



Wednesday, June 09, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Islamabad POST

Justin Trudeau vows action to dismantle the far-right groups

Detailed News On Page-01

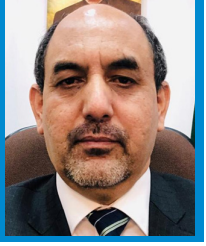
China warns US against Taiwan trade deal

Detailed News On Page-07



Pak supports ASEAN risk management

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Macron slapped in the face

NEWS DESK

VALENCE: French President Emmanuel Macron has been slapped in the face on an official visit to the south-east of France. In a video circulating on social media, Mr Macron is seen walking up to a barrier on a trip to Tain-l'Hermitage outside the city of Valence. A man in a green T-shirt slaps Mr Macron in the face before officers quickly move in. The president, meanwhile, is pulled away. Two men have been arrested following the incident, French media report. The man reportedly shouted "Down with Macronism" as he slapped the president.

Rs2,201 bn allocated for development

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has announced that the allocation of Rs2,201 billion was approved for the development programme for the next fiscal year. Asad Umar, while conducting the media briefing regarding the allocations for the Public Sector Development Programme, said that the volume of PSDP allocation was increased up to over 36 per cent for the fiscal year 2021-22. He detailed that 56 per cent funds of the total estimate were allocated for the energy and transport projects, whereas, 10 per cent funds were allocated for the water sector.

Ashrafi urges Canada to curb extremism

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday urged the Canadian government to take firm stance against terrorism, extremism and Islamophobia. Talking to Media, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has invited the international community to take joint steps against the hate and Islamophobia and join hands to bring about the true picture of Islam to the world. - APP

Demo of voting machines in a week: Fawad

Says cabinet approved Mubashar Hassan name for MD APP; Tariq Malik returns as NADRA chairman; slams opposition



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Fawad Ch. briefing media about Cabinet decisions. - DNA

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said the demonstration process of Electronic Voting Machine, under government's electoral reforms agenda, will be completed within a week. He was briefing media in Islamabad on Tuesday afternoon about decisions taken in the Federal Cabinet that met in the Federal Capital today with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair. The Minister said initially we have ordered 500 EVMs for trials in the elections of Bar Councils and press clubs.

Continued on Page 06

PTV will not broadcast Pak-Eng series

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that Pakistan tour of the England cricket series would not be broadcast in the country due to a license issue. Addressing a press conference after the federal cabinet meeting held in Islamabad with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, the information minister said that the federal cabinet has rejected a proposal of the Pakistan Television Corporation to liaise with an Indian company for a live telecast of the upcoming Pakistan-England cricket series, scheduled to start from July 8. "PTV Sports will not broadcast cricket series of Pakistan tour to England 2021 as Indian broadcasting companies hold rights of production," he said and added that the government of Pakistan took a strong decision of no deal with any Indian company until Aug 5 move is reversed. However, the minister said that Pakistan would try to explore different options.

Man who killed Muslim family motivated by hate

Prime Minister Imran Khan says incident is an act of terrorism and speaks volumes for Islamophobia



NEWS DESK

LONDON, ONTARIO: Police say a 20-year-old London, Ont., man deliberately struck down five members of a Muslim family with his truck in a hate-motivated act of mass murder, an attack that prompted an outpouring of grief and calls for the accused to face terrorism charges. The family of five had been out for an evening walk, and were waiting to cross

the street when police say the truck mounted the curb and struck them. Four of the family members - a 74-year-old woman, a 46-year-old man, a 44-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl - died on Sunday evening. The lone survivor, a nine-year-old boy, remains in hospital. Police did not release the names of the victims citing the family's request for privacy.

Continued on Page 06

Trudeau promises action

DNA

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday promised to take more action to dismantle far-right groups after a hate-motivated attack that killed four members of a Muslim family in the city of London, Ontario. "This was a terrorist attack, motivated by hatred, in the heart of one of our communities," Trudeau said in the House of Commons after observing a moment of silence. The family was killed on Sunday when a pickup truck jumped the curb and ran them over.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Subhan Bakirov at Naval Headquarters. - DNA

Pak, Azeri naval chiefs agree to boost cooperation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Rear Admiral Subhan Bakirov, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces (ANF) called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid

Azeri naval chief meets Gen. Bajwa

RAWALPINDI: Rear Admiral Subhan Bakirov, Commander of Azerbaijan Naval Forces called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid

floral wreath at the Shuhada's Monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters. Later, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces called on Chief of the Naval Staff. During the meeting matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional security were discussed. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region.

Dialogue on ASEAN today



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Islamabad is organizing Dialogue with Experts on the topic "Pakistan-ASEAN Cooperation" on 9th June 2021. The event will be organized in virtual format. The aim of the Dialogue with Experts is to bring subject experts on one platform to share their knowledge and ideas regarding the strengthening of ties between Pakistan and ASEAN.

This dialogue will be attended by the Ambassadors and Diplomatic staff of the ASEAN countries residing in Pakistan. The business community of the ASEAN countries will also actively participate in the session. Other worthy speakers of the session will include:

- Adam Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan
- Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, Vice-President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad.
- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Prof. Dr. Saeed-Ul-Hassan Chishti, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sialkot
- Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China, & Central Asia), University of Peshawar
- Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Member Board of Advisors, CGSS, Islamabad

Train accident: Palestine envoy expresses grief

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in train accident. In a message addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the ambassador said govt and people of Palestine were with Pakistan in this

difficult time. The text of the letter reads, "On behalf of the Government of Palestine, Palestinian people and on my personal behalf, I would like to convey my deepest condolences and sympathies for the people when at least 31 people were killed while more than 100 were injured

Continued on Page 06

Which vaccine will get you where in Europe?

With summer approaching and vaccination rates rising, some EU countries are moving faster than others when it comes to opening borders

IP REPORT

BERLIN: As vaccination rates rise and summer draws closer, hopeful holidaymakers who've already had their COVID-19 shots may be holding their breath to see where they can vacation in Europe this summer. The EU's new "Digital COVID Certificate" is due to kick in from July 1 to facilitate travel within Europe, and member states recently agreed on recommendations to allow fully vaccinated tourists from abroad back into the bloc. But for now, the reality is still a patchwork of restrictions, with member states applying different policies in

different ways. With the situation varying from country to country, here's a breakdown of some of the rules - and exemptions - in place for vaccinated travelers across the EU. **France** France, the world's number one destination for international tourists, reopens to many fully vaccinated visitors from around the world as of June 9. Under new rules, vaccinated people traveling from the EU and countries on France's "green" list, including South Korea, Japan, and Israel, can avoid COVID-19 testing requirements altogether. **Spain** Spain opened its borders to vaccinated travelers from many countries around the world on June 7. People

entering Spain from what it deems "risk" areas - including many EU members and most other countries in the world - can avoid quarantine requirements by showing proof of full vaccination with a job approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or the World Health Organization (WHO) at least 14 days before arriving, proof of recovery from COVID-19, or a negative test. **Greece** Greece is open to tourists from around 50 countries, including all EU states, the US, Canada, Russia, and China. To enter Greece, travelers must have either a vaccination certificate,

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

- Faisalabad: Anti Polio campaign in full swing - Page 02
- ICCI key player in resolving business issues: Bakhtawari - Page 03
- Importance of ocean health, aquatic life development stressed - Page 04
- A brief prelude of intra-ASEAN Cooperation - Page 05
- Riyadh-Damascus in rapprochement talks - Page 06
- Pak values the contributions of its Christian population - Page 07
- Pak supports ASEAN disaster and risk management efforts - Page 08

AIRLINK
YOUR SMART DEVICE PARTNER

WWW.AIRLINK.PK

For hassle free online shopping

SAMSUNG iPhone HUAWEI mi TECNO TCL

Head Office - Al Qadir Heights, LG-2, 1 Babar Block, New Garden Town | 04235844063-4
www.airlinkcommunication.com @airlinkKALC airlinkcommunication

Briefs

Printer urged to register themselves

PESHAWAR: Press Registrar Department of Public Relations Zabta Khan Mohtand Tuesday said the government has devised a registration policy under which all the printers of the province would be registered. He was talking to a delegation of Printing Press Association that was led by its President, Zafar Khatkhat. Zabta Khan said that registered printing presses would be given registration certificates and their owners would be provided registration cards.

He also urged printers to get registered enabling government to formulate a system for better liaison. He said the government has the right to initiate action under prescribed rules against printers who failed to register themselves with information department. - APP

Dozens of shops demolished in operation

PESHAWAR: The district administration and Town Municipal Administration (TMA) Town-IV in a joint anti-encroachment operation demolished dozens of shops on Phando Road here Tuesday. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC), Mohammad Jawad while heavy contingent of police was also deployed to avert any kind of unpleasant incident. During the operation, dozens of illegally constructed shops were demolished through heavy machinery. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khalid Mahmood has said that indiscriminate operation against encroachments would be continued in all localities of the district and those re-erecting encroachments would have to face stern action. - APP

Virtual seminar held on Ecosystem Restoration

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Agha Khan Agency for Habitat, the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan, World Habitat Awards and the United Nations Habitat Programme, co-organized an international virtual seminar on Ecosystem Restoration for Quality of Life.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the seminar was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change, United Nations, INGOs, Agha Khan Development Network (AKDN) agencies and partners, donor agencies, academia, media and community organizations. The virtual seminar was part of a series of official events celebrating World Environment Day (WED). In his message, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, shared that "Although our contribution to global GHG emissions is less than 1%, Pakistan's people, biodiversity and economy are severely impacted by climate change, with more frequent disasters. We are working to counteract these trends through ambitious initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan Programme and the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme to restore the ecosystem and electric vehicle policy. The government is also working on developing the first-ever green building codes for the country. I am glad to see development institutions like the Agha Khan Development Network and UN-Habitat contributing to these efforts for a greener Pakistan".

During the seminar, speakers from UN-Habitat, Agha Khan University, Agha Khan Rural Support Programme, and Agha Khan Agency for Habitat shared their experiences in ecosystem restoration and improving quality of life for communities living in mountainous areas to coastal belts and urban centres of Pakistan and globally. Rafael Tuts, Director Programme Division, UN-Habitat, said that "We have been exploiting and destroying our planet's ecosystems, and the pandemic has also shown how disastrous the consequences of ecosystem loss can be.

Faisalabad: Anti Polio campaign in full swing

Deputy Commissioner directed that polio teams should be present on static points at passengers transport stands, busiest intersections, markets, hospitals, dispensaries, motorway, railway station, recreational places and other sites



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali administered polio drops to children and monitored the performance of static teams at General Bus Stand and other localities. DHO Dr. Bilal Ahmad, SDRTA Zameer Hussain and other officers of the health department were also present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner went inside the

buses and checked the finger marking by the polio teams and confirmed from parents about vaccination of their children. He also checked the presence of polio teams at different points besides checked the record. He said that repeated anti polio campaign were being carried out to completely root out the chance of polio virus. He urged upon the parents to get their children vaccinated during the anti polio campaign for complete eradication

of polio virus in the country. He directed the health department officers for effective monitoring of the campaign to achieve the 100% target. Deputy Commissioner directed that polio teams should be present on static points at passengers transport stands, busiest intersections, markets, hospitals, dispensaries, motorway, railway station, recreational places and other sites. He said that strict monitoring would be carried out

to the campaign and no negligence would be tolerated during the campaign of anti polio in the entire district. DHO said that monitoring officers were supervise the campaign to check the performance of polio teams. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali while checking the implementation of anti-polio drive at General Bus Stand, stopped near a helpless elderly citizen lying on the ground near the waiting area and sat down to inquire about the

condition of the elderly and give him water for drink and directed the DRTA immediately called for 1122 ambulances and shifted senior citizen to an old age home and directed the management of the old age home to take care of the health of the senior citizen. Later, Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool visited the old age home and inquired about the welfare of the senior citizen and urged the management to take full care of him.

Facilitation desk establishes at PIA office for FCCI members

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: A dedicated facilitation desk has been established in the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) office exclusively for the members of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). President FCCI Engineer Hafiz IhtashamJaved and Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali formally inaugurated this desk in a colourful function held here yesterday. District Manager PIA Mohammad ShahidHussain and other officials of the PIA were also present.

Addressing the function Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali said that corona has badly affected the air industry like other sectors of the economy. Now the situation is gradually improving and the national flag carrier has come up with an innovative marketing plan to enhance its business in addition to facilitating the frequent air travellers belonging to the FCCI.



He said that at this crucial time Pakistan needs to enhance its exports and handsome concessions have been offered to the FCCI members in order to encourage them to revive their contacts with the international buyers and play a pivotal role to give a quantum jump to the national exports. President FCCI Engineer Hafiz IhtashamJaved said that just a few weeks ago FCCI and PIA had inked a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate with each other for the benefit of two organizations. Under this MoU PIA will give special concessions to the FCCI members and their families in air fare while FCCI will motivate its 7000 members to prefer PIA while finalizing their foreign trips. He said that this facilitation desk at the PIA office is a step towards this direction. District Manager PIA Mo-

hammad ShahidHussain said that chairman Arshad Malik is very keen to give maximum facilities to the business community. He said that under the MoU a coordination committee would also be established to project the soft image of Pakistan at the global level. Earlier Deputy Commissioner and President FCCI formally cut a ribbon to inaugurate the facilitation desk. Later they also cut a cake to mark this event.

KP IGP urges under-trainee cops to learn maximum

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. SanaulahAbbas visited Police Training Center Shakas on Tuesday. On his arrival, the IGP was received by DIG Training, DPO Khyber, Director Police Training Schools Shakas and other high ranking Police officers. A smart contingent of police presented guard of honour to the IGP. The IGP went to the class rooms of under trainee ex-Levies and Khasadars and personally reviewed the ongoing process of the classes and standard of the teaching. The IGP mingled with the under trainee jawans in the class room and asked from them various questions about their syllabus and course which were answered in detail satisfactorily. The IGP appreciated their keen interest in training and the efforts of the teaching staff. Talking on the occasion,

the IGP urged upon the under trainees to learn more and more during the training and make best use of it in the field so as to further shape up their professional career. The KP IG pointed out that the best welfare of the jawans is their best training and vowed that all available resources would be utilized for further improving the standard of their training. The IGP also visited the residential barracks and kitchen of the under training jawans and inspected their residential facilities and standard of the food being served to them. The IGP directed the concerned quarters to provide standardized food to them so as to enable them to complete their training in an effective manner. Later on, while talking to the media men on the occasion, the IGP said that new history has been created with the 3rd phase training of ex-Levies and Khasadars under the police command in the Police Training Center Shakas.

NAEAC organizes seminar at UAD

DNA

D.I. KHAN: National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council organized awareness seminar at University of Agriculture Dera Ismail Khan where staff and students at the University were briefed about the mission, objectives, strategies, and future goals of the council. Three members of the council including Chairperson of NAEAC, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Secretary Dr. Abdul Ghaffar and Member Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, visited the university. Vice chancellor Agriculture University Prof. Dr. MasroorElahi Babar (TI) informed the guests regarding the journey of the

University in achieving the status of full-fledged university. Chairperson of the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana while discussing the framework of the council said that newly established universities need to take into account the needs of modern times and act accordingly. He further said that NAEAC, being the accreditation council, has developed a criterion, where the performance of the accredited institutions is measured based upon different points like available staff, building facilities, satisfaction of the students with the teaching standards, number of laboratories etc.



FAISALABAD: Pakistan Air Force officer presenting flag & cap to the father of martyred under graduate Saqib Nawaz of Pakistan Air Force victim of Ghotki train incident. - DNA

Sindh govt responsible for causing food insecurity

The minister said Bilawal should explain as to why the cotton crops' output declined in Sindh as the agriculture sector was a devolved subject after 18th constitutional amendment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Monday said that the Sindh government had failed to take action against profiteers and hoarders in the province which eventually caused food insecurity across the country. In a statement, he said at the moment, a bag of 20kg flour was being sold at the highest rate in Sindh. "The 'Parchi chairman' (Bilawal) should tell the truth to the nation as to why the increase in minimum support price of 40 kilogram wheat from Rs 1,400 to Rs 2,000

did not have any impact on prices of flour in Sindh," said Farrukh while asking public to itself gauge level of corruption in a province where the 'common rats' held responsible for misappropriation of wheat worth Rs 1,400 billion. He asked Bilawal to take action against the profiteers and hoarders in Sindh instead of shedding crocodile tears over inflation. The minister said Bilawal should explain as to why the cotton crops' output declined in Sindh as the agriculture sector was a devolved subject after 18th constitutional amendment. He said sugarcane was being cultivated on the area dedicated to cotton crops in Sindh for ben-



efitting the Omni group which was backed by Asif Ali Zardari who had built palatial palaces in foreign countries by laundering public money to Swiss accounts under the guise of his party's

slogan of 'Roti, Kapra Aur Makan' [food, cloth and shelter]. He said the crops production was increased by average 1.25 per cent during 2008 and 2013, whereas the population registered a growth of two per cent, adding the highest inflation was recorded at 25 per cent during the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) tenure. Farrukh said Bilawal should explain as to why the people of Sindh were still deprived of health cards in spite of his government's tall claims of public welfare in the province. The PPP had been ruling the province for the last 13 years with rampant corruption and extreme poverty, he added. Contrary to this, he said the fed-

eral government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, was making concerted efforts to ensure self-sufficiency in the food sector. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan had not burdened the public by increasing prices of essential commodities, petrol and edible oil that had surged substantially in the international market. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, he said food prices had increased by 40 per cent, whereas edible oil prices went up by 124 per cent, globally. Likewise, the price of petrol had reached \$70 per barrel from \$34, he added.

At least 37 profiteers fined

DNA

FAISALABAD: Special price control magistrates imposed fine on 37 shopkeepers on the charge of profiteering in various parts of the district on Tuesday. A spokesman for the local administration said that price control magistrates inspected 911 shops in 50 markets and bazaars to check prices of various daily use items and found 37 shopkeepers involved in overcharging and profiteering and imposed a fine of Rs 41,000 on them.

Head constable suspended

A police head constable was suspended on the charge of harassing a lady doctor of General Hospital Samanabad. Police said on Tuesday that Medical Officer of General Hospital Samanabad-DrNausheenAdil lodged a complaint before SP Special Branch, contending that head constable Muhammad WaseemZulfikar harassed her in the hospital due to which she was under severe stress. Taking action on the complaint, SP Special Branch Sajid Chaudhry immediately suspended the head constable WaseemZulfikar and started an inquiry against him. Further action will be taken in the light of inquiry report, he added.

Roads network to bring development: SACM

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Khabar Pakhtunkhwa for Communication, Riaz Khan on Tuesday said construction work on 36 km long road from GS Marble to Legrai in Buner District would be user of new era of development in the region. He said survey of the 36 km long road would be completed soon which included construction of tunnel and by pass roads at Toro Warsak and Dagar. These views were expressed by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister while chairing a special meeting with a delegation of Nespak and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority. The Special Assistant said all development works in Buner district would be completed on time and incompetence and negligence would not be tolerated in any development project. He said construction of this road would open new avenues of prosperity and development for local people, besides employment opportunities. He said under the leadership of Chief Minister Mehmood Khan, all possible steps were being taken for the development of Buner district so that the people could avail the best health-care, education and communication facilities. He said merit and transparency have to be promoted as per manifesto of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. He said transparency would be upheld in tender allotment and no compromise would be made on quality on construction work in the Communication Department. - APP

Service of 22 FDA employees regularized

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) has regularized contractual service of its 22 employees. A spokesman of the FDA said on Tuesday that FDA governing body approved regularization of service of 22 FDA employees under Punjab Regularization of Services Act/Amended Ordinance. Among these employees include assistant directors Umar Iqbal, TalhaTabassum, Muhammad Abdullah, Ahmad Ibrahim, Raheel Zafar, Iqra Murtaza, Farhan Siddiqui Hashmi, Khushnood Ahmad and Muhammad Bilal Anwar, building inspectors Muhammad Naveed, Muhammad KaleemAnjum, Muhammad Wasiq, Muhammad Yawar, Muhammad Naeem Ahmad, Muhammad Tayyab, MuazzamAsghar, KaleemUllah, MubasharaZameer Khan, Kainth Gill and Muhammad Rizwan Nasir, computer operator FaizanHussain and encroachment inspector Muhammad Aslam Ansari. The regularization orders have been provided to these employees and they also resumed their duties, he added. - APP

Briefs

QAU ranked 378th by QS

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has seen significant improvement in the QS World University Rankings by securing 378th position among the top 500 universities of the world. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) also ranked QAU 23rd globally on Citation per faculty and 324th in Employer Reputation worldwide which is an exceptional achievement. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University congratulated the faculty, students, staff, and alumni on this remarkable achievement. "QAU has significantly improved QS ranking from 454th position to 378th. Recently QAU has ranked among the top 100 Asian universities by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Despite the financial deficit, the university is improving ranking every year, our journey to academic excellence will continue" said the Vice Chancellor. According to details since 2016, QAU moved up 273 places. Over the 7 considered years, the institution moved up 5 times. In the 2022 edition, the institution performed among the top 29 percent in the QS World University Rankings.

NADRA to issue vaccination certificates

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Tuesday informed that COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates can now be issued from all centres of NADRA. In a Tweet, NCOC asked the people who had been vaccinated, to visit any NADRA centre or download certificate from <http://nims.nadra.gov.pk>. However, in another Tweet, NCOC while sharing the statistics of vaccine across the country, said that a total of 353,068 had been administered till June 07, 2021. The Tweet further said that a total of 9,559,910 vaccines had been administered till now.

IHC grants time for HEC case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted time to the Federation for comments in a petition against amendment in Higher Education Commission (HEC) Ordinance and removal of its chairman Tariq Banuri. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition seeking reinstatement of Tariq Banuri as chairman HEC. Deputy Attorney General Syed Tayyab Shah told the court that the notice had been received a day ago and prayed the bench to give some time in this regard. The court directed DAG to submit a copy of the reply before the next hearing to the counsel for the petitioner. It said that the government couldn't be barred from temporary appointment so that day-to-day affairs did not affect. The court adjourned the hearing till June 29. - APP

Sub-national polio drive continues

ISLAMABAD: A sub-national polio immunization drive continued on Tuesday to vaccinate over 33 million children under the age of five across the country. National Coordinator Polio Program, Dr. Shehzad Baig said that the campaign was carried out in 124 districts and approximately 223,000 frontline workers were participating in the campaign. He said that the campaign was started in 33 districts of Balochistan, 35 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 20 districts of Punjab, and 30 districts of Sindh. Two districts of AJK and federal capital Islamabad are also included, he added. - APP

ICCI key player in resolving business issues: Bakhtawari

President ICCI said that the Islamabad Chamber is the first and only chamber in the country to work with the NCOC in the Corona campaign. Steps have been taken with the help of the private sector to prevent and vaccinate against coronavirus

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected Secretary General of United Business Group, Zafar Bakhtawari, has said that the Islamabad Chamber, being a capital chamber, is playing a key role in solving the problems of the business community across the country. It will act as a bridge for the federal government for traders and industrialists across the country. The Islamabad Chamber has an experienced leadership with whom the United Business Group is continuing its efforts to solve the problems of the traders. He expressed these views last night at a dinner in his honor by Khalid Iqbal Malik, former president Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). He said that he has always considered the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry as a family and he has practically contributed for that. He hoped that the new budget under the leadership of Imran Khan would not impose any new taxes which would help in promoting healthy business activities.



He further said that the business community across the country should play their positive role in making Pakistan a prosperous, peaceful and secure country and continue the struggle to make it an ideal and prosperous country for future generations. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group, Islamabad Chamber, appreciated the services of United Business Group and said

that the group has achieved this position after a historic struggle and Founder Group would work with United Business Group to solve the problems of traders. He appealed to the government to reduce the rental income from 35% to 10%. He added that the government should take immediate steps to control inflation. He said that the special package given by the government

for construction should be given to industry and trade and the government and the opposition should work together to formulate a joint economic package for traders and industrialists for the next ten years. Expressing his views on the occasion, Yasir Ilyas Khan President ICCI said that the Islamabad Chamber is the first and only chamber in the country to work

with the NCOC in the Corona campaign. Steps have been taken with the help of the private sector to prevent and vaccinate against coronavirus. He said that he has full confidence in the leadership of UBG. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Former President ICCI in recognition of the services rendered by Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, United Business Group, said that he achieved this position on the basis of his tireless hard work, honesty and deep loyalty to UBG. Zafar Bakhtawari is a business role model and we need to bring more such models in our business community. Former President of FPCCI Abdul Rauf Alam, Ejaz Abbasi, Ahmad Hassan Mughal, Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq Chaudhry Waheeduddin, Nasir Qureshi, Mian Shaukat Masood, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Arif Yousaf jeewa, Sheikh Atif Ikram, Chaudhry Masood, Chaudhry Naseer, Karim Aziz Malik, Malik Shabbir, Ashfaq Chatha and Sardar Tahir, a large number of members of the Islamabad business community attended.

Facilities for special working woman demanded

ISLAMABAD: Special working women are facing problems due to the absence of differently-abled friendly buildings and facilities in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Haseena Khan, an advocate and social activist said that the concerned authorities should ensure differently-abled friendly buildings and offices. She said that some offices have already established all the facilities but still there are many other officers and buildings not accessible for special working women. Another social activist Aswad Khan while talking to APP said many residential places are missing ramps and special stairs for easy access of disabled persons. She said the concerned department should survey various offices and residential apartments to check the facilities. Saima Ahad, a special working woman said most offices are missing ramps for easy access. She said that all required facilities should be added to the buildings to make them disabled-friendly. She said differently-abled workers are keen to work but they should be facilitated. - APP

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM, Fateh Jang Rural, Khandha, Laniwala, Moorat, Dharal, Kot Shera, Kot Gulah Feeders, from 06:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Rama, Nishan-e-Haider Feeders from 07:00 AM to 11:00 AM Fatehpur, Kohar, Baba Shaheed, Kantrila, Domeli Feeders from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM A.Q Khan, Burma, Waheed abad, Koral, Tarlai, Treat, T&T, Bhara Kahu, Gulf City, Hathal Feeder from 5:00 AM to 7:00 PM Jail Park-1, RCC Express, Pindi Board, Fuji Foundation Hospital, Pepsi Cola, Sawan, AWHs, Park View, Zaraj Housing Society, Sarwar Shaheed, Wilayat Complex Feeders and surrounding areas.

Polio eradication drive in full swing

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The five-day anti-polio campaign, which began in all tehsils and towns of the district entered into its 2nd day on Tuesday. Chief Executive Officer (E-DO) Health Dr. Faiza Kanwal informed that the immunization campaign was in full swing. Under the ongoing vigorous drive, the CEO told APP that 2964 polio teams, 663 area in charges, 240 medical officers, and allied hospitals, and tehsil headquarter hospitals are fully participating in the drive. During the campaign, she said, over 300,000 children have so far administered the polio vaccine while the set target to cover 718,000 children of the campaign would be achieved till June 11. Dr. Faiza said that polio drops are also being administered at 129 city transit points in order to ensure that all children should be immunized below five years of age. The CEO said that Standard operating procedure (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 are also being followed to ensure the safety of polio teams.

Vaccination camp held at IIUI

ISLAMABAD: A corona vaccination camp was arranged here at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). Male and female officials were vaccinated in the male and female campuses. The Activity was visited by Dr. N.B. Jumani, Vice President (AF&P), he was accompanied by the Principal Medical Officer. Dr. Khalil ur Rehman, while medical officers and staff were also present on the occasion. Dr. Jumani said on the occasion that the health of the IIUI officials is a top priority. He added the university has made extraordinary efforts to implement SOPs and ensure safety of the officials and students. He also hailed the efforts of the medical officials of the university. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet. The Cabinet offered dua for the Shuhda of Ghotki train accident. - APP

Research should benefit humanity, Shibli Faraz

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: By our conviction, Islam is a way of life. Islam sets food standards for humanity. Corruption is not Halal, Halal means doing things in lawful manner, said Mr. Shibli Faraz, Minister for Science and Technology while addressing 3-day COMSTECH training course on "How to establish Halal testing laboratory", here on Tuesday, at COMSTECH Auditorium. He said rather focusing on going international, focus on ensuring healthy food quality. Labs should have capacity to determine Halal and Haram with the focus on complete food value chain. The Minister encouraged



all Halal industry related institutions to develop mechanism for increasing capacities and advised that universities should be part of this as well. Mr. Faraz highlighted the way forward for research by mentioning that there is a huge gap between research done in the past in Pakistan and its applica-

tion. He emphasized that research should bring benefit to the people of Pakistan and the entire humanity. He said that research should yield to patent and then be commercialized. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMTECH said that Halal accreditation and certification is a niche in which

we can achieve excellence. He said that Halal business is growing over 20% and there are no major Halal certification bodies in Muslim countries. Dr. Choudhary said that we at COMSTECH are focused on science based commercialization and developing capacity in OIC member states focusing on the application of science research output. He said that the theme of today's event is relevant to industrial development of Pakistan and OIC. Secretary General, The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIC), Turkey, Mr. Ihsan ÖVÜT, said that we need to develop common standards with the commitment to practice them to compete internationally.

AIOU appoints tutors for matric, intermediate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)'s regional offices, located across country, have completed the process of tutors appointments for its hundreds and thousands of the students enrolled in the programs offered in the 1st phase of spring 2021 semester including matriculation and intermediate. Detailed information about the tutors have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) as well as shared with the students via SMS. Moreover, the university has, also, announced assignments submission schedule of these programs. According to the schedule, the students enrolled in these programs are instructed

to submit their 2nd, 3rd, and 4th assignment of a six-credit hour course on or before July 1, July 30 and August 30 respectively. The students have been allowed to submit 1st assignment with the 2nd assignment. Similarly, the deadline for the submission of 1st and 2nd assignment for a three-credit hour course is July 1 and August 30 respectively. Late submission of assignments is not permissible. Moreover, university has also released schedule for study centers as well as academic programs on television. The students are encouraged to visit regional study centers to seek academic guidance from their tutors and avail the opportunity of peer learning.

Chairman PEMRA presents annual report to President

President said that the society was facing the challenge of false news and it was the responsibility of the concerned stakeholders to avoid disseminating fake news as it created many problems for the people

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for discouraging the culture of fake news as it creates chaos in the society as well as misleads the people. He said that the media needed to play its role in promoting ethical and moral values and avoid spreading false information. He urged Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to improve standards of information, education and entertainment by optimizing the free flow of information. He expressed these views while talking to the Chairman PEMRA, Mr. Muhammad Saleem Baig, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The Chairman PEMRA presented the Annual Report 2019-2020 to the President and briefed him about the role of his organization in facilitating and promoting free and independent electronic media in Pa-



kistan. He also highlighted the steps taken for promoting true and accurate information in the country. Talking to the Chairman PEMRA, the President said that the society was facing the challenge of false news and it was the responsibility of the concerned stakeholders to avoid disseminating fake news as it created many problems for the people. He added that spreading false news was against the spirit of Islam and it was the moral obligation of editorial boards of Media Houses as well as Ulama to play their role in guiding and educating the people to overcome the challenge of false news. He urged Chairman PEMRA to ensure the dissemination of unbiased, accurate and verified information through electronic media so as to curb the scourge of fake news. The President appreciated the performance of PEMRA and assured the Chairman of his full support.

Briefs

Parent urged for Polio Vaccination

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary on Health Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi Tuesday appealed the parents to cooperate with the polio teams during the ongoing country-wide drive and get their children up to five years of age vaccinated in every polio drive.

Government needs support of the parents as they can play an important role in achieving the target successfully, she said while speaking to news channel. "Parents and guardians should ensure that every child under the age of 5 years in your community in the targeted counties should be vaccinated during the campaign in order to expedite our journey towards a polio free Pakistan," she added.

She said anti-polio campaign is a national cause as it will protect the children from the crippling disease. She said the anti-polio drive has been designed as per the needs of the effective implementation of government's SOPs of Covid-19.

"All necessary steps are being taken for the campaign in 33 districts of Balochistan, she said, adding, preparations had been made for the campaign, adding that 10,000 teams of vaccinators are taking part in ongoing immunization drive in Baluchistan".

Noman breaks Indian Aman's GWR

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 13-year-old martial artist Noman Mehsood has broken the Guinness World Record (GWR) of Aman Chhatra of India for the most kip-ups in one minute.

According to a statement issued here, India's Aman Chhatra held the record for making 47 kip-ups in one minute while Noman achieved the feat by doing 52 in one minute.

Noman was the student of 42 Guinness World Record holder Irfan Mehsood. Even before this, five students of Irfan have registered their names in the Guinness World Records.

The most kip-ups 52 in one minute (breakdance) was achieved by Noman in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, on December 12, 2020.

Noman was a student of fellow record breaker Irfan Mehsood and was a dedicated gymnast. He practiced daily for two to three hours each day until he felt confident he could break the record. Breaking Guinness World Records titles was a passion for Noman and he hopes to break more in the near future.

3-day mega PIFF to begin from June, 11

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Pakistan International Film Festival (PIFF) would start from June 11 (Friday) which continue till June 13 aiming to provide opportunities to young generation to showcase their hidden talent.

The esteemed Director General Dr. Fouzia Saeed will be speaking at the PIFF 2021, Women's Edition about the challenges faced due to COVID-19.

She will also be sharing exclusive opportunities in her seminar there would be arranged a special panel namely 'COVID Challenges and COVID Opportunities'. PIFF will screen features, shorts and documentaries from Pakistan and around the world.

DG PNCA Dr. Fauzia Saeed told APP, "Our mission is to create a unique platform which promotes both Pakistani Cinema and Pakistani Filmmakers by showcasing their films to diverse international audiences". We also plan to bring International filmmakers and their work to Pakistan to create an interactive space for exchange of ideas and for open dialogue.

PIFF will provide opportunities to encourage co-productions and to portray Pakistan as an exciting and vibrant country, with great cinematic potential, she added. - APP

Importance of ocean health, aquatic life development stressed

The discussants were of the view that developing aquaculture is critical for enhancing the livelihood means and skills of the fisher folk coastal communities of Pakistan, which populate the 1001km long coastline of the country in large numbers

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Mapping and development of strategic human and natural resources in the maritime sector is the need of the hour to sow the seeds of blue economic revolution in Pakistan.

This was the crux of the views expressed by maritime policy experts and marine scientists at a webinar titled 'The Ocean: Life, Livelihood and Sustainability - Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan', which was organized on the eve of World Oceans Day 2021 by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in collaboration with University of Karachi, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), and Maritime Study Forum (MSF).

The webinar was chaired by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS vice chairman and addressed by Dr. Azhar Ahmad, associate professor, Bahria University, Dr. Nuzhat Khan, former director general, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Nisar A. Memon, technocrat and former chairman of the parliamentary committee on water resources, Dr. Asma Tabassum, manager ORIC, Karachi University, Naghmana Zafar,



senior research fellow, NIMA, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS and general secretary, Maritime Study Forum (MSF), while Commander Moeed, Lt Cdr. Imran, and Lt Jameel represented the PMSA. The session was moderated by Hafiz Inamullah Khan, deputy manager outreach at IPS. The discussants were of the view that developing aquaculture is critical for enhancing the livelihood means and skills of the fisher folk

coastal communities of Pakistan, which populate the 1001km long coastline of the country in large numbers. Research done in universities can help them in developing aquaculture in their coastal villages for algae, sea grasses, and several other valuable biological species having great economical, medicinal and environmental importance.

A lot of meaningful research focusing the marine resources of

Pakistan has already been carried out in Karachi University, Bahria University and other universities and research institutions, however the government's apathy and lack of interest in the industrial sector to invest in R&D and commercialize available academic research is a big hurdle that needs to be overcome, they deplored. Integrated coastal zone management and strict enforcement of national and international environ-

mental laws to protect the sea and its resources was also emphasized by the speakers. During the discussion in the webinar, it was highlighted that all over the world coastal communities are better off because the coastal areas are more developed. But in Pakistan, except for Karachi, the entire coast has remained neglected. Although CPEC has given a fillip to the maritime sector, more concerted efforts are required to impart modern training and necessary skills in all elements of blue economy.

The National Maritime Policy, promulgated in 2002, was revised in draft form almost a decade back but could not be finalized so far, which the discussants termed as apathy and non-chalance for maritime affairs on the part of the policymakers. Pakistan needs a comprehensive maritime policy which should be formulated by taking all the stakeholders on board, it was urged.

The speakers lauded the efforts of IPS to address sea blindness in Pakistan and help create a maritime research community engaging universities and think tanks across the country. To enhance awareness of the oceans and maritime sector, introduction of the subject in the educational curriculum at various levels was also advocated.

DFPO offers all postal services

ISLAMABAD: The Digital Franchise Post Offices (DFPOs) is offering all postal services both domestic and international as well as more than 200 financial services to its customers. The DFPO program is gaining popularity due to which more than 20,000 entrepreneurs applied for the Franchises. An official told APP that Pakistan Post has granted special permission to offer a host of exciting value-added products and services such as Photostat, sale of items such as stationary, confectionary, grocery, mobile accessories, stamp vending, notarization and any other product/service not competing with services of Pakistan Post. This will encourage entrepreneurs to join the program and start profitable and respectable business with a very small capital investment. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong met with Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. - DNA

Capital police establishes anti-land grabbing squad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police has established an anti-land grabbing squad aimed to eliminate 'qabza mafia' from the federal capital. The unit, comprising four officers and 16 'jawans' of Islamabad police, would initiate legal action against the culprits on the directives of SDPO, police spokesperson said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Dr. Mustafa Tanvir would monitor the squad himself, following directions of Islama-

bad Inspector General of Police (IGP). Furthermore the police had issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) to take action against the land mafia, besides ensuring protection to the victims.

As per SOPs the Information regarding any activity of land grabbing, under-construction buildings and buildings would be given to Rescue 15 that had trained staff to deal with such issues. After getting the information, staff at Rescue 15 would inform the concerned SDPO and SHO through wireless and phone messages. The

SDPO and SHO along with personnel would reach the spot. The SDPO would conduct an initial inquiry on the spot and order legal action in view of the findings.

The SDPO would also arrest all persons armed with weapons from the spot and confiscate their weapons. Rescue 15 would maintain record of all calls regarding land grabbing activity, while SDPO will make weekly, fortnight, monthly and yearly reports and submit them to the superintendent of police concerned. The report would also be submitted to the senior

superintendent of police office and would forward to the deputy inspector general of police and the inspector general of police.

All the cases of dispute over lands/buildings and their ownership would also be referred to a reconciliation committee after consulting the complainant and the accused. On their refusal, the complaint would be referred to the revenue department or civil courts.

The IGP had set up the squad, following vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to tighten noose around land mafia and provide justice to the victims.

Students of H-9 College suffer due to unavailability of hostel

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The students of Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) H-9 living in far flung areas were suffering due to unavailability of the much needed hostel facility after re-opening of the educational institutions since June 07.

Although many students of H-9 College from outside Islamabad wished to physically attend classes but they may miss the classes for many days due to the lodging issue. An officer at Federal Directo-

rate of Education (FDE) on the condition of anonymity informed that the on campus hostel of IMCB H-9 was occupied by Pakistan Sweet Home (PSH) in a fine evening of August 2012 without intimating the college principal.

At that time, there was no permanent Director General at FDE working on the chair and one of the senior officers at FDE signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) of the deal between FDE and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) to utilize the building as an orphan house 'PSH'.

Lok Virsa normalizes timings of Museums

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional heritage Lok Virsa on Tuesday decided to normalize the timings of both its museums namely Heritage Museum and Pakistan Monument Museum.

In an announcement issued here, Lok Virsa said that the decision has been taken in view of reduction in Covid-19 cases in Islamabad. New timings are 10: 00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

However, both museums will observe Saturday and Sunday as holidays till further improvement in the reduction of Covid-19 cases in accordance with the directions of NCCO.

PSH plants over 6,000 saplings' urban forest

ISLAMABAD: The country has successfully hosted the World Environment Day 2021 and welcomed the United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration with its world acclaimed Green Vision of ecological conservation.

The Public School Hyderabad (PSH) has planted over 6,000 saplings of various species of trees particularly those with vast canopy cover and greenery to raise an urban forest to promote biodiversity and birdlife in the city.

An official of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (TBTP) project told APP on Tuesday the World Environment Day was celebrated in Pakistan and across the world with the theme of Eco-system Restoration where an urban forest was planted at Public School, Hyderabad where over 6,000 tree saplings were planted on this occasion.

He informed that the plantation was carried by the Sindh Forest Department along with Pakistan Rangers Sindh and the school staff.

He said rapid urbanization and massive deforestation in the cities across the country had increased temperatures, pollution and loss of precious birdlife which used to be the hallmark of morning and evening strolls.

"Moreover, the scourge of air pollution has become nuisance for everyone as both young and old, male or female is equally affected due to bad air quality facing different respiratory diseases," said the official.

He went on to mention that forests absorb carbon that worth in millions of dollars and provide a huge amount of oxygen necessary to maintain a liveable environment.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Hyderabad Imran Bhutto said the plantation was an initiative under the flagship TBTP project with the aim to enhance green cover of the cities and preserve depleting biodiversity that was essential for ecosystem restoration which was also the theme for the entire decade declared by the UN on World Environment Day from 2021 through 2030. - APP

UNIDO for adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution

This revolution will boost entrepreneurship and ecosystem in Pakistan". He also opined that he believed that a component of Industry 4.0 in that policy would further glorify and help industries in competing at a global level

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a national stakeholder's workshop on "Unleashing the potential of industry 4.0 in developing countries". The aim for organizing this workshop was to bring onboard stakeholders from public and private sector to discuss the challenges and opportunities, and find a way forward to promote industry 4.0 in Pakistan. Opening the national stakeholders' workshop, the chief guest, Mr. Asim Shahryar Husain, CEO of Ignite National Technology Fund (a non-profit company owned by the Government of Pakistan and administered by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication) commended the efforts of UNIDO, and said "This is a much needed discussion and the impact of 4IR is inevitable. This revolution will boost entrepreneurship and eco-



system in Pakistan". He also opined that he believed that a component of Industry 4.0 in that policy would further glorify and help industries in competing at a global level. Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, UNIDO HQ

Vienna in his remarks said "One of the six priority themes of UNIDO is Industry 4.0. It has the potential to improve productivity and competitiveness, increase energy and resource efficiency and effectiveness and hence to protect the environment. I am sanguine that Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0 will sig-

nificantly contribute towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization in Pakistan."

Speaking to the audience, Mr. Julian Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator for Pakistan shared the importance of inclusivity particularly woman and ecologically sustainable solutions and said, "If we look at how Pakistan has done in this last year. We have done relatively well compared to other countries in the recovery post covid. The latest trade numbers and export numbers are showing a recovery which is shows two challenges in the country over all export numbers are low compared to countries similar to size and dimensions. The other is the economy that we have in Pakistan is not the economy that is working for everyone especially women and the people who fall under the poverty line. He extended, "What is exciting about the technological changes we are seeing. If we think about it, we can change the dynamics; we can change the industry bring prosperity not only to the country but prosperity spread across the country and reaches the poor and above all prosperity that reaches women. This is the biggest development challenge in Pakistan." he also remarked. "We have to have ecologically sustainable

growth. Ecological elements of technological revolutions today are absolutely essential".

Earlier in her welcome remarks, Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative, shared her thoughts with the audience and said, "Since 1968, UNIDO in Pakistan has extensive and successful portfolio in industrial development cooperation. Industry 4.0 can help in achieving inclusive and sustainable development, also assuring the preservation of resources on behalf of future generations. Indeed, it is essential that technological and industrial developments allow the achievement of environmental, economic and, of course, social sustainability objectives". She extended that There was a lot of potential in Pakistan to adhere to Industry 4.0 and be part of the Industry 4.0 bandwagon." For more information, please visit website <https://www.unido.org> and <http://unidogefpakistan.org.pk>

Police launch operation in Habib Colony

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi have launched a search operation in 'Kacha Stop', Habib Colony and suburb areas in the jurisdiction of Westridge Police Station, said a police spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that heavy police contingent, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of SHO Westridge Police Station conducted an operation in the area and searched 167 houses while 72 persons were checked and several interrogated.

Police also checked number of tenants during the search operation. According to Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar, the search operations to net criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted under National Action Plan in different areas of the district particularly to ensure law and order.

Still seeking justice

THE Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority based in the Rakhine province of Myanmar, are still a long way off from achieving justice and rights as citizens of Myanmar. After the 2017 genocide, 90,000 Rohingyas fled to neighbouring Bangladesh where they have been housed in squalid camps with too few resources to sustain them, the parallel government set up in Myanmar by former legislators has asked the Rohingya to join the fight against the military junta which seized power in February this year after overthrowing the NLD government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The Rohingya have been told by the shadow government that they will be given citizenship, denied to them since 1982, if they join in the struggle and that the law will be altered to grant Myanmar citizenship to all persons born in the country regardless of ethnicity or other issues. While some human rights activists have welcomed this step, there are some things that must be remembered. The Rohingya were discarded by Myanmar's people at a time when they were being killed across the country. While no one wishes to see the military junta, which has already killed over 800 people in Myanmar remain in power, one does wonder at how conveniently they have been suddenly remembered as people of Myanmar by political actors that had deprived them of such status for so many years. Citizenship is a basic right that should be granted to them anyway, no matter what they decide to do. The spokesperson for the Rohingya people has said the prospect is being considered. Meanwhile, across the region, persons guilty of crimes against Rohingya are being punished and the crimes committed being looked into. Many of them involve human trafficking of various kinds and the deliberate death of Rohingya people after boats were in danger of capsizing. In Thailand, Malaysia, and in other countries, people are being brought to justice for this. But the Rohingya themselves are still in search of justice. And there is no sign as yet that it is coming their way anytime soon, even while their country now faces a new crisis, which could lead to more deaths, and has shown people what injustice and genocide can mean for people and families.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 02 Issue: 32

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Debt for nature

THE Prime Minister's opinion piece in an international publication is a good way to signal the government's intentions towards finding solutions to the climate crisis. His op-ed comes with Pakistan hosting World Environment Day this year, which in itself is an achievement and an indicator of our significance in the fight against a rapidly degrading environment.

The average Pakistani citizen is by now very familiar with many of the points mentioned in the article. The 10 billion tree drive, increasing mangrove cover and overall reforestation has been a central campaign in the government's environmental policy. However, there are many questions still in other aspects; particularly in the case of the lofty targets set for providing 'green' jobs in the country. This is something we hope to see more clarity on going forward.

But perhaps the standout aspect of the entire piece was the Prime Minister's indication of negotiations around a debt-for-nature scheme to allow for relief for focus on biodiversity preservation. If successful, a strategy like this stands to benefit Pakistan in improving its finance and transform its economy into one that is more sustainable. This would in effect, also create the green jobs the government wants to provide to the people.

There must be a clear, chalked-out path in this stream as well. Tangible targets must be set, with outcomes delivering permanent waivers.

The biggest challenge in this attempt will be convincing international creditors. But with the urgency of the climate crisis and the way developing countries are affected even after being smaller contributors to the problem—there must be some leeway. The Pakistan government can elicit support of other states and provide the push needed in order for this proposal to be taken seriously.

The climate crisis affects us more than most. We need to focus all our energy towards rapid action. But we cannot do this alone, and it is good to see the government try innovative strategies to allow for a sustainable future.

A brief prelude of intra-ASEAN Cooperation

Khalid Taimur Akram



ASEAN is amid three major pillars, i.e., political security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) focused on wider economic integration. In 2015, its establishment paved the way for implementing its blueprint in recent times. The primary AEC goals incorporate multiple sectoral dimensions

THE advanced mechanism in international relations has been going through a profound transformation and evolutionary development. New regionalism or regionalization has emerged as a significant trend in international affairs. Now, countries have deepened cooperation among other states and region. Along with the explicit benefits these processes bring, fundamental pillars of the new regionalism are institutions and organizations that provide integrated platforms. It builds qualitatively mod-

ern forms of interactions. The interdependence of markets exerts reciprocal influence on the dynamics of economic processes in various regions and strengthens trade relationships. In this aspect, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an inclusive model for extensive collaboration. It is a front runner and substantially increases the socio-economic development of Asia Pacific regional countries while enhancing multilateral cooperation. Apart from the regional economic, social and cultural development, ASEAN has an ambitious agenda to promote regional peace and stability by adhering to justice and the rule of law in the inter-state relationships. In its more than 40 years of history, ASEAN has steadily progressed in internal economic integration. In 2003, the ASEAN leaders established an ASEAN integrated community comprising three pillars: security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community. In this aspect, it can be seen that the ASEAN countries are inclined towards resolving their internal disputes, combating Non-Traditional Security (NTS) threats vis-à-vis cooperation under the ASEAN framework, and contributing to the stability of the Asia Pacific region. Therefore, the paper explains the intra-ASEAN cooperative patterns and highlights the profound developments in recent times. The study also provides a profound analysis of the socio-economic and political structure of ASEAN.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC): A Robust Intra-State Framework

ASEAN is amid three major pillars, i.e., political security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) focuses on wider economic integration. In 2015, its establishment paved the way for implementing its blueprint in recent times. The primary AEC goals incorporate multiple sectoral dimensions. There are various transformative mechanisms of ASEAN's economic integration that are interconnected. AEC is an "FTA-Plus" economic integration, and it targets the level of market integration, similar to those of the Economic Partnership Agreement. Thus, it is highly praised for its integration and steady development process. The broader vision of AEC 2025 aims to participate in the global value chain and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Furthermore, it can be evaluated as a successful model of broader association among different countries.

ASEAN envisions AEC 2025 as a great achievement towards hybrid alignment in the economic framework. Moreover, it has been perceived that enhanced collaboration with sectoral cooperation, resilient structure, and people-centered community associated with the global economy would result in a boon for all parties involved. It has five major tenants and multiple key features that are being comprehensively defined in the table below:

Tenants	Features
A highly progressive and integrated economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goods & services Conducive strategies for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Financial sustainability

Enhanced cooperation-sectoral development

- Facilitating workforce and business sector
- Enhancing participation in global value chains
- Academic cooperation & E-Commerce,
- Energy, Food, agriculture and forestry
- Tourism
- Healthcare
- Transport
- Digital economy
- Research and development
- Science & Technological advancement
- Tariff's feasibility
- Good governance, regulatory reforms
- Responsive regulations
- Regimes
- Sustainable economic growth
- Resolving trade-related issues

A competitive, transforming & dynamic structure of ASEAN

- Facilitating the micro & medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Encouraging Public-private partnerships
- Combining all stakeholders to contribute to regional peace

Global ASEAN

- Develop coherent and investment-friendly incentives for maintaining external economic relation
- Playing constructive role at other international platforms
- Maintain economic alliance with non-FTA dialogue partners

The Intra-State ASEAN's framework details mentioned above reflect that these countries are likely to gain economic benefit from FTA in future and further foster collaborative measures vis-à-vis reinvigorating financial stability, maintaining investment flows, technology transfer, reducing intra-regional transactions costs to doing business, and supporting policy reform. Moreover, it is also expected that the ASEAN's new member states would also maximize lucrative outcomes from the socio-economic integration projects in the region and beyond. The broader regional arrangements will help ASEAN countries overcome the conflict by adhering to needed reforms while assisting in information sharing for conflict resolution and crisis management.

Flexible Paradigm of ASEAN and Regional Integra-

tion Theory

The origins of regional integration theory can be traced back to Viner's study in 1950. His work formulated a structure for analyzing the effect of creating trade & customs union or regional/international organizations for regulating the governments. The pillars of the regional integration theory amid broader economic aspects. It seeks to explain the establishment of regional or international organizations. In this aspect, the theory also answers the major question of how regional organizations expand their targets, competencies, and members? and what impact they have on states and societies in their regions? ASEAN is a supranational body that has transnational corporations and interest groups encouraged by the integration process. Therefore, the ASEAN framework can be seen through the prism of the regional integration theory of international relations. The wider association enables a variety of ripple impacts and path-dependencies that take connectivity beyond the regional confines. ASEAN covers the establishment and progress of supranational policies. The member states promote beneficiaries of socio-economic progress. In this aspect, the wider integration has remained successful because of several reasons:

- Robust interstate trade/commerce strategies
- Durable liberalization policies while setting high goals
- The significant role of the FDI companies
- Promotion of trade with countries outside the ASEAN region
- Efforts to curtail intra-regional disparities
- Upgrading and developing the transportation infrastructure

Indonesia's Substantial Role in Fostering Intra-ASEAN Socio-Economic Structure

Indonesia is the major economic power in the ASEAN region. Moreover, it has played a pivotal role as a mediator between other ASEAN-states in resolving their disputes. Within ASEAN, Indonesia enjoys a leading position. Pakistan has the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner (SDP) in ASEAN. Indonesia has been helping Pakistan to attain the status of a full dialogue partner in the organization. The relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan has marked significant progress in recent times. The valuable asset of the relation is that the ASEAN countries are convinced of Pakistan's sincere intentions to engage fruitfully with the region. In this aspect, ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Committee works effectively to seek deeper association with the Asia Pacific and ASEAN countries. Presently, China's engagement with ASEAN has increased manifold. Both are linked via multilateral frameworks, institutional involvements, constructive engagements, and aid programs. Moreover, the ASEAN countries are directly part of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) projects. Therefore, the full inclusion of China as a member state in ASEAN would be beneficial for the region and all parties involved.

Khalid Taimur Akram is the Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad

Defiance Against Oppression

Wajeeda Bilal



When you take that journey, there is no better place to realize the mutual connection with humanity than your history. As you walk through your emotions you can understand that this world has been evoking the vigor of the past

WHEN we hear or watch news, there is a piece of our lives that feels disconnected and helpless. Maybe it is the harsh reality of human against human or the dog-eat-dog verity of the world leaders. Something that separates us from all this cruelty also tends to kill a part of our humanness. But we seek ways to come back to our human existence and connect with the reality of this world till something starts to fill the void within. There is a sense of satisfaction and peace that happens when you can search for ways to be connected. When you take that journey, there is no better place to realize the mutual connection with humanity than your history. As you walk through your emotions you can understand that this world has been evoking the vigor of the past. Our lives rest on a stagnant pool of ancient ways that tell us where we had come from and where we seem to be going. Human behavior through history has shown major tyrannous acts against the oppressed but it has also proved that humans can always find ways to stand against the tyrant as well.

Unfortunately, due to the fear of being shunned by the powerful authorities, most media influencers and networks do not take the risk of naming the oppressors and the tyrants, rather they use passive tones to address the crimes. Even if someone calls out these heinous crimes of massacre and apartheid, the bullies find ways to even them out by shifting the blame through anti-Semitic label. The atrocities committed by the colonial era and the shift of the blame is not for the East to bear. Just like slavery and racism were not generated by the East or the Muslim countries, similarly the Muslims cannot be blamed for the horrors of holocaust. In fact, history is a proof that Jews have been well tolerated during the Muslim rule, after centuries of institutionalized Western anti-Semitism. The Muslims do not carry the blame of historical cruelty and racist labels that the West tries to shift upon them

from time to time.

Having an open discussion about the global affairs gives us the true sense of where we stand. As we start to learn about our history and become more open to discussing our present, we realize that our connection as humans is very powerful. We are not even aware of it though it is right there and has always been. These borders that have been defined for communities as countries exist because of years and years of struggle and sacrifice by our ancestors. People who have been working for generations have made it possible for our identities. You cannot be humbled by that kind of sacrifice nor be forged into living under a rule that bereaves you of that very identity.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's recent appearance at an interview on CNN resulted in the sloppy rendition of his comments that invited anti-Semitic label. The main problem is that the conversation deviated from the real issue of discussing the Palestinian persecution to be scapegoated with Semitism card propelled with tired tropes. While the West must refrain from using such tiresome labels to lighten their own guilt of past mistakes, the Muslims need to understand their role in being more careful while addressing sensitive issues. The fault lies with both sides, when instead of calling out the tyrant, people are busy playing East vs West. Equating the standing of the whole religious community with the atrocities of the Israeli government merely destroys the reality of the Middle East conflict by shifting the tone to a Jews vs Muslims propaganda. Such off the cuff remarks by prominent world leaders provide the licence to countries like Israel to get away with their atrocious tyrannies. Whether it is the Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Myanmar or Burma, the solution to discussing their situation lies in acknowledging their identi-

ties not pitching one religious community against the other. People who struggle for their freedom in these countries are not only oppressed but have been ripped apart from their loved ones and made to live under a rule that they have no say in.

After living under coercion for so long people seek solutions and openness to their suffocating frustrations. Through media and social networks, we are also soaking in part of that suffocation and there is a sadness that comes along with it. At the same time there is a sense of pleasure as you realize the beauty of human survival, the richness of human hope and fruit of human endeavor through time. Learning about the truth and speaking it out loud is so empowering that you start to see a sense of purposefulness in life. It boosts the confidence of not only those who endure but also awakens the minds of silent observers. We seek knowledge about the past to move forward with better solutions with our words and thoughts.

When we decide to discuss with open minds and hearts, in that moment our memories, our beliefs and our purpose all come together to provide better solutions. Once there is no pointing of fingers or shifting of blames, then there is no doubt to the truth. We will soon be on our way to find better solutions with a focus on reality through our knowledge of history and our courage to stand up against the tyrant. Standing up against the cruel leaders is a clear way of showing how we are going to make it to a better future. When those in power open about an atrocity, they share the light of an idea with many who do not have the guts or the chance to speak up. An impossible change may happen, only because some brave leader had the power to address an issue openly.

(Wajeeda is author of "The Conscious Ego", "The Beautiful Present")

Briefs

Vladimir Bozhko received a new position

DNA

NUR SULTAN: Former Deputy Chairman of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Vladimir Bozhko was appointed to the Republican central headquarters of professional paramilitary emergency rescue services, Kazpravda.kz reports. It is reported that from June 1, 2021, Vladimir Bozhko was appointed Deputy Chairman of the supervisory board of the Republican central headquarters of professional paramilitary emergency rescue services.

In 1971, Vladimir Bozhko graduated from the V.I. Lenin Kazakh polytechnic institute, in 1976 - higher courses of the KGB of the USSR, Specialty - "electrification and automation of mining"; "operational staff". Previously, in different years, he held leading positions in the system of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He has the rank of lieutenant general. From 2007 to 2014, Vladimir Bozhko headed the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and in 2016 he was elected to the post of Deputy Chairman of the Majilis. For special services to the Fatherland he was awarded the orders "Barys" of I degree, "Aibyn" of II degree, 43 medals of the USSR, the Republic of Kazakhstan and foreign countries.

Demo of voting machines..

From Page 01

He said all the 36 conditions of Election Commission of Pakistan have been fulfilled in initial trials of the EVMs. The EVMs are being manufactured by three companies.

Fawad Hussain said PML-N has filed a petition in the court to deprive the overseas Pakistanis of their right to vote while it is among our top priorities to give them basic right of voting as we consider them an integral part of the country. He said we are waiting for PPP's response in this regard to finalise the legislative procedure. The cabinet prayed for the martyrs of Ghotki train accident and victims of a Pakistan origin family in Canada. Chaudhary Fawad Hussain said the incident of Canada vindicates Prime Minister Imran Khan's reservations regarding rising trends of Islamophobia in the West. Condemning the incident, the cabinet stressed on western countries to take immediate steps to root out the major cause of Islamophobia. The Prime Minister has directed the Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi to finalise the reforms in transportation and logistics. The Law Minister Farogh Naseem briefed the cabinet about reforms in criminal law.

The cabinet was informed that around 17 million people are getting benefits of Ehsas program. The data of Ehsas program is being digitalized to make it more transparent. The cabinet was briefed that Utility Stores Corporation is making sales of over 100 billion rupees and first time it has come out of loss.

Train accident: Palestine..

From Page 01

on Monday after two passenger trains collided near Daharki, a city located in the Ghotki district of upper Sindh, it is indeed a great loss and we Palestinians are very much grieved over the loss of precious lives of our brothers and sisters, may Allah give the martyrs an eternal peace in Jannah, and bless the injured ones speedy recovery. Our good wishes and prayers are with the bereaved families in this difficult time, and we would feel grateful to extend any possible assistance on our part, in whatever way possible, to be a part of the efforts for families affected by this accident. I take this opportunity to renew again my heartfelt condolences to Your Excellency and your nation, May your nation has the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss."

Riyadh-Damascus in rapprochement talks

"The prevailing attitude can be defined as, 'times have changed, the Arab Spring is history and the region is transitioning towards a new future, with new geopolitical characteristics,'" the official, who himself recently reconciled with Damascus

FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is close to reaching an agreement on diplomatic normalisation with President Bashar al-Assad's government, as Riyadh jockeys to play a lead role in removing the Iranian presence from Syria, Media has been told by those with close knowledge of the discussions. According to a senior official from the Syrian opposition Free Officer's Movement, who maintains close contacts within the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and General Intelligence Directorate (GID), "the political mood within the House of Saud has changed, many senior royals, particularly Mohammad bin Salman

[MBS] himself, are keen to reengage with Assad".

"The prevailing attitude can be defined as, 'times have changed, the Arab Spring is history and the region is transitioning towards a new future, with new geopolitical characteristics,'" the official, who himself recently reconciled with Damascus after defecting to the Syrian opposition in the summer of 2011, added.

The discussion with Media came on the heels of a report in early May, which claimed Riyadh had dispatched an intelligence delegation led by GID Director General Khalid Humaidan to Damascus to engage in discussions on the possibility of detente between the two erstwhile foes. Also in May, Syria dispatched its



first ministerial delegation in 10 years to Riyadh, led by the Minister of Tourism Rami Martini. From the Syrian conflict's earliest days, Saudi Arabia had been a key player in supporting the proxy war aimed at toppling al-Assad. Riyadh supplied an array of local rebel groups with finances and weaponry, including US-made an-

ti-tank missiles, as part of the effort. The campaign faltered following larger counter-interventions by al-Assad's chief foreign patrons, Russia and Iran. However, Saudi Arabia now appears to view the corridors of power in Damascus as an expedient avenue for shoring up its broader regional interests. According to a Damas-

cus-based official from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was privy to the recent talks with Riyadh, "MBS is engaged in efforts to defuse tensions with The Islamic Republic of Iran by engaging with Syria."

According to the official, "MBS instructed his team to reassure Syria that he does not want regime change against Bashar, and that Syria, as a brotherly Arab nation, should naturally be close to Saudi Arabia". The official claimed this was "clearly also intended as a signal" to the Iranian leadership that Riyadh "recognises that the side of the war in which ... [Iran] most heavily invested won, and that it will not try to challenge that reality". The official, while refusing

to confirm, also alluded to the possibility of an Iranian presence at the Damascus meeting, saying, "let's just say the Iranians were immediately very welcoming to what they heard".

Both sources spoke with Media on condition of anonymity because of sensitivity over the issue.

In May, Iraqi President BarhamSalih confirmed reports from April that said Saudi Arabia and Iran held bilateral talks in Baghdad in a bid to soothe simmering tensions. Allegedly, those discussions focused largely, although not exclusively, on resolving the war in Yemen, where the Royal Saudi Air Force has been engaged in an air campaign since mid-2015 against Iran-aligned Houthis rebels.

Man who killed Muslim family..

From Page 01

That statement, confirmed by family friend Saboor Khan, was signed by the Alzaal family. It says that the victims of the attack "were always there giving and participating in spreading goodness." The statement adds that God "gave Salman [the father] Madiha [the mother] Yumna [the daughter] and Yumna's grandmother the ultimate rank of a shaheed [martyr] while Fayez [the son] is on the road to recovery from serious injuries."

The statement called upon Canadians and "the highest levels in our governments" to take a stand against the extremism that allegedly motivated the attack.

Minutes after the collision, Nathaniel Veltman was arrested after a police chase, in a shopping mall parking lot seven kilometres away. He faces four charges of first-degree murder and one of attempted murder. Authorities say they are weighing whether to pursue terrorism charges.

"We believe that this was an intentional act and that the victims of this horrific incident were targeted because of their Islamic faith," London Police Chief Steve Williams said at a news conference on Monday. "All of the victims in this matter are members of the same family." At the news conference, London Detective-Superintendent Paul Waight declined to discuss what the accused said to police after his arrest, but he noted that he "was wearing a vest that appeared to be like body armour."

"So far, we don't know of his membership in any specific hate group," Det.-Supt. Waight said. He added that there is no indication others were involved, and that detectives with the RCMP have reached out to discuss whether authorities can lay "potential terrorism charges" under federal laws. No such allegations have been made so far.

Members of London's Muslim community describe the slain family members as a close-knit group of model Canadians with roots in Pakistan. They say the older woman was the grandmother in the family, that the two adults in their 40s were husband and wife, and the 15-year-old was their daughter. The boy is their son.

Which vaccine will get..

From Page 01

a negative PCR test, or proof of recovery from COVID-19. The Greek government lists the following vaccines among those accepted: Pfizer-BioNtech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Novavax, Johnson and Johnson, Sinovac, Sputnik V, Casino Biologics, and Sinopharm.

Cyprus
On May 25, Cyprus announced it was opening its borders to tourists from dozens of countries including all EU and EEA states, Canada, Egypt, Serbia, the UK, and the US. The country has a traffic light system in place and tourists from "orange" or "red" countries are subject to testing rules.

However, fully vaccinated passengers with valid vaccination certificates are entirely exempt, no matter the color code of the country they come from. Cyprus accepts all vaccines approved for use in the EU as well as the Sputnik V and Sinopharm shots. Germany and beyond: Vaccination certificates, but only on limited terms

Most travel to Germany from outside the EU and Schengen Area is still limited to urgent journeys only. However, Germany has begun accepting COVID-19 certificates in certain cases where travel is permitted. While passengers arriving by plane must usually get tested before departure, those who can provide proof of vaccination instead are now exempt.

Other EU countries including Denmark, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Austria, Poland, and Lithuania are taking similar approaches to Germany for now; maintaining restrictions on most non-essential travel from outside the EU while waiving some test and quarantine requirements for vaccinated people.

Some EU countries also have bilateral deals in place to mutually recognize national vaccination certificates. For example, Hungary waives entry restrictions for vaccinated travelers from countries including Turkey, Slovenia, and Serbia.

PSL partners with TikTok

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) has collaborated with TikTok for the remaining matches of season six. PSL aims to engage with fans through its content on TikTok, a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share 15-second videos on any topic.

"As part of this partnership, the PSL will be working closely with TikTok to develop bespoke content for TikTok users along with promoting the contributions of the existing fan base that follows the league passionately."

"Through this collaboration, the HBL PSL and TikTok will engage with fans all

around the world especially in Pakistan."

Babar Hamid, the PCB Commercial Director and Head of HBL PSL, said: "TikTok is one of the most popular platforms these days and it has taken the world by a storm which makes this partnership very exciting for us." "Pakistan has a big TikTok following and majority of the followers are passionate about cricket. The popularity of the HBL PSL can be gauged by the overwhelming response that our HBL PSL 6 anthem Groove Mera received on TikTok." The HBL PSL 6 anthem Groove Mera was an instant hit on TikTok with the #GrooveMera having a staggering 1.7 billion views so far.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour calls on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quraishi at the ministry of foreign affairs. - DNA

Chhetri passes Messi in int'l goals

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian football star Sunil Chhetri has surpassed Lionel Messi in international goals, after scoring both goals in his country's 2-0 win over Bangladesh in Qatar's capital Doha. Chhetri moved past Argentinian Messi's 72 goals when he opened the scoring in the 79th minute on Monday, in a qualifying match for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The 36-year-old striker added a second in injury time, taking his total to 74 goals for India, who are already out of the race to qualify for the World Cup but can make

it to the Asian Cup in China. Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo tops the international list among active players, with 103 goals. With 73 strikes, Ali Mabkhout of the United Arab Emirates is also above Messi - a six-time Ballon d'Or winner widely regarded as the greatest player of the modern era. All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel lauded the captain for leading from the front. "Our @Indian Football skipper Sunil Chhetri adds another feather to his illustrious cap as he overtook Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active international goalscorer with 74 goals," Patel wrote on Twitter.

Sri Lanka agree to England tour

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's cricket board said on Tuesday its players have agreed to tour England, even though a contract dispute remains unresolved. The players, including test captain Dimuth Karunaratne and ODI skipper KusalPerera, had refused to sign new contracts which offer lower base salaries and more performance-based incentives. "The team will go ahead with the tour. All the players are available," a Sri Lanka Cricket spokesman told Reuters. The players will leave for England early on Wednesday, he added. The players had criticised the "unfair and non-transparent" contracts in a statement last month but continued with their tour of Bangladesh for a three-match one-day series. "They will play this tour without signing any contract," players' representative NishanPremathiratne told the ESPNcricinfo website ahead of the players' departure for London. - DNA

Lack of global pressure over mine maps emboldens Armenia

DNA

BAKU: The lack of any international crackdown on Armenia over its refusal to submit mine maps to Azerbaijan to avoid further civilian casualties emboldens Yerevan to continue in the same vein. A series of statements made by international agencies following the killing of three civilians, two of them being journalists, in Azerbaijan's Kalbajar region on June 4 proves that the world is in no hurry to put pressure on Armenia. It is believed that unbalanced international pro-Armenian policy also contributes to tragedies caused by Arme-

nia-planted mines. Following the deadly incident, Azerbaijani First Vice-President MehribanAliyeva said that since the end of a 44-day war, more than 140 Azerbaijanis had fallen victims to mines in liberated territories. "Twenty-seven of them died. Responsibility for the death of innocent people rests squarely with the military-political leadership of Armenia," she said.

Aliyeva regretted that Azerbaijan's calls to the OSCE Minsk Group countries and various international organizations for pressure to be put on Armenia to issue landmine maps had yielded no results. "International

nongovernmental organizations acting as champions of journalistic rights remain tight-lipped as well! The Azerbaijanis people are victorious people! It is impossible to break their resolve or intimidate them!" Aliyeva said.

Earlier, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry issued a statement, urging the international community not to turn a blind eye to Armenia's policy to deliberately plant mines in Azerbaijani lands. The ministry said that Armenia in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention, deliberately and constantly plants mines on Azerbaijani territories, thereby being the major threat to regional

peace, security, and cooperation. It added that Yerevan bears all the responsibilities for the civilian Azerbaijanis becoming the victims of mines while performing their duties.

Armenia continues to refuse to provide maps of hundreds of thousands of mines it had planted on the Azerbaijani territories over three decades of occupation. Azerbaijan has made numerous appeals to international organizations and lodged an intergovernmental complaint to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over Armenia's refusal to provide maps of mines in the formerly occupied territories.

Tashkent-EBRD for deepening cooperation

TASHKENT: Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umrzakov received a delegation from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development headed by First Vice President JurgenRigterink to discuss the current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation. During the negotiations, which were also attended by the leadership of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade (MIFT), the Agency for International Cooperation and Development under the MIFT and the heads of a number of Uzbek commercial banks, the current state of cooperation, the progress of joint projects and promising directions for the development of partnership were discussed. JurgenRigterink highly appreciated the positive results of large-scale reforms consistently carried out in the country, and also assured the EBRD's readiness to actively support the processes of economic transformation in Uzbekistan through investment and technical assistance. The parties substantively discussed the progress of cooperation on the implementation of joint projects: currently, 21 projects worth US\$1.8 billion are being implemented and developed in Uzbekistan in cooperation with the EBRD in such areas as energy, infrastructure and housing construction. The parties agreed to accelerate the development of new projects in the areas of housing and communal services, ecology, infrastructure development and the private sector. The issues of cooperation in the banking sector were discussed: the EBRD will continue to provide analytical and technical assistance in the development of the financial sector in Uzbekistan, as well as in the reform and privatization of state-owned banks. The possibilities of expanding credit and trade lines of the EBRD to finance projects of small and medium-sized businesses in Uzbekistan were considered. In addition, the EBRD will provide technical assistance to introduce innovative blended finance instruments for infrastructure development projects, combining private and public investment. - DNA

'Black fungus' cases new scare in India

"We and most mainstream hospitals have seen more mucormycosis cases in the past month than in the previous five years," DrArvinderSoin, chairman of the Medanta Liver Transplant Institute at Gurugram

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: As a devastating second wave of COVID-19 ebbs with less than 100,000 new cases reported on Tuesday, India is now battling a new scare: Mucormycosis, commonly referred to as "black fungus", is a rare fungal disease with a high mortality rate. On Monday, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the country had more than 28,000 cases of the fungal infection. "From 28 states, we have some 28,252 cases of mucormycosis till now. Out of this, 86 percent, or 24,370 cases, have a history of COVID-19 and 62.3 percent, or 17,601, have a history of diabetes," Vardhan said in a meeting with a group of federal ministers.

"The highest number of cases - 6,329 - have been recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Gujarat with 5,486, and then Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Delhi, and Andhra Pradesh," he said. Mucormycosis causes blackening or discoloration over the nose, blurred or double vision, chest pain, breathing difficulties and coughing of blood. Coronavirus patients with diabetes and a weakened immune system are particularly prone to attack. Pain and redness around the eyes or nose, fever, headache, coughing, shortness of breath, bloody vomit and altered mental status are some of its symptoms. Health experts say India's poor air quality and excessive dust in cities, like Mumbai, make it easier

for the fungi to thrive, terming the recent spike in cases a matter of "serious concern". "We and most mainstream hospitals have seen more mucormycosis cases in the past month than in the previous five years," DrArvinderSoin, chairman of the Medanta Liver Transplant Institute at Gurugram, told Media. While black fungus has been found in India before, the current spike in infections is among people infected with COVID-19 and those who have recovered from the disease. DrSumitMrig, who heads the ENT department at Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital in New Delhi, told Media they used to see one or two such cases in a week before the second wave of the pandemic. "The numbers have drastically in-

creased this time and at present, we are seeing five to six such patients on a daily basis," Mrig said. He said the outbreak has "put tremendous pressure on the health infrastructure", especially on the availability of Liposomal Amphotericin-B, the last-line drug being used to treat black fungus and which he said is "suddenly in short supply in the country". "Apart from the high mortality associated with disease which rapidly spreads from nose and sinuses to the eye and brain in a span of 24 to 48 hours, if treatment is not initiated on time, the patient can lose his eyesight. Once it involves the brain, the mortality is approximately 80 percent," Mrig added. Liposomal Amphotericin-B is allocated to the states by the federal

government based on the number of cases reported by them.

Several states have reported a shortage of the vital drug as Indian missions across the world scramble to secure supplies. India last week imposed curbs on the export of Amphotericin-B injections. Opposition parties, including the Congress party, have questioned Prime Minister NarendraModi over the handling of the black fungus scare.

"What is being done for Amphotericin B drug shortage? What is the procedure for getting this medicine to the patient?" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked in a tweet last week. "Instead of giving treatment, why is the public getting bogged down in formalities by the government?" he posted.

Briefs

Uzbekistan's reserves exceed US\$35 billion

DNA

TASHKENT: The volume of Uzbekistan's official reserves as of 1 June 2021 exceeded US\$35.51 billion, according to data from the Central Bank. According to the regulator, this indicator increased by US\$1.4 billion compared to last month. The regulator notes that reserves in foreign currency as of 1 June were US\$13.68 billion against US\$13.1 billion as of 1 May. The volume of gold increased from US\$20.71 billion to US\$21.45 billion. At the same time, the volume of gold in net troy ounces decreased from 11.7 million to 11.3 million troy ounces.

G7 leaders to meet in UK on Friday

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The first in-person meeting of the leaders of G7 nations in nearly two years will start on Friday in the UK, with the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, global geopolitical risks, and climate change.

At the three-day summit in the coastal Cornwall region, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to call on the G7 leaders to cooperate in order to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the weekend Johnson said he would ask his counterparts to commit to vaccinating the world against COVID-19 by the end of next year.

"I am calling on my fellow G7 leaders to join us to end this terrible pandemic and pledge will we never allow the devastation wreaked by coronavirus to happen again," he said. Additionally, the UK aims to give a message of cooperation on greener solutions with the picturesque Cornwall region, which is seen as central to the UK's green technology sector.

The summit agenda is also expected to include topics such as supporting free and fair trade and boosting cybersecurity, a hot topic in the wake of recent high-profile cyberattacks in the US. The finance ministers of G7 countries on Saturday also agreed on a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15% for multinational corporations in each country where they operate.

The G7 is an organization made up of the world's seven largest advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US.

Lightning strikes kill 27 in E. India

KOLKATA: Lightning strikes have killed 27 people and sent four passengers on a flight to hospital after severe turbulence during monsoon storms in eastern India, officials said.

Officials said West Bengal was hit by thunderstorms late Monday, with lightning strikes in parts of the state - a fairly common occurrence during the June to September annual monsoon in the country.

"Many of the 27 killed on Monday evening... in the state were farmers and working in the fields," West Bengal disaster management minister Javed Ahmed Khan told the AFP news agency on Tuesday. The victims were mostly farmers, though some were people who simply happened to be outdoors, authorities said. The storms hit six districts of the state, accompanied by strong winds.

A flight from the western city of Mumbai to Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, was caught in the storm as it was about to land, officials said. Eight passengers were injured, with four taken to hospital. "One passenger is still admitted in the hospital. The others have been discharged," the airport's director C Pattabhi told AFP. "It was a close shave for the passengers." Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a financial compensation of 200,000 rupees (\$2,746) for the next of kin of those who had died and 50,000 rupees (\$686) for each injured person. - Agencies

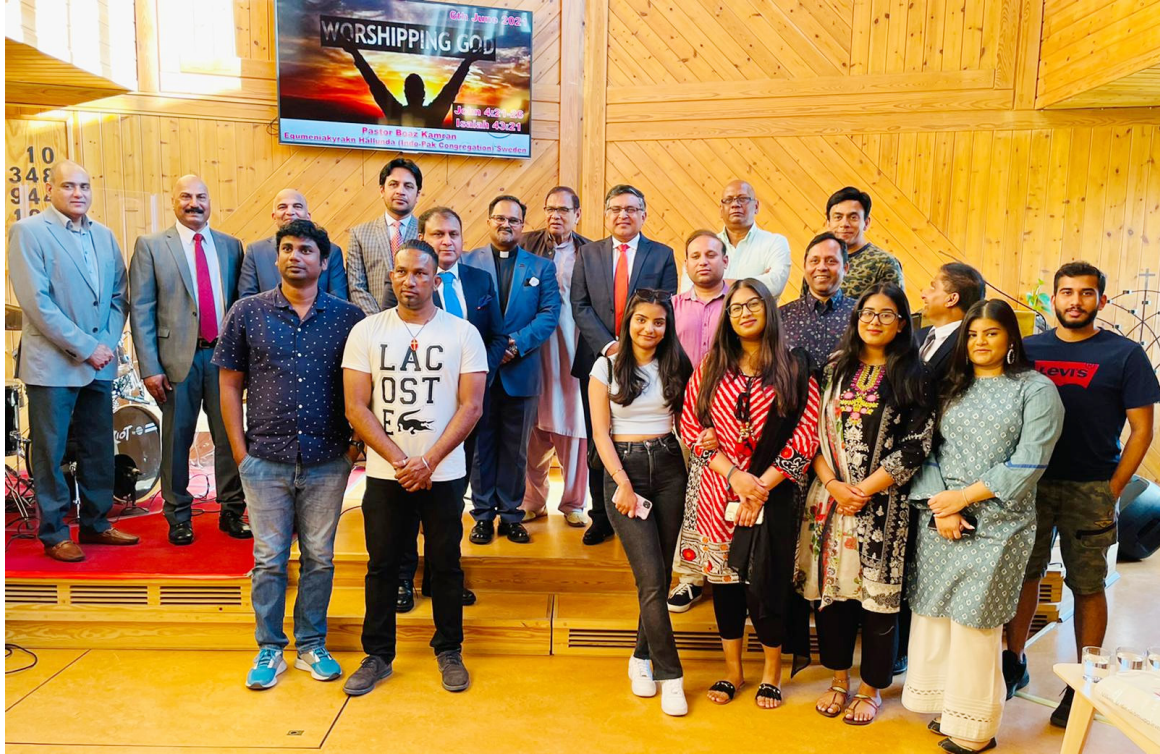
Pak values the contributions of its Christian population

The Ambassador of Pakistan to Sweden and Finland, Dr. Zahoor Ahmed visited Hallunda Church in Stockholm and interacted with Pakistani and Christian community

DNA

STOCKHOLM: The Ambassador of Pakistan to Sweden and Finland, Dr. Zahoor Ahmed visited Hallunda Church in Stockholm and interacted with the Pakistani Christian Community. The Ambassador was welcomed by Pastor Boaz Kamran and other congregation members. Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Zahoor Ahmed

said Pakistan values the contributions of its Christian population. The white portion of Pakistani flag represented all minorities including the Christian Community who were an asset to the country. He pointed out that Pakistani Christian community had always played an instrumental role in the development of the country particularly in fields of health and education. The institutions established by them have



always been an example of excellence and distinction. He highlighted that Pakistani community in Sweden was a bridge between their country of origin and Sweden and was portraying a soft and positive im-

age of Pakistan. Pakistan is a diverse country with believes in peace around the world and a dialogue between faiths and civilisations. He reiterated that the embassy would regularly maintain interac-

tions with all segments of the community and work together for promoting relations between Pakistan and Sweden in all spheres. He remarked that he earlier couldn't physically meet the community members due

to pandemic restrictions and was glad to attend the first congregation after the easing of restrictions. In the end, prayers were said for peace and prosperity of Pakistan Sweden and entire world.

Culture Day at Pak Embassy attracts int'l audience in Beijing

DNA

BEIJING: Spectacular cultural performance, music concert, fashion show, food stalls, and different sports activities attracted a large number of international audiences on the International Culture Day held at Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB).

According to China Economic Net, students and families from over 27 countries including China, Sudan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iran, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Egypt, and many African nations set up cultural stalls and exhibited their national dress, food, and handicrafts at the event.

Pakistani handicrafts, and

traditional dress showcased to highlight and promote Pakistani culture attracted a lot of attention from the participants. Pakistani food and snacks were also a favorite item and attracted the attention of the visitors. Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Sudanese ambassador, Dr. Gafar Karar Ahmed were chief guests on the occasion. They visited stalls and exhibitions set up by students of PECB and appreciated them for representing handicrafts, foods, and culture of their respective countries. During his address, Moin said the entire world is going through a very difficult and extraordinary time in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic which had disturbed

the normal life of the people. In such an atmosphere, people were unable to travel and they could not meet their loved ones, he said and added, "We are very lucky to be in China which is the safest country on the earth." He said China had won a rich victory against the COVID-19 pandemic due to determination, discipline, and collective national efforts. However, the rest of the world is still facing this pandemic. Ambassador appreciated all the students who took part in different activities of the day despite their annual examinations, adding that the students are future leaders of their nations and asked them to continue working

hard with determination and honesty and in a very passionate manner. Talking to China Economic Net, Principal of PECB, Shazia Anjad said that this cultural event is a part of the school's education and training system, and through such activities, the management of the school wanted to motivate values of friendship, teamwork, and voluntary work among the students besides bringing them together. She also expressed her deepest appreciation to the school team and everyone who was involved in making the event a success. Shazia appreciated the audience and expressed her gratitude to their strong interest and enthusiastic participation.

E-Kachehri for Pak community in Sweden, Finland

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Zahoor Ahmad Ambassador of Pakistan in Stockholm held E-Kachehri for Pakistani community in Sweden and Finland. Ambassador Zahoor, in his opening remarks, informed the participants that the Embassy held a webinar on Roshan Digital Account in coordination with State Bank of Pakistan, Meezan Bank and Pakistan Stock Exchange on 29 May 2021. He encouraged Pakistanis to benefit from the facility. Pakistani community shared their problems regarding consular matters like problems in filing online visa application, availability of credit card and Pakistan Origin Card which were addressed by Ambassador. He assured that he would continue his engagement with the community for addressing their issues and encouraged them to actively participate in E-Kachehri.

Uzbekistan to open trade house in Luxembourg

DNA

TASHKENT: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the Benelux countries Dilyor Khakimov met with the head of the Luxembourg company Sonneg Luxembourg S.A, compatriot Diyor Yakubov.

Sonneg Luxembourg S.A, a textile wholesale company founded in 2014, has earned a reputation as a reliable supplier of textile products for exceptional customer service, industry knowledge and affordable products. Through the Luxembourg warehouse, a wide range of textile products from Uzbekistan is distributed throughout Europe. The company cooperates with such Uzbek partners as Utezh Group, Elegant, Fiber, Tmt, whose goods are exported through Sonneg Luxembourg SA to the markets of Great Britain, Germany, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Czech Republic and Italy. According to Diyor Yakubov, since the beginning of this year, finished textile

products under the Uzbek brand have been exported to European markets for about US\$100,000, and by the end of the year this figure is expected to rise to eight hundred thousand dollars.

According to the entrepreneur, "finding a buyer for Uzbek products in European markets is not a problem, the problem is in organizing supplies in accordance with European standards on a regular basis." In this context, it was noted with regret that some exporters are losing the confidence of European partners, lowering attention to the quality of goods in the process of building up partnerships.

As a result of the meeting, an agreement was reached on organizing training for Uzbek textile workers and workers in the agro-industrial complex, working out the issue of opening a Trading House in Luxembourg and an exhibition of textile and silk products of Uzbek brands on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence.



GAZA CITY: An art exhibition titled "Dust and Stones" has been launched in Gaza for a number of fine artists. The exhibition portrays images of the daily life in Palestine and the struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionist occupation. - DNA

China warns US against trade deal with Taiwan

The US has meanwhile stepped up support for Taiwan, approving new arms sales, sending high-level delegations and most recently pledging to donate 750,000 doses of vaccines to bolster its fight against COVID-19 - all moves that have drawn Beijing's ire

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China has warned the United States against pursuing a trade deal with Taiwan after Washington signalled a possible resumption of economic talks with the self-ruled island. Zhao Lijian, spokesman for China's foreign ministry, urged Washington on Tuesday to "stop any form of official exchanges with Taiwan, handle the Taiwan issue cautiously, and refrain from sending any wrong signals to Taiwan independence forces".

China claims democratic Taiwan as its own territory, to be taken by force if necessary. In recent months, Beijing has increased the pressure

on Taiwan, including sending fighter jets into the island's air defence zone.

The US has meanwhile stepped up support for Taiwan, approving new arms sales, sending high-level delegations and most recently pledging to donate 750,000 doses of vaccines to bolster its fight against COVID-19 - all moves that have drawn Beijing's ire.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken added fuel to the fire on Monday when he told a congressional hearing in Washington, DC, that discussions would soon begin on a trade deal.

"I know we are engaged in conversations with Taiwan, or soon will be, on some kind of framework agreement," Blinken said when he was

asked about the position of President Joe Biden's administration on a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan. The diplomat also said the US was "committed to the



proposition that Taiwan must have the means to defend itself." "We've continued to provide significant equipment and sales to Taiwan for that purpose," he added. "We have real concerns about the

increased aggression that the government in Beijing has shown toward Taiwan." Asked about Blinken's comment, a spokesperson for the US Trade Representative's

(USTR) office said it has "no meetings to announce at this time. It added, however, that "the United States believes it is important to continue strengthening our bilateral trade relationship with Tai-

wan". A spokesman for Taiwan's representative office in Washington said they were "working to engage in discussions with USTR, which will hopefully lead to progress in our bilateral trade relationship". Bonnie Glaser, a Taiwan expert at the German Marshall Fund of the US, said Blinken's comment was a signal Washington was likely to move forward with a resumption of Trade Investment Framework Talks (TIFTA) with Taiwan that have not been held since the administration of former President Barack Obama. However, she said the Biden administration had probably not made a decision on whether to take the much larger step of pursuing a bilateral trade agreement

with Taiwan. "Senior Biden administration officials have been encouraging USTR to hold a round of the TIFTA talks, and Taipei is eager to do this as soon as possible," Glaser said, adding that China was likely to oppose a TIFTA resumption out of concern that the talks could eventually lead to a free trade agreement and embolden other countries, such as the United Kingdom, to launch trade negotiations with Taiwan. "China also will see such talks as part of a Biden strategy to strengthen ties with Taiwan and what they see as a diminishing US commitment to One China," she said, referring to the longstanding US policy of recognizing Beijing rather than Taipei.

Kazakh city airport resumes air service

DNA

NURSULTAN: The Nursultan Nazarbayev International Airport resumed air service with 14 countries of the world, including Turkey, the UAE, South Korea, Russia, Egypt, Talgat Lastayev, the head of the civil aviation committee, said.

He noted unfortunately the civil aviation was hit hard by the pandemic. "Though, since the beginning of this year the flights were resumed. Since January the number of flights hit 47% having carried 2.5 mln passengers. The number of passengers handled by the airport increased by 39% or by 4.6 mln. Kazakhstan also resumed internal flights to the full," Lastayev told at opening ceremony of the Aviators' Alley dated to the 90th anniversary of the airport. Notably, the number of flights performed from Kazakhstan to Antalya, Turkey, will increase.

Jordanian prisoner in Israel arrives back home

FOREIGN DESK

AMMAN: The longest-serving Jordanian prisoner in an Israeli jail has arrived home after completing a 20-year sentence for planting a bomb on an Israeli bus. Abdullah Abu Jaber, 44, was arrested after the explosive device went off on the bus in Tel Aviv and injured more than a dozen people in December 2000.

He was one of the thousands of Jordanians who found casual work in Israel after the two countries normalised ties with a peace treaty in 1994. Abu Jaber, who was among 22 prisoners held in Israeli jails, headed to his parents' home in the teeming Baqaa Palestinian refugee camp near the Jordanian capital Amman, witnesses said.

Separately, foreign ministry officials said Israel had dropped charges against two Jordanians who were arrested last month for allegedly crossing the border carrying knives.

The authorities had put them on trial shortly after their arrest. Jordan, which has the longest border with Israel, is a close Western ally. Last month, it witnessed large protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza and its crackdown on Palestinian worshippers and protesters in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Political ties between the two countries have been strained over Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, and the Jordanian government has faced growing public pressure to scrap the unpopular peace treaty. Most of Jordan's 10 million citizens are of Palestinian origin. They, or their parents, were expelled or fled to Jordan in the 1948 war to establish the state of Israel. They have close family ties with their kins on the other side of the Jordan River in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, both captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

Kazakhstan exports expected to grow by 20%

DNA

NURSULTAN: The National Bank predicts growth of Kazakhstan exports by more than 20% at the end of 2021. According to our baseline forecasts, the export of goods will increase by 20.2% to \$ 56.2 billion," reads the statement. According to the information, the growth in the export of goods will be provided due to the growth in prices for the main goods of Kazakhstan's export: oil, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, gas, uranium and grain, due to the recovery in global demand. Imports will grow by 5.3%, to \$ 38.1 billion. The current account deficit at an oil price of \$ 60 / bbl will almost halve - from \$ 6.3 billion in 2020 to \$ 3.6 billion in 2021. Moreover, with an average annual price of \$ 65 / bbl, the deficit, according to the regulator, will decrease even more - four times to \$ 1.5 billion in 2021, and if this price remains and higher in 2022, it will lead to almost zero deficit at the end of the year.

Briefs

'Ghotki crash due to track's broken welding joint'

WEB DESK

LAHORE: The Ghotki train accident took place after a track's welding joint broke, causing the Millat Express train to crash onto a down track, says an initial investigation report into the crash. At least 50 people were killed and over 100 injured during the wee hours of Monday when Sir Syed Express and the Millat Express collided in Pakistan's Dharki town near the Mirpur Mathello railway station. Sources told media the initial investigation report had been finalised and as per the report, 51 people had died in the crash. The accident took place when the welding joint of the up track's right side broke, causing 12 coaches of the Millat Express to crash onto a down track. The Karachi-bound Sir Syed Express, as a result, collided with Millat Express' coaches on the down track, causing the accident. The engine of Sir Syed Express and four coaches derailed as a result of the accident, said the report, adding that experts were retrieving data from the black boxes of both train engines. The report, as per sources, stated that the data obtained from the black boxes will be included in the investigation report of the Federal Inspectors of Railways.

Leading websites crash after internet breakdown

ISLAMABAD: Large swathes of the internet were made inaccessible on Tuesday due to a breakdown in a key network provider, crashing the leading global government, media and other websites. Dozens of websites in the U.S. and Europe were inaccessible early Tuesday, with at least one internet outage tracker reporting widespread disruptions. This includes dozens of major international news websites, including CNN, BBC, the New York Times and the Guardian. Major online forums such as Reddit, Twitch and Github were also affected, as were shopping sites such as Amazon and house sites such as MyHome.ie. Apps on phones and tablets appear to be relatively unaffected. Despite rumours circulating on social media sites, there is no evidence of a hack or foul play. The outage seems to be focused more prevalently in certain parts of the world. 'Content Delivery Network' (CDN) outages are often connected to the local infrastructure, where data centres and other key equipment is located. While sometimes the result of outside interference, they can also be caused by equipment failure, disruption from the grid or other factors. - Agencies

Ghotki tragedy: Death toll reaches 65

GHOTKI: The death toll in the terrible Ghotki train tragedy climbed to 65 on Tuesday with more than 100 people injured, confirmed an official of the Pakistan Railways. Rescuers managed to pull more bodies from the mangled wreck of the coaches earlier today. Railway officials added that the track has also been cleared and restored, with train services resuming. The incident occurred when a Karachi-bound train ploughed into the derailed bogies of a Sargodha-bound express near the border between Sindh and Punjab provinces in the wee hours of June 7. The Millat Express was heading from Karachi to Sargodha when it derailed, spilling carriages onto the track carrying Sir Syed Express from Rawalpindi in the opposite direction. The double accident happened near Daharki in Sindh's remote Ghotki district at around 3.30 am when most of the 1,200 passengers aboard the two trains were dozing. - DNA

Pak supports ASEAN disaster and risk management efforts

Ambassador Hassan proposes cooperation between NDMA of Pakistan and disaster management agencies of ASEAN through information sharing, early warning, surveillance, joint training, and common standards

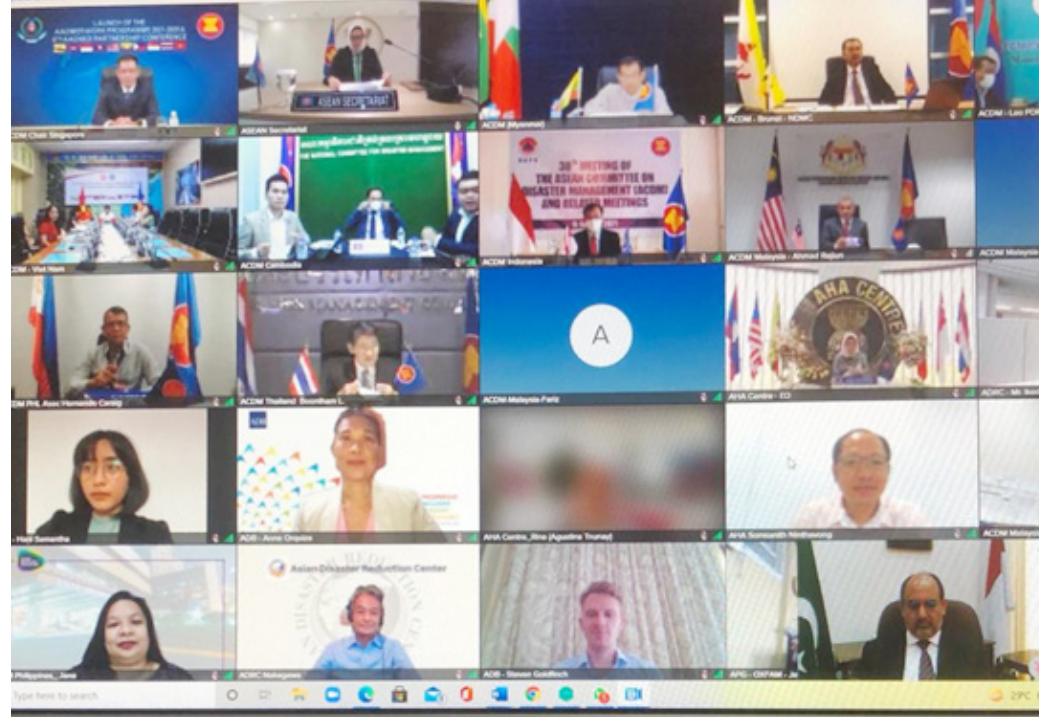
DNA

JAKARTA: Speaking at the launching ceremony of the Association of East Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s Disaster Management and Emergency Work Program for the year 2021-25, Ambassador of Pakistan to ASEAN, pledged Pakistan's full support to ASEAN's disaster and risk management efforts.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of all ASEAN member states and its development partners. Pakistan is a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. In this capacity, Pakistan partners with ASEAN in



Ambassador Muhammad Hassan



many programmes of the Organization including those related to climate change and risk management. Pakistan's Ambassador to ASEAN, based in Jakarta is also concurrent. During his speech, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan stated that Pakistan would be happy to support the initiatives and the priority programmes, especially

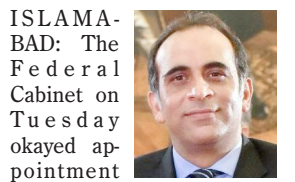
those related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Pakistan believes that in any disaster, regional and international partnerships are important in building resilience amongst partner states and preparing communities to effectively respond to disasters through further stakeholder coordination.

The Ambassador further stated that climate change phenomena are amplifying the risk of extreme weather disasters. It also poses significant risks to vulnerable groups, especially the poor, in both rural and urban areas all over the world including Pakistan and ASEAN. Pakistan's climate change concerns included unusual rain

patterns especially during monsoons, the likely impact of receding Himalayan glaciers on the Indus River system, decreased capacity of water reservoirs, reduced hydropower during drought years, and extreme events including, floods and droughts. Government of Pakistan was looking at ways to urgently addressing it. One successful initiative taken by the government was restoration of ecosystem by planting Ten Billion Trees Tsunami, which has been acknowledged by UNEP. Ambassador Hassan proposed cooperation between NDMA of Pakistan and disaster management agencies of ASEAN through information sharing, early warning, surveillance, joint training, and common standards and protocols required for regional cooperation. He said that NDMA had the mandate to manage complete spectrum of disasters by adopting a disaster risk reduction perspective in development planning at all levels, and through enhancing institutional capacities for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The agency already had cooperation agreement with a number of partner organizations in friendly countries. It was also ready to share its experiences with ASEAN partners.

Mobashir Hassan appointed APP MD

AGENCIES



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday okayed appointment of Mobashir Hassan, a senior officer of the Information Group, as Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain told this to a post-cabinet briefing. The Federal Cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan. Mobashir Hassan has already served on a number of key positions including Deputy Managing Director Baitul Maal, Director Minister Office, Chairman Censor Board. He had also served as Pakistan Press Attache in Egypt. Currently he was posted in the Press Information Department as Deputy Director General.

Bilawal mocks PM's advice of 'stop worrying'

NAZIR SIYAL



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhatto Zardari on Tuesday said he wondered that at a time when people did not have food to eat; no clothes to wear and they were deprived of shelter as well, 'selected' Prime Minister Imran Khan had the 'audacity' to ask people to stop worrying and be patient.

In a statement issued from the Media Cell Bilawal House, the PPP Chairman said 50 percent people were living below poverty line during the times of former military dictator Pervez Musharraf, and now the country had landed in the same situation by virtue of the policies of 'selected' prime minister. Bilawal said that 'incompetent' government's economic policies had 'wrecked' each and every household in the country. He said the very fact that wheat was available but flour was expensive, sugarcane was available but sugar prices were out of the reach of common man was enough to prove that Imran Khan was 'patronizing' the mafias. The PPP chairman claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would not provide any relief to the salaried class or pensioners in the national budget for the financial year, 2021-22. "Their only aim is to exaggerate the GDP figures," he said, and added the reason why the ruling party was boasting about economic growth so much was that it had no intention to give relief to the poor in the budget. "If the country's GDP rate had really improved, youth would not have been wandering here and there in search for jobs," Bilawal said, and asked what kind of economic development was this in which those who were employed had now become jobless.

Covid positivity ratio under 3%

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continues to report a decline in coronavirus cases, with the positivity rate going under 3% for the first time in almost four months on Tuesday. The national tally on Tuesday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 46,190 with 1,383 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,516 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Fifty-three corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 44 of whom were under treatment in hospital and nine out of the hospital

in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the past 24 hours, most of the deaths have occurred in the Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of the total 53 deaths occurred in the last 24 hours 18 of them had died who were under treatment on ventilators. There were 3,196 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical care in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities in past 24 hours. The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 2.94 percent.

US-Pak talks on military bases reach deadlock: report

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region, although some American officials believe the negotiations have reached an impasse for now. The New York Times reported on Monday. The US intelligence agency CIA did use a base in Pakistan to launch drone strikes against militants but "was kicked out of the facility in 2011, when US relations with Pakistan unraveled," the report adds. "Some American officials (told the newspaper) that ne-

gotiations with Pakistan had reached an impasse for now. Others have said the option remains on the table and a deal is possible," the report explains. According to NYT, William J. Burns, the CIA director, recently made an unannounced visit to Islamabad to meet the chief of the Pakistani military and the head of the directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence. US Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin also has had frequent calls with the Pakistani military chief about getting the country's help for future US operations in Afghanistan. Mr Burns did not bring up the base issue

during his trip to Pakistan as the visit focused on broader counterterrorism cooperation but "some of Mr Austin's discussions have been more direct," the report adds. Analysing Pakistan's reluctance in offering a base to the US, the report notes that "the government in Islamabad is unlikely to sign off on any US strikes against the Taliban that are launched from a base in Pakistan." Yet, "some American officials believe Pakistan wants to allow US access to a base if it can control how it is used," the report adds while pointing out that "public opinion in the country has been strongly

against any renewed presence by the United States." The report also quotes from Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's speech in the parliament last month, saying that "no US base will be allowed by Prime Minister Imran Khan so long he is in power". The report points out that the CIA used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out hundreds of drone strikes during a surge that began in 2008. The strikes focused primarily on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in Pakistan's mountainous tribal areas, but they also crossed the border into Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara and SAPM Youth Affairs Usman Dar posing for a picture after meeting. - DNA

UN court upholds life sentence for Mladic

THE HAGUE: UN appeals judges have upheld the convictions of former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic for genocide and other offences during Bosnia's 1992-95 war, and confirmed his life sentence. Tuesday's verdict by five judges at the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals at The Hague was final and cannot be appealed any further. Twenty-six years after the Srebrenica massacre, the decision brings to a close the last Bosnian genocide trial before the court. Presiding Judge Prisca Matimba Nyambe of Zambia said the court dismissed Mladic's appeal "in its entirety".

It also rejected an appeal by prosecutors of Mladic's acquittal on one other count of genocide linked to ethnic purges early in the war. Mladic joins his former political master, ex-Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, in serving a life sentence for masterminding ethnic bloodshed in the Bosnian war that left more than 100,000 dead and millions homeless. Once a swaggering military strongman known as the "Butcher of Bosnia", Mladic commanded troops responsible for atrocities ranging from "ethnic cleansing" campaigns to the siege of Sarajevo and the war's bloody climax in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. - Agencies

Qureshi calls for action to tackle Islamophobia

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday expressed concern over the "rising trend of Islamophobic attacks in the Western world" and called on the global community to "pay attention and arrest the trend immediately". He made the comments while speaking about the killing of four members of a Pakistan-origin family in Canada late on Sunday evening in what the Canadian police termed as a "premeditated" attack. A 20-year-old suspect had rammed a pickup truck into the family of five, who were reportedly out on their daily walk, killing four of them and injuring the fifth - a nine-year-old boy. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Tuesday, Qureshi said he had contacted Pakistan's consul-general in Ontario as well as the country's high commissioner in Canada for information, adding that details of the attack made his "heart shake and eyes wet". "We are seeing the trend (of Islamophobic attacks)

for some time [and] they are on the rise in the Western world. For the last two years, we are bringing global attention to this - that this is a trend, not individual acts." He said Western governments may want to "colour it as [the act of a] crazed man or an individual act but if we see the trajectory, this is a rising trend and it is concerning". Qureshi said he was concerned the rising trend had "started to divide societies". The foreign minister said around 65 million Muslims resided in Europe, two million in Canada and six million or more in the United States because of which the "Western world will have to pay

attention to this." "This rising trend of Islamophobia will have to be arrested immediately. If [Western countries] do not do this, the situation can worsen, society can be divided, hate speech, incitement, conflict can be created. Emotions arise and tragedies happen," he warned.

Islamophobia has no place in Canada: Envoy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The foreign minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi has Tuesday called on Canada's High Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour to deliberate the horrific incident that killed four Pakistan-origin Canadians in a terrible act of violence. The two diplomatic officials discussed at length the Islamophobia cropping up in the West, among other affairs of bilateral interests, wherein FM Qureshi underscored the recent event as an example of how Muslims are treated. Gilmour reassured Pakistani FM the tragic incident will be investigated thoroughly and those behind it will be handed the worst of the punishment.



Army rescue operation concluded in Ghotki

RAWALPINDI: The relief and rescue operation on Tuesday was completed after two trains of Pakistan Railways collided near Ghotki district of Sindh province. The 98 injured people had been evacuated to various hospitals including Sheikh Zaid Hospital Rahim Yar Khan and Combined Military Hospital Panu Aqil, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. It added the restoration work on railway track was in progress whereas train engine bogies were removed from the track. It further said the efforts were underway to restore the railway track after necessary repair and maintenance. - APP