, Shusha is also of strategic importance, as it is located on the road leading to Khan-kendi, the largest city in Upper Karabakh.

Shusha, founded by Karabakh Khan Penahali in 1752, has numerous historical monuments, and many distinguished scientists, intellectuals and cultural icons were born here. It is known as the "cradle of Azerbaijani music" because of its famous composers and musicians such as Jabbar Garyaghdiglu, Gurban Pirimov, Bulbul (Night-ingle), Seyid Shushinski, Khan Shushinski, Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Rashid Behbudov, Niyazi, and Fikret Amirov.

Writers and thinkers including Hurshidbanu Natavan, Gasim Bey Zakir, Suleyman Sani Akhundov, Abdurrahim Hagverdiyev, and Najaf Bey Vazirov were also born here. Ahmet Agaoglu, a politician, jurist, writer and journalist who left a deep mark both in Azerbaijan and Turkey, where he spent a part of his life, is also a native of Shusha. Late President Heydar Aliyev termed Shusha "a holy city, castle, and monument" not only for the people of Shusha but for all Azerbaijanis.

The Jidir Plain in its southern part, surrounded by forests and numerous promenades, hosted horse races, festivals and other sports events for many years.

Shusha was one of the main targets of the Armenians. They first occupied Khankendi in 1991. On Feb. 26, 1992, the town of Khojaly fell into their hands, and then Shusha on May 8, 1992. May 8 is marked as a holiday in Armenia, but in Azerbaijan, the day is remembered as a Black Day. Hundreds of Azerbaijanis were killed and went missing in the defense of Shusha.

The occupation, where 20,000 Azerbaijanis lived, also caused a loss to the Azerbaijani economy and culture. While thousands of people were forced to leave their homeland, more than 300 historical monuments were also destroyed.

Shusha has been declared cultural capital of Azerbaijan. It has "mesmerizing" natural beauty and "classic" bungalows. It has great community centers and famous "castles" too. It has been famous for "Spring Healings" and "spontaneous" cultural diversity.

It has been famous for classic "music and mountains". It has been city of great "writers" and "warriors", "artists" and "admiring" beauty, "poets" and numerous "philanthropists". It has been famous for trade and commerce. It has been blessed with incomparable "human talent", "knowledge" and "wisdom".

Unfortunately, Shusha the capital of culture has been victim of severe "ethnic cleansing" and series of "genocides" committed by fascist "Armenia military and militia". It has been easy prey of Armenian state "sponsored" terrorism in which its natural beauty has been eroded. Its physical beauty had been destroyed. Its ecology has been sabotaged.

After its declaration being a cultural capital of Azerbaijan it hopes that its natural beauty, museums, castles, roads, resorts, community centers, libraries, centers of learning, science and arts will be restored and Shusha will be again in the hearts of people and tourists alike in the days to come because culture is eternal and conspiracy, conflict and contradiction is always short lived.

Crisis & pandemics couldn't be dealt in isolation

Sher Zada



These continents developed their infrastructures, transportation, urban mobility, life style, business deals etc. in accordance to the principles of global village; moreover they moved their ideas

THE world is global village, the term coined by a Canadian thinker Marshall McLuhan in 1960 become very popular and since had been pitching everywhere, not only on virtual media but nowadays people living in Far East, Asia and other remote corners of the world are used to say "the world is a global village". Technological advancement, boom and boast of internet via cellular phones played a vital role in the spread of making a world a quickly connected, touched and heard through modern gadgets. Europe, America, Australia could considered the continents that not only virtually mobilized themselves with the term but practically showcased what ought to be called being a part of global village.

These continents developed their infrastructures, transportation, urban mobility, life style, business deals etc. in accordance to the principles of global village; moreover they moved their ideas, innovations, and products in other continents such as Africa, Asia, and influenced people through direct and indirect soft technological invasions while getting control on nerves and vibes of the masses in third world countries. Not only simply this happened, the people started moving from third world countries to the developed continents hunting better wages and availing lush lifestyle, but the people in advanced countries launched racist tags about Asians and Africans and labelled them with different annoying titles. However, China, Japan could be pin pointed

technologically more equipped countries in Asia, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt in Africa.

But the most wondering fact about these third world's leading economies that they rarely favor their neighboring countries in the times of crises. China the country with 1,443,995,000 populations and \$16.64 trillion GDP is one of the most economically powerful and technologically advanced country has been unequally playing its role in helping its neighbors faced with challenges of poverty, climate change and other economic crisis, nonetheless China is supporting Pakistan a country that is rival of India an ultimate opponent of China, similarly Japan that comes second economically strong power, often has rivalry with China and has been helping rarely Philippines that is on the surge of extreme poverty.

Likewise India and Pakistan the two atomic powers have been combating against one another and paying less attention to help their neighboring countries i.e. Nepal and Bhutan and Afghanistan, instead of helping them they use the underdeveloped countries as shields against one another. Due to these facts the neighbors are less valuable than the far lying donors and aiding countries from other continents which stretched their hands for help with intentions serving their designed interests in the region.

These factors have been paralyzing the notions of mutual cooperation and self-reliance to cope with challenges, natural calamities, droughts, earthquakes where the lack of preparedness and

improper mechanism to tackle with causes high death toll and economical loss, taking an account the current Covid-19 pandemic, where India the boasting economy has high daily positive Covid-19 patients and plumbing death toll due to unavailability of ventilators, ambulances and proper check and balance, while its counterpart Pakistan has shortage of Oxygen. The race for controlling the continental power bridges both have been spending a huge amount on arsenals, weapons and military growth while spending less for developing their health structures and good governance etc. That has been destroying the concept of productive globalism and essence of a welfare global village. However, the recent medical assistance to craving India for medical equipment and emergency services, by a Pakistani charity called Edhi could be counted as gesture of global humanity and positive aspect of global village.

Instead of damaging and rising troubles for neighbors if the positive culture of helping neighbors in the times of crisis is equally revived then the world could be saved from disasters and pandemics and be placed on track of fast growing development, where nobody would be spared from basic foods, health and living a standard lifestyle. It will not only propel the spirit of equal development but will be helpful in building prosperous future for coming generations.

— The writer is an Islamabad based Journalist. He can be reached at sher.khanbtimes@gmail.com

Briefs

Alvarez beats Saunders to unify SMW titles

DNA

ARLINGTON: Saul "Canelo" Alvarez stopped Billy Joe Saunders in eight rounds Saturday to retain his WBC and WBA titles and seize the Briton's WBO crown in their super middleweight unification fight.

Alvarez won by technical knockout after Saunders retired on his stool at the end of the eighth round in front of 73,000-plus fans at AT&T Stadium, the largest US crowd ever to watch an indoor boxing event.

Saunders corner threw in the towel after their previously unbeaten fighter couldn't see out of his right eye which was badly swollen from Alvarez's powerful blows. Alvarez could sense victory in the eighth round as he chased the southpaw around the ring and waved his arms in the air as if to let the pro-Mexican crowd know that the end of the fight was near.

The fight at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys was also the largest crowd to watch a US sports event since the coronavirus pandemic. Alvarez improved to 56-1-2 with 38 knockouts, while Saunders, 31, dropped to 30-1 with 14 KOs.

The victory is another step in four weight world champion Alvarez's quest to dominate the 168-pound division.

PM urges world to secure...

From Page 01

The OIC has steadfastly supported the Kashmir cause and in this context the Niamey CFM culminated with a comprehensive resolution on the issue. The Secretary General shared information with the Prime Minister on the OIC's activities in support of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Prime Minister also called upon the OIC to play its rightful role in addressing the serious situation.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support and solidarity for the Palestinian people and underscored the imperative of protecting their legitimate rights. The Secretary General lauded the PM's espousal of Ummah's causes and stated that he enjoyed an eminent stature in the Muslim world. The Secretary General also underscored the salience of close Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations and congratulated the PM on a highly successful visit.

He was also scheduled to meet the Imam-e-Ka'aba and the head of the Muslim World League. Earlier, PM Imran took to Twitter on Sunday to condemn the Israeli police's attack on Palestinian worshippers at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque on Friday.

The premier also offered his support to the Palestinian people. In his message, the premier also urged the international community to take immediate action to protect Palestinians and their legitimate rights.

MBS expected to visit Pak...

From Page 01

highly productive and there is good news for Pakistan and the Pakistani people". However, he did not give details of what the good news for the people of Pakistan was. Qureshi had mentioned earlier that Pakistan would benefit since out of 10 million workers that Saudi Arabia needed in the next 10 years, many would come from Pakistan.

"In Mohammed Bin Salman's view, to achieve the goals set under the vision they would need massive manpower. They have estimated that they would need at least 10 million workers in the next 10 years. "Saudi Arabia has decided to allocate a large chunk of this for Pakistani people. New job opportunities would be created for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia," said Qureshi.

Scores more wounded in new Jerusalem clashes

The Palestinian Red Crescent reported 90 people were wounded in Saturday's clashes in Jerusalem, revising up their earlier estimate of 53

JERUSALEM: Scores of people were injured Saturday as Israeli police fired water cannon and rubber bullets to disperse Palestinian protesters in annexed east Jerusalem, a day after fierce clashes at the city's Al-Aqsa mosque. The fresh violence, a day after more than 200 people were wounded at the mosque, prompted international calls for an end to the violence. Police said they dispersed the rally in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood where demonstrators had thrown stones at security forces.

Officials said Sunday a rocket had been fired from the Gaza Strip, with the Israel Defense Forces responding by striking a "military target" in the south. Earlier, officers had fired tear gas towards protesters on the border.

In Jerusalem, police said they made three arrests for attacks on officers, while Palestinians reported 13 other arrests earlier in the day. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported 90 people were wounded in Saturday's clashes in Jerusalem, revising up their earlier estimate of 53.

AFP journalists in Jerusalem said Israeli riot police had fired rubber bullets, sound grenades and water cannon on Palestinians Saturday, some of whom threw projectiles at the police. One officer received a head injury, said police. On Friday, riot police stormed Al-Aqsa mosque compound, after they said Palestinians threw rocks and fireworks at officers. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended

the police actions. "Israel is acting responsibly to ensure respect for law and order in Jerusalem while allowing freedom of worship," he said in a meeting of security officials.

The violence was the worst in years at Al-Aqsa, Islam's third-holiest site after Mecca and Medina, located on the site Jews revere as the Temple Mount. Palestinians have held nightly protests in Sheikh Jarrah against an attempt by Israeli settlers to take over Arab homes. On Saturday, protesters chanted, waved Palestinian flags and threw stones before police moved in.

Dozens of Arab Israeli protesters also gathered around Israel in solidarity with Sheikh Jarrah residents, holding up signs that read "the occupation is terrorism". Police blocked buses filled with Arabs headed for Jerusalem from northern Israel, saying they would not be allowed "to participate in

Instead, hundreds marched on highways leading to the city. Thousands of worshippers stayed on at Al-Aqsa on Saturday for Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), a peak of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Islamist movement Hamas, which rules Gaza, urged Palestinians to remain at Al-Aqsa until Ramadan ends, warning that "the resistance is ready to defend Al-Aqsa at any cost". Outside the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City, Palestinians set fire to a barricade before police on horseback dispersed the protesters. - Agencies

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Ankara calls on Israel to halt illegal settlements

ANKARA: Turkey on Friday called on Israel to abandon its policy of building illegal settlements in Eastern Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu's remarks came at a news conference with his Palestinian counterpart Riyad al-Maliki in the Turkish capital Ankara. The Turkish official said Israel maintained its "occupation policy" in Eastern Jerusalem and West Bank without a pause, and it was taking new steps to expand illegal settlements or transfer Palestinian houses to illegal settlers, which could pave the way for further destabilization in the future. Ankara is ready to offer any support needed for elections to be held in Palestine in line with international standards, said Çavuşoğlu. Stressing that Turkey would not abandon its vision of a two-state solution, Çavuşoğlu went on to say that the projected elections in Palestine, first in the past 15 years, but Israeli acts hampered this. We have no doubt that the election to be held in Palestine will be conducted in a democratic and transparent manner just like it was in 2006, he said, adding the international observers had confirmed this back then. Furthermore, Çavuşoğlu stressed that his country did not abandon Palestinians and their cause, and Ankara would continue to support Palestine in the future. - DNA

Jordan jersey sold at \$1.38 mn auction

DNA

LOS ANGELES: A Michael Jordan game-worn jersey from his 1982-83 season at the University of North Carolina has sold for \$1.38 million dollars at auction, Heritage Auctions said Saturday. "We're extremely proud to have shattered records for a Jordan game-worn jersey," Chris Ivy, Heritage's director of sports auctions, said in a statement.

Adding to the value of the blue and white No. 23 Tar Heels jersey is the fact that it's the kit Jordan was wearing on the cover of the March 1983 Sporting News, which declared Jordan the NCAA player of the year. The season was Jordan's second at UNC, and the season after a freshman Jordan helped take the Tar Heels to the 1982 national championship over a Georgetown team that featured Patrick Ewing. The same jersey had brought \$63,500 when it was auctioned in 1999, and Heritage had expected it to go four about \$1 million in its Spring Sports Catalog Auction.



MADRID: Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus celebrates on the podium after winning the women's singles final against Ashleigh Barty of Australia at Madrid Open in CajaMajica in Madrid, Spain. - DNA

Russia celebrates WWII V-Day with military parade



FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: An annual military parade was held on Moscow's iconic Red Square as Russia celebrates victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. World War II is often called the Great Patriotic War in Russia, and May 9 is one of the country's most revered holidays. More than 12,000 uniformed

soldiers, military police officers, national guardsmen and cadets marched through Red Square on Sunday shortly after a moment of silence was observed in honor of the millions killed in the war. The number of participants was slightly scaled-down compared to last year when Russia marked the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany and its allies. The victory in World War II played a "colossal histor-

ic role for the fate of the whole world," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his address. "We will always remember that it was the Soviet people who had done this great act of bravery," Putin said. He noted that the unity and courage of Soviet citizens ultimately led them to "accomplish what was thought to be impossible - vanquishing a merciless enemy... and unequivocally defeating Nazism." "The Soviet people kept their sacred oath, defended the homeland, and freed the countries of Europe from the black plague," Putin told the crowd. "Russia consistently defends international law. At the same time, we will firmly defend our national interests to ensure the safety of our people." The Russian leader condemned what he called a creeping return of ideologies of the time, when "slogans of racial and national superiority, of anti-Semitism, and Russophobia became ever more cynical." One of the traditional elements of the parade is the Victory Banner - the iconic red flag that was raised by the Soviet Red Army soldiers on the Reichstag building in Berlin on May 1, 1945.

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Pakistan beef to meet demands of Chinese market

BEIJING: As China has a supply gap of beef and Pakistan has sufficient capacity, efforts are being made for Pakistani beef to enter into the Chinese market and grab a sufficient place of the product opening a wide opportunities of export to the neighbouring country. China is a large meat importer of beef. In 2020, China's beef production reached 6.72 million tons, and the import volume reached to 2.1183 million tons with an increase of 27.65 percent, setting the beef import record. At the same time, China's chicken import volume nearly doubled as compared with that in 2019. China's annual output of beef and mutton added up to 10 million tons, said Li Jinghui, Deputy Secretary General of China Animal Agriculture Association and President of White-feathered Broiler Alliance. He added, "China's per capita output is a few kilograms, which fails to meet domestic needs. That's why there are millions of tons of imports". China is a major meat importer while animal husbandry plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan, yet annual meat trade between the two countries is very small. So far, China has not opened the door of Pakistani beef import, as Pakistan is still on China's "List of Animals and Their Products in the Countries and Regions with A Prevalent Animal Epidemic Situation Banned for Entry," according to a report published by CEN. In 2019, China and Pakistan signed the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Free Zone Agreement. Pakistani government is undertaking a vaccination programme to address the FMD issue. In this way, Pakistan is expected to move from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)'s Stage-2 category for countries (in which FMD is reduced to target areas) to Stage-3. - APP

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Govt to challenge LHC order..

From Page 01

The Information Minister said that Nawaz's London apartments are of billions of dollars' worth. He said the PTI has performed its duty as a political party. He said in a democratic setup our authority is not limitless. He said courts and the prosecution wings should also play their role. He said people still believe that system has not changed yet.

Fawad said PTI is fighting for bringing about a change in the system. He said Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid health problem is far critical than Shehbaz Sharif but she is getting treatment from Pakistan. He asked why Nawaz and Shehbaz could not get their treatment from Pakistan. He wondered if it was not the patriotic duty of Nawaz's children to do business in Pakistan.

The Information Minister said from 1988 to 1999 and from 2008 to 2018, corruption of billions of rupees was committed, adding that the PML-N was in power during both these stints. He said Nawaz owns four apartments in London. His daughter Maryam Nawaz said on TV that they did not have any property in Pakistan, not to talk of any property in London. He said a German newspaper published the story of most disgraced rulers of the world. The paper revealed the names of richest rulers of the poorest countries of the world and Nawaz's name appeared in that Panama scandal. Fawad said Nawaz bought an apartment worth 45million pounds and broadsheet mentioned this apartment.

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Thailand confirms 2,101 new cases

BANGKOK: Thailand confirmed 2,101 new COVID-19 cases and 17 more fatalities on Sunday amid the country's most severe coronavirus outbreak, according to the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). Of the new cases, 2,086 were domestic infections while 15 others were imported, CCSA spokesman Taweessin Visanuyothin said at a daily news briefing. The capital Bangkok continued to have the highest number of infections, with 980 new cases detected during the past 24 hours. The new cases brought the country's total caseload to 83,375, with more than 54,000 infections detected in the past five weeks. The 17 additional fatalities reported Sunday added the total death toll to 399, according to Taweessin. A total of 29,371 patients, including 1,442 in critical condition, are now in hospitals around the country. - APP

EU envoy welcomes COVAX initiative

From Page 01

this important delivery of vaccines. She added they were proud to play our part in the global COVAX initiative, alongside our partners, as it helps to complement efforts where vaccines are needed. For the time being SOPs still need to be followed," "The United States has also welcomed the successful arrival in Pakistan of 1.2 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. We remain committed to working bilaterally and multilaterally to support access to vaccines for the world's most at-risk populations," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler.

"This pandemic has shown the importance of partnerships, such as the longstanding partnership between the United States and Pakistan, which has enabled us to more effectively respond to this health crisis together."

"I'm proud of the UK's role in developing the Oxford University AstraZeneca vaccine that Pakistan is receiving today. The UK is one of the world's biggest contributors to the COVAX facility - donating £548m to make sure countries get the vaccines they need, including Pakistan," said Dr. Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan. "Today's arrival of the first COVAX batch in Pakistan is an important milestone for fighting this pandemic together. It is also a strong token of multilateralism and international solidarity at its best."

Govt to challenge LHC order..

From Page 01

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We will always be proud of the exploits of our fathers

"We always celebrate this glorious date, feeling at the same time feelings of immeasurable joy and boundless sorrow," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev. World War II was the largest and most destructive war in human history. It was attended by 62 states out of 73 that existed in the world at that time

DNA

TASHKENT: A festive event was held in the amphitheater of Victory Park in connection with 9 May, the Day of Remembrance and Honor. The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev congratulated all veterans, all our people on the Day of Remembrance and Honor and the 76th anniversary of the Victory in World War II. "We always celebrate this glorious date, feeling at the same time feelings of immeasurable joy and boundless sorrow," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev. World War II was the largest and most destructive war in human history. It was attended by 62 states out of 73 that existed in the world at that time, this is 80 percent of the world's population.

In the hostilities, which were directly conducted on the territory of 40 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa, 110 million mobilized took part, as a result of the war 70 million people died. The unsurpassed courage and resilience of our grandfathers and grandmothers, who fought in that war and selflessly worked in the rear, are forever inscribed in the history of mankind. - We, living now grateful descendants, will always be proud of you, our brave fathers. In these exciting moments, we all bow our heads to your merits in the reconstruction and development of the country after the war. No matter how many years and centuries have passed, our people will always keep in their hearts the memory of your heroic struggle against fascism, and this feat will



forever remain an example for young people," the President said. At the beginning of 1941, the population of Uzbekistan was over 6.8 million. Of these, about 2 million went to the front. More than 500 thousand of them died heroically in the battles. - We remember these numbers every year. But these are

not just numbers, behind them are the lives of our mothers and grandmothers, brave and courageous fathers, deep sorrow and grief in the hearts of all our people. No numbers, no words can express this pain and sorrow, - said the head of our state. More than 1.5 million elderly people, women and children affected by the war were evacuated to our republic. Among them are over 250 thousand orphans. - Our people in the most difficult years of the war showed their high humanistic qualities. He sheltered and shared the last piece of bread with hundreds of thousands of people of different nationalities brought to Uzbekistan, showed compassion and humanity to them. This great feat, the broad soul of our people have earned respect throughout the world. And

we should be proud of this, - said Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It was emphasized that today the idea of fighting for peace based on the lessons learned from the tragedies of war is becoming more relevant than ever. In accordance with its strategy, Uzbekistan is committed to preserving peace and stability, interethnic and interfaith harmony, and further strengthening its state independence. The event was televised. The head of state talked with the participants of the holiday and veterans who gathered in the studios in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and regions. Then Shavkat Mirziyoyev greeted the war and labor veterans who were present at the event, wished them health and long life. The veterans read a dua wishing peace to the country and prosperity to our people.

Briefs

WHO approves Chinese vaccine

DNA

NEW YORK: A coronavirus vaccine produced in China has been given the green light for global rollout, potentially paving the way for its use in underserved countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced.

The UN agency has approved the Sinopharm vaccine for emergency use, which is a prerequisite for inclusion in the global vaccine solidarity initiative, COVAX.

The vaccine is easy to store, making it suitable for locations with limited resources, and proved 79 per cent effective in clinical trials.

"The addition of this vaccine has the potential to rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries seeking to protect health workers and populations at risk", said Dr Mariangela Simao, WHO Assistant-Director General for Access to Health Products.

"We urge the manufacturer to participate in the COVAX Facility and contribute to the goal of more equitable vaccine distribution."

The Sinopharm vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG).

Kyrgyz court fines Canadian gold miner

BISHKEK: A court in Kyrgyzstan has fined Canadian-owned miner Koumtor Gold Company more than 2.5 billion dollars for environmental pollution at the country's biggest gold mine. Koumtor, part of Canada's Centerra Gold group, was accused of stocking waste for years on two glaciers close to the operation.

"Bishkek's Oktiabrskiy court decided on May 7 to fine Koumtor Gold Company 261.7 billion soms," (2.53 billion euros, \$3.1 billion), a court spokesman told AFP on Saturday.

The verdict fell a day after parliament passed a bill allowing the government to enforce "external management" on a foreign firm if environmental laws have been broken.

New President Sadyr Japarov, who has long opposed Centerra's activities amid demands for nationalisation, still has to sign the legislation for it to enter into force. Centerra Gold shares plunged 29.8 per cent on Friday in Toronto following the parliamentary vote in Bishkek. The group issued a statement saying the mining operation followed international environmental standards and expressed surprise at how parliament managed the required three readings of the bill in a single day. — APP

Fire hits oil refinery in Syria

FOREIGN DESK

DAMASCUS: Syrian firefighters extinguished a major blaze on Sunday that engulfed areas of its main Homs refinery in the west of the nation. The fire started in a distillation unit because of a leak in a pumping station, state media reported without elaborating. State television showed live footage of flames shooting out of parts of the refinery with black smoke plumes in the distance as firefighters battled the blaze.

SANA, the state news agency, citing a local firefighting official, reported the fire was later brought under control without causing casualties.

"The cooling process is now underway. There are no casualties," chief of the Homs firefighting brigade, Hassan Amar, said.

In late April, Syria's oil ministry said a fire erupted in an oil tanker on its coast after what it said was a suspected drone attack.

There was a large fire and blast at Homs refinery in January involving a nearby crude oil loading station and dozens of trucks that transport petroleum products across the country.

Afghans begin burying dead from bloody school blasts

The government blamed the Taliban for the carnage, but the insurgents denied responsibility and issued a statement saying the nation needed to "safeguard and look after educational centres and institutions"

KABUL: Dozens of young girls were being buried Sunday at a desolate hilltop cemetery in Kabul, a day after a secondary school was targeted in the bloodiest attack in Afghanistan in over a year.

A series of blasts outside the school during a peak holiday shopping period killed more than 50 people, mostly girl students, and wounded over 100 in Dashed-Barchi, a west Kabul suburb populated mostly by Hazara Shiites.

The government blamed the Taliban for the carnage, but the insurgents denied responsibility and issued a statement saying the nation needed to "safeguard and look after educational centres and institutions".

Saturday's blasts came as the United States military continues to pull out its last 2,500 troops from the violence-racked country

despite faltering peace efforts between the Taliban and Afghan government to end a decades-long war.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tareq Arian told reporters that a car bomb detonated in front of the Sayed Al-Shuhada girls school on Saturday, and when the students rushed out in panic, two more devices exploded.

Residents were shopping ahead of this week's Eid al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when the blasts occurred.

On Sunday, relatives began burying the dead at a hilltop site known as "Martyrs Cemetery", where victims of attacks against the Hazara community are laid to rest.

Hazaras are Shiite Muslims and considered heretic by extremist Sunnis. Sunni Muslims make up the majority of the Afghan

Death toll rises to 50

KABUL: The death toll from bombs planted outside a girls' school in an area of the Afghan capital populated largely by Shiite Hazaras rose to 50 Sunday as the Taliban denied government accusations that they were behind the bloody attack. The Saturday's blasts — the deadliest in more than a year — rocked the west Kabul district of Dashed-Barchi, a regular target of Sunni Islamist militants. It comes as the United States military continues to pull out its last 2,500 troops from the violence-racked country despite faltering peace efforts between the Taliban and Afghan government to end a decades-long war. Describing Saturday's carnage, Interior Ministry spokesman Tareq Arian told reporters that a car bomb first detonated in front of the Sayed Al-Shuhada School, and when the students rushed out in panic two more devices exploded. He said more than 100 people were wounded, adding that most of the victims were female students. Residents were out shopping ahead of this week's Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. On Sunday relatives began burying the dead at a hilltop site known as "Martyrs Cemetery". — APP

population. Afghan officials including President Ashraf Ghani blamed the Taliban. "This savage group does

not have the power to confront security forces on the battlefield, and instead targets with brutality and barbarism public facilities and the girls' school," Ghani said in a statement after the blasts.

The Taliban denied involvement, and insist they have not carried out attacks in Kabul since February last year, when they signed a deal with Washington that paved the way for peace talks and withdrawal of the remaining US troops.

But the group has clashed daily with Afghan forces in the rugged countryside even as the US military reduces its presence.

The United States was supposed to have pulled all forces out by May 1 as agreed with the Taliban last year, but Washington pushed back the date to September 11 — a move that angered the insurgents. The leader of the Taliban,

Haibatullah Akhundzada, reiterated in a message released ahead of Eid that any delay in withdrawing the troops was a "violation" of that deal.

"If America again fails to live up to its commitments then the world must bear witness and hold America accountable for all the consequences," Akhundzada warned in Sunday's message.

He said also that the nation should give particular attention to the healthy and literate growth of children. The nation "must safeguard and look after educational centres and institutions", he said.

The top US diplomat in Kabul, Ross Wilson, called Saturday's blasts "abhorrent".

"This unforgivable attack on children is an assault on Afghanistan's future, which cannot stand," Wilson tweeted. — APP

UN leaders slam school bombing

FOREIGN DESK

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations leaders have strongly condemned Saturday's deadly bombing outside a high school in Kabul in which at least 30 people, including schoolchildren, were killed and many more severely injured.

Most of the casualties were reported to be girls, who were leaving the building at the end of the school day. According to media reports, the city was full of shoppers, ahead of the Eid-al-Fitr celebrations.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed his condemnation and deepest sympathies for the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Afghanistan, and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. "Those responsible for this heinous crime must be held accountable", Guterres added, underlining the urgency of ending the violence in Afghanistan and achieving a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Henrietta Fore, the Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, called the attack "horrific", saying, "Violence in or around schools is never acceptable. Schools must be havens of peace where children can play, learn and socialize safely." The UNICEF chief added that children must never be the target of violence, and that the UN agency continues to call on all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to adhere to international human rights and humanitarian law, and ensure the safety and protection of all children.

Spain ends Covid state of emergency

WEB DESK

MADRID: Spain has lifted a state of emergency in place since October to fight the pandemic, allowing Spaniards to travel between regions for the first time in months.

"It's like New Year's," said 28-year-old Oriol Corbella in Barcelona, where the lifting of the curfew was met with shouts, applause and music.

"We're getting a bit of normality back, of freedom, but we have to keep in mind that the virus is still around," he added. "I was fed up with not being able to get out of Madrid," jewellery designer Blaca Valls told AFP on Saturday, echoing the relief of many in the country over the easing of restrictions.

"I felt frustrated, locked down, with no freedom," added the 46-year-old who plans to go to Galicia, in northwest Spain, next weekend to celebrate a birthday. Argentina Enriquez, a 37-year-old Mexican student, said she was impatiently waiting to head to the countryside to enjoy barbecues with friends, play the guitar and go for walks.

"Just being together... a lot of emotions," she said. Although the emergency measure, which expired at midnight (2200 GMT Saturday) will lead to more freedoms, it is a headache for the country's 17 regional governments responsible for health care.

Pak-China Award ceremony of drawing contest held online

DNA

BEIJING: The Award-giving ceremony of the China (Henan) and Pakistan (Balochistan) drawing contest for Middle School Students and the Sister School contract signing ceremony was held online in Zhengzhou and Gwadar simultaneously, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

The ceremony was organized by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and co-hosted by the People's Government of Henan Province, the Government of Balochistan and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The report stated that the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties is around the corner.

In the beginning of 2021, the drawing contest themed "Pakistan in my heart" and "China in my heart" had started among students of the Affiliated Middle School of Henan Normal University, Zhengzhou No. 122 Middle School and Gwadar



Faqeer Middle School. Nearly 20,000 Chinese and Pakistani teens attended the contest to depict their understanding and expectation of each other's country, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Huo Jinhua, Vice Governor of Henan Province addressed the ceremony and presented prizes to the winners.

"Henan, the cradle of the Chinese Nation and Civilization, is an important province in China in terms of

population, society, economy, science and technology. Attaching great importance to China-Pakistan friendly relations, Henan devotes to developing bilateral economy, establishing sister cities, and promoting cultural exchanges with Pakistan," said Huo Jinhua, Vice Governor of Henan Province at the ceremony. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, congratulated the winners at the ceremony. He underlined that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners, sharing

weal and woe. "As the flagship project of BRI, CPEC has made great contributions to Pakistan's economic development and regional interconnection. CPEC construction is putting more emphasis on social welfare and people's livelihood," he added. Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China also addressed the ceremony, stating Pakistani people will never forget the selfless assistance given to Pakistan by the Chinese government and people.

Key suspect in Nasheed attack arrested

FOREIGN DESK

MALÉ: A third man has been arrested following the attempted assassination of Maldives' former president Mohamed Nasheed, police said Sunday, as they renewed an appeal for more information about another suspect.

The democracy pioneer and climate activist was seriously hurt after a bomb attack in the capital Male on Thursday night that also injured a British national and two others, which police have blamed on "religious extremists".

"We can confirm that a third individual has been arrested in connection with the May 6 attack early today," police said in a statement. No further details about the man were released.

Police also appealed for more information about another man seen in the area where a motorcycle that the bomb had been rigged to was parked. The owner of the motorcycle as well as another man

were arrested on Saturday. The bomb detonated as Nasheed walked to his car. Family members tweeted that the 53-year-old ex-president, now the parliament's speaker, remained in the intensive care unit of a hospital.

But he was able to speak to close relatives on Saturday after no longer needing life support, they added. There was no immediate update on his condition from the hospital. Nasheed underwent 16 hours of surgery to remove shrapnel from his body and doctors said one shard narrowly missed his heart. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack, but officials from Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) have alleged that religious extremists and political interests could be involved.

The Indian Ocean archipelago of 340,000 people is Muslim majority and in October 2019 police arrested a suspected Islamic State recruiter accused of sending dozens of Maldivians to Syria.

Sheikh Jarrah evictions 'ethnic cleansing': Khaled Meshaal

FOREIGN DESK

RABAT: Khaled Meshaal, the head of Hamas' diaspora office, described the eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem by Israeli authorities as "ethnic cleansing".

"What's happening in Sheikh Jarrah is ethnic cleansing by expelling families that have a history in this neighborhood," Meshaal told an event in Morocco titled "Jerusalem and the Promise of the Hereafter", organized by the

Moroccan Association for the Support of the Ummah Causes.

The Hamas leader said Jerusalem will never surrender to the "Zionist invaders". "The Ummah (nation) will prevail and its enemies will be defeated despite all the suffering it is going through and attempts to divide it," he added. "There is no life for us without Jerusalem," Meshaal told the audience. "Jerusalem is not a political, religious, spiritual, and civilizational capital, but rather it is the past, present, and future, and it is the land that



God has promised us to be the land of decisiveness with the Zionists in the first and last round." Palestinians in Jerusalem have in recent days protested in solidarity with the residents of Jerusalem's Sheikh

Jarrah neighborhood amid clashes with Israeli police. The protests came amid Israeli plans to evict Palestinians in the neighborhood from their homes and hand them over to settlement associations. More than 290 Palestinians have been injured in clashes with Israeli forces in Jerusalem since Friday.

Israel occupied East Jerusalem, where Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is located, during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It annexed the entire city in 1980, in a move never recognized by the international community.

Amazon operation in Pakistan to unleash new vistas: Malik

ABID RAZA



enable a new breed of young entrepreneurs and SMEs including women to fully exploit foreign markets. He said this fate turning decision will drastically change the game and result in a new sphere of economic growth as more sellers to visit this platform than ever before, he added.

Iftikhar Ali Malik urged young entrepreneurs derive maximum benefits once Amazon opens its seller registration for Pakistan. He stressed the need for focussing to fully ensure the international quality of products before export. He said Amazon like other international companies and brands, is a highly consumer-centric market place where consumer's reviews are taken very seriously. Therefore, Pakistani entrepreneurs will have to be very careful if they desire to benefit from this opportunity. Jamil Ahmad Jamil emphasised that trend of e-commerce had accelerated in recent years with the development and easy accessibility of internet. He said due to covid 19 pandemic, the importance of e-commerce had increased manifold making it an extremely vital sector of economy. He said Pakistan e-commerce market itself has grown dramatically over the last one year and is estimated to have expended by 35 per cent in his quarter of the current fiscal to Rs 96 billion from Rs 71 billion a year ago.

LAHORE: Pak-US Business Council Sunday hailing the epoch making decision of US e-commerce giant "Amazon" to add Pakistan to its seller list said it will unleash new vistas for young entrepreneurs to join the global export markets. Talking to Jamil Ahmad Jamil Deputy Managing Director Punjab Small Industries Corporation who called on him here today, founder chairman Pak US Business Council and President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik said it's major breakthrough for the country's growing e-commerce industry as well as companies and professionals working in the digital space. He said the new development will hopefully put Pakistan on the global e-commerce map, opening up a new era of business boom by connecting across the world. He said it will now provide a new impetus and venue to Pak individual sellers to ship their products in small parcels to consumers outside Pakistan. Iftikhar Ali Malik said it will afford them an excellent opportunity to work on and develop their own brands for better prices. He said it's heartening to note that they will not have to worry about their payments as Amazon will directly transfer the money into their local accounts. It's good omen that now small Pakistan sellers especially women and SME entrepreneurs who have goods and products needed by the consumers outside Pakistan but can't afford to have a big export set-up.

For instance he said they have a large Pakistani diaspora scattered across the countries, especially in the Gulf to cater their needs. He said it

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Briefs

COVID-19 claims 118 more lives

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Sunday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 81,830 with 3,785 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 4,569 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. One hundred and eighteen corona patients died during past 24 hours, 101 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and 17 out of the hospitals in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO). During the past 24 hours, most of the deaths occurred in the Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the total 118 deaths occurred in the last 24 hours 50 of them had died who were under treatment on ventilators. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four cities including Lahore 67 percent, Multan 67 percent, Gujranwala 79 percent and Peshawar 51 percent. The maximum Oxygen beds (alternate oxygen providing facility other than ventilator administered as per medical requirement of COVID patient) was also occupied in four major areas of Gujranwala 48 percent, Swabi 52 percent, Peshawar 54 percent and Multan 63 percent.

Police arrest MQM activist 'involved' in 18 murders

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested an activist of MQM-London, who received training from India and remained allegedly involved in 18 murder cases. Sharing details of the arrest, the Malir City police said that the MQM-London activist identified as Muhammad Shahzad aka 'Kha-ji' was allegedly involved in 18 murder cases. "He joined the party in 1988 as an activist and later joined a target killing team of Naeem Sharri in 1993," the police said adding that the suspect killed a sub-inspector and a constable along with his accomplices in a firing incident. They said that Muhammad Shahzad was also allegedly involved in killing activists from political and religious outfits. "More revelations are expected to come during the investigation process," the police said adding that arrests would then be made in light of these revelations. He is booked in various cases under anti-terrorism and other charges. On March 18, MQM-London's Kehkashan Haider can be allegedly heard coordinating for a nefarious killing bid via phone call as another audiotape surfaced suggesting she led the target killers' wing in the port city.

ECP to meet on e-voting after Eid

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to convene a meeting on the issue of presidential reference regarding internet and electronic voting saying that reference was issued without taking ECP into confidence. Sources said that the federal government has issued a presidential ordinance without taking the Election Commission into confidence. The ECP's concerns about internet voting and electronic voting machines have not been addressed. The meeting on the Election Commission's Presidential Ordinance will review the ordinance on internet voting and electronic voting machines after Eid. The Election Commission will once again inform the Federal Government of its concerns regarding the Ordinance after meeting.

Pakistan stands steadfast in support of Palestine cause

Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Arab League, Organization of Islamic Organization and other countries championing the human rights must take notice of the situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday strongly condemned the Israeli attack on worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and reiterated that Pakistan stood steadfast in support of the Palestine cause. "(I) Condemn in (the) strongest terms attack on innocent worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, first Qibla of Islam, by Israeli occupation forces in the holy month of Ramzan."

the foreign minister said on Twitter. He said such brutality was against very spirit of humanity and human rights law. "Pakistan stands steadfast in support of Palestinian cause," the foreign minister said, adding the country had also strongly condemned the way the Palestinian people were being evicted from their homes. Talking to different television channels while being in Saudi Arabia accompanying Prime Minister Imran Khan on the three-day



visit, he said the people of Palestine must be given their right and the Israeli aggression against them must come to an end immediately. The foreign minister welcomed the summoning of urgent meeting of Arab League and called it a "timely step". He said the Arab League, Organization of Islamic Organization and other countries championing the human rights must take notice of the situation. "I am happy that Arab League summoned an urgent meeting. The Arab

League should unanimously talk on and attract attention of the Western states towards this issue," he said. To a question, Qureshi said the unity of Muslim Ummah was inevitable to attract the attention of the Western powers to the issue. Qureshi said the Muslim states would have to foil the designs of some powers trying to create differences among the Ummah. By this way, the Muslim world could raise their unanimous voice through the platforms of OIC and Human Rights Council.

PIA transports 1mn doses of Sinovac vaccine to Pakistan

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight No.6852 carrying a batch of one million doses of Sinovac vaccine left the Beijing Capital International Airport here on Sunday for Islamabad as the country is battling to control the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic. "More flights of the national carrier are expected to airlift more consignments of Sinovac vaccines procured from China between May 13-15 and by the end of May", Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told

media. According to official sources, Pakistan has so far received over 10 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines procured from China including others through COVAX programme. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) has announced that so far 10.19 million doses of different Covid-19 vaccines comprising of Sinopharm, Sinovac and CanSino were received by the country. It informed that 1.23 million doses of AstraZenca Covid vaccine were also received

in the federal capital. However, this vaccine was procured through COVAX programme. It is pertinent to mention here that the relevant Chinese authorities have pledged to continue uninterrupted supply of vaccine to help Pakistan defeat the fatal virus. Pakistan began a vaccination drive in March with over a million doses of Sinopharm vaccines donated by China. Islamabad received first COVID-19 vaccine consignment after a military aircraft transported it from Beijing on February 1, this year. - APP

ti-pandemic measures and facilitating the vaccination drive. While elaborating the arrival of next tranches of the Covid-19 vaccines, the sources said that one million doses would be landing on May 13-15 while another 1.5 million doses are expected by the end of this month. Currently, Pakistan is facing a third wave of COVID-19 and the positivity rate has seen a sharp rise, forcing the Pakistani authorities to continue tightening the an-

China remains top importer: SBP

ISLAMABAD: China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first three quarter of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. The total imports from China during July-March (2020-21) were recorded at \$9074.105 million against the \$6967.724 million during July-March (2019-20), showing an increase of 30.23 percent during the period, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said. This was followed by UAE,

where Pakistan imported goods worth \$4962.008 million against the imports of \$5265.142 million last year, showing negative growth of 5.75 percent. Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$2208.545 million against the imports of \$1752.843 million last year, showing growth of 25.99 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani imports from United State of America (USA) stood at \$1774.043 million against \$1684.482 million during last year. - APP

UK PM invites Scottish leader to 'work together'

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday wrote to Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturgeon congratulating her on her election result and asking her to work together, Downing Street said. "I believe passionately that the interests of people across the UK and in particular the people of Scotland are best served when we work together," Johnson wrote to Sturgeon. He said the UK government wanted to work with Sturgeon's government in a "cooperative spirit" as part of "Team UK". The letter to Sturgeon came after her SNP won a fourth term in the devolved parliament in Thursday's poll. On Saturday, she repeated her demand for Johnson to allow a fresh independence referendum, something he has already ruled out. - APP



JEDDAH: Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting with Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation. - DNA

All Sastay Bazaars to shut down in Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Sunday decided to close all Ramadan Sastay Bazaars in the province from May 10. The provincial government has also issued a notification of shutting down the bazaars across the province so now today was the last day for people to buy necessary items for their remaining fasting days. The step was taken apparently in view of the surging coronavirus cases in the province. The decision to end the

Ramazan Bazaars was taken after consultation with the Punjab Chief Secretary and Provincial Minister for Food. A copy of the notification was also sent to the Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, Punjab food and agriculture departments and other concerned departments. The Ramazan Bazaars were established in Punjab last month at the start of the holy month of Ramazan with a discount of up to 25 percent on flour, sugar, pulses, vegetables and other items from the government.

Chinese rocket segment disintegrates over Indian Ocean

BEIJING: A large segment of a Chinese rocket re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean on Sunday, the Chinese space agency said, following fevered speculation over where the 18-tonne object would come down. Officials in Beijing had said there was little risk from the freefalling segment of the Long March-5B rocket, which had launched the first module of China's new space station into Earth orbit on April 29.

"After monitoring and analysis, at 10:24 (0224 GMT) on May 9, 2021, the last-stage wreckage of the Long March 5B Yao-2 launch vehicle has reentered the atmosphere," the China Manned Space Engineering Office said in a statement, providing coordinates for a point in the Indian Ocean near the Maldives. It added that most of the segment disintegrated and was destroyed during re-entry. Monitoring service SpaceTrack, which uses US mil-

itary data, also confirmed the re-entry. "Everyone else following the #LongMarch5B re-entry can relax. The rocket is down," it tweeted. The segment's descent matched predictions by some experts that any debris would have splashed down into the ocean, given that 70 percent of the planet is covered by water. But the uncontrolled re-entry of such a large object had sparked concerns about possible damage and casualties, despite there being a low statistical

chance. American and European space authorities were among those tracking its orbits and trying to determine when and where it may come down. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had said the US military had no plans to shoot it down, but suggested that China had been negligent in letting it fall out of orbit. Last year, debris from another Long March rocket fell on villages in the Ivory Coast, causing structural damage but no injuries or deaths. - APP

Pakistan calls for probe into India uranium seizure

"We have noted with serious concern the reports about seizure of more than 7kg natural uranium from unauthorised persons in India"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday expressed serious concern over illegal possession of a large quantity of uranium by two unauthorised persons in India and pointed to gaps in state control mechanisms there. "We have noted with serious concern the reports about seizure of more than 7kg natural uranium from unauthorised persons in India," Foreign Office Spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said. Indian authorities had on Wednesday seized 7.1kg of natural uranium and arrested two persons - Jigar Pandya, 27, and Abu Tahir Afzal Husain Choudhary, 31 - in Nagpur. The seized uranium is

worth \$2.9 million. It is believed that the uranium had been stolen or illegally mined. It was reportedly unprocessed as it had not been refined and converted to "yellow cake". It isn't clear to whom did the two men want to sell it. It is believed that it could have been channelled to the international black market. The very fact that some people stole or illegally mined uranium raises concerns about nuclear safety and security in India. It also indicates the possibility of a nuclear market existing in India that could be connected to international players. "Security of nuclear materials should be the top priority for all countries," Chaudhri said. "There is a need for thorough in-

vestigation of the matter as to how such sizeable quantity of uranium could become available outside any state control and identify the gaps which made this possible," he added. Pakistan did not raise the matter with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, because it has been the government's policy that security of nuclear material is a national responsibility. However, India should report this incident to the IAEA's Incident and Tracking Data Base mechanism as the uranium could have been trafficked to non-state or state actors or handed over to other racketeers. India's nuclear safety and security

record is not very impressive. Lax state control, as indicated by the latest seizure of uranium, shows that India still has to go a long way before becoming a responsible nuclear power and be accepted as a member of the Nuclear Supplier Group, a nuclear expert said. According to an Indian parliamentary report, 147 mishaps or security-related occurrences were reported in Indian atomic energy plants between 1995 and 1998. Out of these instances, 28 were of acute nature and nine of these occurred in nuclear power installations. More worrying, the expert noted, is the fact that nuclear arsenal is in the hands of an irresponsible extremist government. India has been a customer in nuclear black

market, he said, adding the Indian state must regulate nuclear material or else could be considered complicit in their trafficking. Soon after the news about the seizure broke, some quarters began expressing apprehensions that it could have landed in the hands of Hindu extremists, who could have used it for making dirty bombs. However, this is far from the truth. Natural uranium is not useful for making dirty bombs. For that cobalt 60 etc. are far more lethal. Seven kilograms of natural uranium contains about 0.049kg of U235, which is the bomb material, provided someone could subject it to an enrichment process, a challenge in itself, according to nuclear experts.

PM Imran mandated to nab the corrupt

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has been mandated to nab the corrupt and retrieve the looted and plundered money from them, said State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib. Addressing a press conference at Circuit House here on Sunday, he said Shehbaz Sharif was the focal point of corruption, committed during the last 30 years. He said that democracy and accountability were dependent on each other and it should not be dubbed as victimisation. He said that Imran Khan had a neat and clean political career, but when his integrity was questioned, he provided his money trail of decades in politics despite he never held any public office. Imran Khan had provided 60 documents to prove that his money was legal. On the other hand, the politics of the Sharif family depended on corruption and fraud. They looted money with both hands and provided fake Qatari letter and Calibri font letter, which was a joke with the justice and fair play. - APP

3 FC soldiers martyred

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Three FC soldiers embraced shahadat while 5 injured in the line of duty during two separate terrorist activities in Quetta and Turbat areas of Balochistan. In Margret, Quetta terrorists targeted FC troops deployed on security duties. During exchange of fire 3 FC soldiers embraced shahadat while 1 got injured. In another terrorist activity in Sherbandi, Turbat terrorists targeted soldiers patrolling along Pak-Iran Border. Resultantly 4 FC soldiers got injured. Those shaheed include; Lance Naik Syed Hussain Shah, Sepoy Faisal Mehmood, Sepoy Nauman ur Rehman.

Morocco foils illegal immigration attempts

RABAT: Morocco announced on Saturday that it has foiled an illegal immigration attempt across the Mediterranean and arrested 19 people. During the operation, the police arrested in the coast of the northern city of El Hoceima one person for alleged involvement in human trafficking and migrant smuggling and seized two boats, official news agency MAP said. On Friday, the police arrested eight would-be immigrants and one individual in the northern city of Nador for alleged links with a criminal network active in the organization of illegal immigration. - APP

Three TTP arrested in Bannu

DNA

BANNU: The Bannu Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested three proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists involved in the suicide blast on CTD police station. In a major counter-terrorism action, Bannu region CTD apprehended three defunct TTP wanted terrorists namely Dr Zafar Iqbal, Noorani alias Madni and Shakoor alias Hameedi. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has put Rs6 million head money on these terrorists. They were wanted by the CTD and police in several cases. These terrorists belong to TTP's local commander Afsar Ali alias Pashtun and Commander Ilyas alias Qari Bilal groups. They wanted to carry out terrorist activities in Bannu and Mingora before Eid. They intended to do target killings and extortion. Police arrested them from the adjoining areas of Bannu, Garira and Khwaja Mad Mundaan.