



Islamabad POST

Friday, June 11, 2021

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US will purchase 500 million Pfizer doses to donate to 100 nations

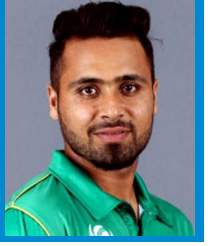
Detailed News On Page-08

Envoy calls for end to Islamophobia

Detailed News On Page-08

Faheem Ashraf ruled out of PSL season 6

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Corruption of Imran Khan caught

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called out the PTI government for causing a loss of up to Rs 1,000 billion to the national exchequer by changing interest rates. He also condemned the selected budget of the selected government. In a statement issued from the Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari declared, "We refuse to accept this preposterous budget. It's evident the budget is political and has not been designed to favor the public."

Pak wants regional peace

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi says Pakistan is committed to maintain the regional peace and will continue its efforts in this regard. Talking to media after Pak-Afghan Ulama Conference in Islamabad on Thursday, he said Pakistan's peace is linked with the peace in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has rendered sacrifices of life and property for maintaining peace in Afghanistan. Maulana Tahir Ashrafi said the Ulama of both the countries have given unanimous stance against the violence.

People must get 2nd dose timely

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid on Thursday urged taking two doses of the vaccine is important and people must remember to take the second dose as a single vaccine dose will not provide sufficient immunity to protect from coronavirus, she said while speaking to a Private news channel. She said Pakistan has achieved so far a target of 10 millionth of Covid-19 vaccine dose on Wednesday.

Pak economy rebounds with 4% growth

FBR collection has seen an increase of 18% as compared to last year. The revenue collection has so far reached Rs 4.2tr

COMMERCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy rebounded strongly during the current fiscal year and posted a growth of around four percent, which is substantially higher than the previous two years, Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin, accompanied by Khuro Bakhtiyar, Commerce Adviser Razak Dawood, Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation Sania Nishar and SAPM on Revenue Waqar Masood, launched Pakistan Economic Survey 2020-21, in Islamabad on Thursday.

According to the Economic Survey, the GDP at the current market price stands at 47,709 billion rupees showing a growth of 14.8 percent over the last year. The agriculture sector posted a growth of 2.8 percent, industries 3.6 percent and services 4.4 percent. In Industry, Manufacturing recorded 8.7 percent growth on account of significant growth in large scale manufacturing and SMEs. The large scale manufacturing increased by eight point nine percent. The construction sector recorded growth of 8.3 percent. The IT sector witnessed growth of 18.85 percent which is the highest growth in comparison with all other industries and the highest in the region.

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Budget to have an estimated outlay of Rs8 trillion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government on Friday will present its third budget, for the fiscal year 2021-22, with an estimated outlay of around Rs8 trillion, state-owned news agency APP reported. The National Assembly is already in session where the budget would be presented on Friday. Like last year, the budget for the upcoming year has been formulated considering the impact of COVID-19 on the people and businesses, and will have the aim of mitigating people's sufferings, reforming the agriculture sector, promoting industry and businesses. "The government of Pakistan is firmly committed to presenting a pro-people, business-friendly and growth-oriented Federal Budget FY 2021-22. The government will pursue an all-inclusive, sustained and robust economic growth, through short, medium and long-term economic planning," the sources said.

COAS lauds BGMF's Polio eradication efforts



RAWALPINDI: Chief Of Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa in a meeting with Chair, Polio Oversight Board, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, President Global Development Programme, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Christopher Elias. – DNA

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday appreciated untiring efforts of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) towards the noble cause of Polio eradication at global level and assured of Pakistan Army's continued support. The Army Chief made these remarks during a call on paid by Chair, Polio Oversight Board, Global

Polio Eradication Initiative, President Global Development Programme, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Christopher Elias to him here on Thursday, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release. The COAS acknowledged the services rendered by Polio Health Workers for polio eradication in Pakistan and said that it was national cause and a national effort. Christopher Elias conveyed the foundation's appreciation for Pakistan

Army for supporting national polio drive and ensuring proper reach and coverage of polio campaigns this year, particularly through involvement of community leaders and influencers. Moreover, he also appreciated Pakistan's successful COVID-19 pandemic campaign and Pakistan Army's tremendous contribution to bring it within manageable level. During the meeting, matters related to Pakistan's commitment for comprehensive Polio eradication were discussed.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaukat Ahmed Tarin presents Pakistan Economic Survey 2020-21 Report to Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

Firdous slaps PPP MNA



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: A video of Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan and PPP MNA Abdul Qadir Mandokhel has gone viral, in which the two can be seen getting into a heated verbal exchange on a television show. In the verbal duel during the show, Mandokhel accused Awan of committing corruption. Later, in a tweet, Awan claimed Mandokhel had used foul language which angered her and that only a one-sided story was being shared in the video. She asked the TV channel to release the full video. "During the talk show, PPP's Qadir Mandokhel threatened me. He insulted my late father and me by using abusive language. I had to take an extreme step in my defence," Awan tweeted along with a video statement.

EU for probe into origins of Covid

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: European Union (EU) leaders have called for an unfettered investigation into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, first identified in central China, amid criticism of an initial

Continued on Page 06

Pak, Qatar enjoy historical ties: PM



MAHNOOR ANSAR

PM Imran likely to visit UK in July

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan, on Thursday. The Qatari Ambassador conveyed warm and cordial greetings from the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, to the Prime Minister. Warmly reciprocating the greetings, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of further deepening Pakistan-Qatar relations in diverse fields including trade, investments and energy.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to visit United Kingdom next month (July). Quoting sources, the private television channel reported that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had extended an invitation to his Pakistani counterpart during a telephonic conversation.

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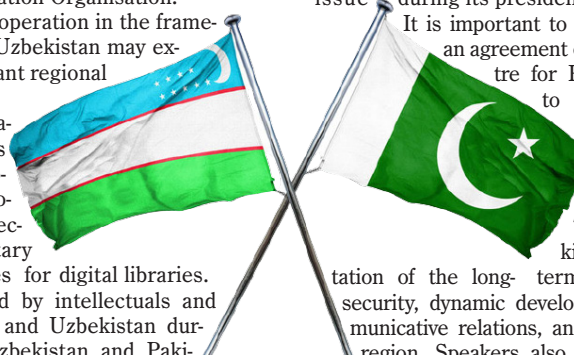
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Pakistan, Uzbek cooperation in the SCO highlighted

The aim of the Webinar was to discuss the interaction between Uzbekistan and Pakistan within the SCO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan share common interests and have deep-rooted cooperation within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. There are diverse areas of cooperation in the framework that both Pakistan and Uzbekistan may explore and build in this important regional multilateral forum. Both countries can build relations in developing linkages on cultural, economic, diplomatic, political, security, people to people, educational sectors, museums, parliamentary linkages, developing linkages for digital libraries. These views were expressed by intellectuals and academicians from Pakistan and Uzbekistan during the Webinar on the "Uzbekistan and Pakistan – Prospects for Cooperation within the SCO" organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), Islamabad, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Center for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan in collaboration with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy



(UWED) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The aim of the Webinar was to discuss the interaction between Uzbekistan and Pakistan within the SCO. In June 2017, Uzbekistan supported Pakistan's election to the SCO members and has paid special attention to this issue during its presidency of the organization.

It is important to note here that IPDS has signed an agreement of cooperation with the SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan to promote people-to-people ties. Speakers of the webinar were of the view that both countries supported each other on all international and regional forums. The consistent Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations are the manifestation of the long-term cooperation in strengthening security, dynamic development of trade, economic communicative relations, and humanitarian ties in the SCO region. Speakers also highlighted that both countries are building mutually beneficial cooperation as a result of their geographical proximity and both are helping to promote regional peace and stability, including economic revival.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

FESCO issues shutdown schedule

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown schedule for Friday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines.

According to the schedule issued by the company, power supply from Faisalabad Road feeder emanating from 132-KV Chiniot Industrial Estate grid station will remain suspended from 6 a.m. to 12 noon while all feeders originating from 132-KV Chak No.103-RB, Lundianwala, Jaranwala and Scarp Colony grid stations will observe 50-60 megawatt load shedding from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Friday.

Similarly, electricity supply from BahmaniWala feeder emanating from 132-KV Value Addition City grid station will remain suspended from 5:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. whereas all feeders originating from 132-KV Chiniot Industrial and Chak No.126-SB grid stations will observe 25-30 megawatt load shedding from 6 a.m. to 12 noon on June 11, 2021. — APP

PPP's politics revolves around personal gains

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said morally and financially corrupt Zardari gang's politics revolved around personal interests. Reacting to the statement of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said that the performance of a 'Parchi' Chairman also dubious like his election as chairman PPP.

In a statement issued here, he said that Zardari party which was confined to Sindh province in 2018, was now only limited to Larkana. He said that those who sang the song of provincial autonomy also looted in the name sovereignty. Dr. Shahbaz Gill said PPP had equally destroyed urban and rural areas of Sindh, adding that those who have ruled the province six times and the federal government four times, have only robbed the people instead of launching people welfare projects. He said that 'Parchi' chairman unwarranted criticism on federal government was a failed attempt to divert attention from the chaotic situation in Sindh. He said instead of creating drama in the media every day, the 'Parchi' chairman should be held accountable for his corruption. He questioned that when will Bilawal Zardari account for Rs. 5 billion money laundering in JV Opel-225 case? he raised question. He said PPP co-chairman is also involved in 22 NAB inquiries and six other cases in which Asif Ali Zardari was on bail.

Case of Hindus' murder in India wrapped up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has disposed of a case of the savage murder of 11 Pakistani Hindus in India on the assurance of the federal government saying that the court cannot interfere in the policy matters of the government. A three-member Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Thursday heard a petition filed by SharmatiMakhni against the murder of her family members in India. The apex court said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was looking into the matter seriously. It said that the federal government had assured the court that it would order an investigation into the killings that happened in neighbouring country through its Foreign Ministry. The learned court said that it could not interfere in the policy matters of the government. It further said that the Foreign Ministry was looking into the matter seriously. The counsel for the petitioner, Syed Qalb Hassan, said that his client wanted the foreign minister to talk to the Indian government on this matter. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah questioned what the court could do in this matter.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a review meeting regarding facilitating investments. — DNA

KP proposes development package for budget 2021-22

Under the package, the Government has decided to launch special projects related to strengthening of livestock, fisheries and food security programs besides providing assistance to farmers under Kisan Cards to be issued by August this year

PESHAWAR: Under the package, the Government has decided to launch special projects related to strengthening of livestock, fisheries and food security programs besides providing assistance to farmers under Kisan Cards to be issued by August this year under the Agriculture Transformation Plan (ATP) approved by the Chief Minister KP, officials in Agriculture Department told ATP on Thursday. Under ATP, 150 moisture meters would be installed to ascertain level of moisture in lands across KP to bring maximum areas under agri-

culture cover. He said these meters would be installed under Irrigated Agriculture Project. The Prime Minister's Save the Calf, Poultry Programs and Feedlot Fattening projects would continue and added that under Save the Calf Programme, about 3,80,000 male buffaloes calves would be fattened in the country including 30,000 in KP to increase meat production. The official said Rs6,500 would be provided to registered farmers following their looking after for it least six months besides

free milk, vaccination and medicines. Quality seeds would be provided to farmers and for this purpose initially 12,000 metric tons seeds were being purchased for distribution among farmers aimed at to increase per acre production of wheat, rice, maize and sugarcane etc. Focus would be made on increasing of orchards, establishment of agriculture business authority and seeds industry in KP. Government would establish digital service platform besides focusing on rehabilitation of infertile and

nonproductive lands and increasing honey production. Transfer of tube wells on solar energy, research on different varieties of vegetables, establishment of Agriculture Mart at Peshawar, promoting aquaculture technology for increase fish production, establishment of livestock and animal husbandry University at Swat were also proposed for ADP 2021-22. Around 287 trout fish farms mostly in Malakand and Hazara Divisions would be established with an estimated cost of Rs1286.914 million to utilize its abundance of cold water reservoirs,

lakes and favourable climate conditions mostly suited for trout fish farming. These trout farms are being established under 'development of water fisheries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,' project. Federal government would contribute Rs514.766 million and KP government would inject Rs772.148 million in the mega trout project that would be completed by 2023-24. The department would set up 250 civil veterinary dispensaries, increasing meat, milk and poultry's production, extension of breeding network, establishment of

Feeds Research Institute and water management offices and storage of rain water besides others agriculture, livestock and poultry projects. Telefarming and integrated Agriculture programme would be strengthened and services of model farms centres equipped with all facilities would be expanded. Under Tele Farming System (TFS), tele farming centres equipped with web portal, mobile applications, management information system and SMS have been established to facilitate farmers. — APP

ANF seizes 2424.466 kgs drugs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 2424.466 kgs narcotics valuing US \$ 67,905 million in international market, arrested 29 culprits including a female and impounded 13 vehicles while conducting 19 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to an ANF spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 18.116 kgs Heroin, 852.15 kgs Hashish & 1554.2 kgs Opium. ANF Balochistan, Police Station ANF Turbat seized a car near Puno QilaMerreKalatKacha track/road District Kech and recovered 340 kgs hashish. In another operation, Police Station ANF Quetta recovered 1508 kgs opium from dry rainy nalla near KilliLal Muhammad Kala Karez at Tehsil & District Pishin. ANF Punjab, Police Station ANF Faisalabad raided near Gahwala Toll Plaza, arrested three accused Muhammad Jameel, Muhammad Ibrahim residents of Peshawar and Usman Khan resident of Swabialongwith Hino Truck. During search of the seized Truck 32,400 kgs Hashish & 12 kgs Opium was recovered.

Minister directs timely completion of all schemes

PESHAWAR: Minister for Housing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Amjad Ali Thursday directed the completion of all ongoing housing schemes without any delay with their stipulated time frame. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the PHA here. Besides, Secretary Housing, Mohammad Ali Shah, Director General (DG) Nadir Khan Rana, the representatives of other departments including local governments, law, P&D and finance also attended the meeting. The provincial minister said that the objective of the Housing Department was the provision of residential facilities to general public, government employees and particularly homeless poor people to accomplish all electoral commitments made in this regard. During the meeting, the Minister for Housing, who was chairman of the authority and other members reviewed all 8-agenda items in detail and after scrutiny of some points gave them approval in larger interest of the general public. — APP

DC Faisalabad reviews anti-polio campaign

The DC apprised the concerned AC on the identification of some issues during the campaign by the WHO and asked them to rectify the issues



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that on the last day of anti-polio campaign, monitoring teams should go door to door to ensure that children were vaccinated against polio while door marking should also be checked so that the no child left behind for any reason. He said this while reviewing the targets of the ongoing anti-polio drive. The Deputy Commissioner apprised the concerned Assistant Commissioner on the identification of some issues during the campaign by the World Health Organization and asked them to rectify the issues and submitted the detailed report. He urged the health department officials to rectify the

situation without delay and report that there should be no negligence in vaccinating the children. He said that the monitoring of the campaign was also underway and the negligence were not due to departmental action. DHO Dr. Bilal Ahmad and others were present in the meeting. Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner informed that as many as 7987 more people have been vaccinated yesterday and so far 363105 persons had administered corona vaccine at 34 centers of the district in which 329800 general public and 33298 health workers included. He further informed that 271645 general public had administered first and 58155 had second doze. He informed that 20406 and 12892 health workers

administered first and second doze respectively. Commissioner constituted three-member committee Divisional Commissioner SaqibManan has constituted a three-member committee headed by Director Development, Dr. Naveed Iftikhar Aulakh to examine transparency in the construction work of development schemes under community development and sustainable development goals programs across the division. The committee comprises of Deputy Director Technical and Assistant Director Development. The Committee would check schemes randomly and submitted their report within week. The committee taking immediate notice of some public grievances.

KP CM okays master plan of New Balakot City

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan Thursday agreed in principle to the proposed master plan for the completion of the New Balakot City project and directed the authorities to redress the legitimate concerns of the earthquake affectees of the old Balakot city. He further directed that the restoration of the confidence of earthquake affectees should be the first priority in the overall plan of the project. He was presiding over a high level meeting regarding NBCDP here in Chief Minister's Secretariat. Beside, Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Akhtar Nawaz, Commissioner HazaraRiazMahsood, Administrative Secretaries of concerned provincial departments, Director General ERR, Director General PERRA, Chief Engineer New Balakot City Project, concerned consultants and other relevant high ups also attended the meeting. The meeting made a threadbare discussion on the progress made so far on the project, reasons for the delay in the implementation of the project, proposed feasibility study, detailed design, master plan and other related matters to complete this project. — DNA

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Briefs

Govt. to take initiatives for youth development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has taken special initiatives for Youth Development and created sufficient employment opportunities for youth by using resources, last year. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan 2020-21 announced here on Thursday by Ministry for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin, the government has accorded highest priority, in its manifesto, to youth empowerment at national level. To accomplish the vision of the Prime Minister, National Youth Development Framework (NYDF) was developed on the basic principles of Education, Employment and Engagement. The government has designed a comprehensive program "Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Program" for youth development. The components of the programme including, Prime Minister's Hunarmand Programme (Skill for All), Prime Minister's Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES), Prime Minister's Start up Pakistan, Prime Minister's Green Youth Movement (GYM), Prime Minister's National Internship Program, Prime Minister's Youth Engagement Platform (Jawan Markaz). The government has already launched two of the components under Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme i.e., Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) and Hunarmand Pakistan (Skills for All) whereas Prime Minister's Start up Pakistan is in final stages.

Clean Green Index launched

ISLAMABAD: The Clean Green Pakistan Index and Champions Programme under the Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM) have been launched across the country to initiate healthy competition among the cities to improve plantation and cleanliness. The programme was led by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) that started Clean Green Pakistan Index for ranking the cities against the performance of five pillars of Clean Green Pakistan i.e., drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management and plantation. The Index was calculated by comparing the cities with 35 quantifiable performance indicators. The pilot phase of the Index has been successfully implemented in 20 cities of Pakistan during 2020 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab and was concluded in October 2020. It was now being scaled up in 93 cities of Pakistan across the country from 2021. "The CGPI is becoming a key tool for integrating mutual accountability mechanisms of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Pakistan," it added. - APP

10,000 startups for youth to be launched

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government will soon roll out a comprehensive programme to impart entrepreneurial skills to one million youth for ensuring launch of 10,000 startups in the country by 2023. A national startup ecosystem would be developed under the Prime Minister's Start-up Pakistan initiative of the Kamyab Jawan Programme, aimed at spurring job creation and economic activities in an inclusive, scalable and sustainable way, said the Economic Survey 2020-21 launched by Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin in a news conference on Thursday. The survey was launched to highlight the economic achievements of the present government from July to March of the fiscal year 2021. The programme, which was in final stages, would be executed by HEC.

SEZ in Islamabad under consideration: Asim Bajwa

He said that there are no plots left in the Islamabad industrial area which is hampering expansion and new investments

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CPEC Authority Lieutenant General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Thursday said all out efforts are being made to speed up industrialization under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Promotion of industry is a key target for CPEC which is imperative for the economic development, revenue enhancement and job creation, he said. Asim Saleem Bajwa said private investors would be encouraged for joint ventures; however, the maximum focus would be on the industries that could support import substitution or boost exports. This he said while talking to a delegation of leading industrialists of Islamabad led by President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan. President Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) Tariq Sadiq, Senior Vice President IIA Omair Khattak, Khalid Javed, Sheikh Amir Wa-



heed, Chief Coordinator IAA Malik Sohail Hussain, were also present at the occasion. He said that the demand of industrial community of Islamabad will be considered and a new industrial estate will be established for them after studying their proposal in detail. Earlier Khalid Javed, a noted industrialist, apprised Asim Saleem Bajwa of the problems confronted by their community. He said that there are no plots left in the Islamabad industrial area which is hampering expansion and new

investments. Therefore, he said, a new industrial estate should be established on CPEC route at Hakla D.I Khan Motorway so that new industrial units could be established there as land is already available there. Tariq Sadiq said that we have identified site at Hakla D.I Khan Motorway while CDA and RDA are also in process of studying the proposals. Asim Saleem Bajwa informed that CPEC Authority is already studying proposal regarding establishing Special Economic Zone in Islamabad and if found feasible, an industrial zone would be established to fulfil the demand of industrialists of Islamabad. He informed that the government has allocated Rs87 billion in the upcoming budget for execution of CPEC projects and we are expecting increased Chinese investments. Bajwa said China was also cooperating with Pakistan in the agriculture sector and supporting in cotton seed development while many Chinese investors are keen to invest in modern corporate farming.

JCP suggests Ameer Bhatti for CJ LHC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Thursday recommended the name of Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti as Chief Justice (CJ) Lahore High Court (LHC). A meeting of the JCP chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed considered the nomination of the new chief justice of the LHC. It is pertinent to mention here that incumbent LHC Chief Justice, Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan is retiring on July 05. The judicial commission's meeting has recommended the name of Justice Ameer Bhatti for the new chief justice of the Lahore High Court. Justice Bhatti is currently senior Puisne judge in the LHC. He had joined the high court as an additional judge on March 12, 2011 and will retire on March 7, 2024.

Rs. 8.6 bln disbursed under KJP

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has disbursed a large number of soft loans amounting to Rs 8.6 billion approximately among the qualified entrepreneurs of the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) of the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP). The disbursement was made to various businesses till April 2021, said the Economic Survey 2020-21 launched by Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin in a news conference on Thursday. The survey was launched to highlight the economic achievements of the present government from July to March of the fiscal year 2021. The YES, rolled out by the present government in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan, was aimed at empowering the youth by extending affordable financing for new and existing start-ups. - APP

Finding creative solutions for Society concludes at NUST

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The final round of Finding Innovative and Creative Solutions for Society (FICS '21) was held at the main campus of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) here on Thursday. FICS is NUST's flagship programme for stimulating innovation and fostering a culture of social entrepreneurship. The event was held while strictly adhering to SOPs in the wake of COVID-19. The overall winner of FICS '21 was Team MRI Coils from NUST RIMMS that competed amongst as many as 257 teams that pitched project ideas during the three-stage competition. The project has developed one of the most promising image modalities to detect

abnormalities in the human anatomy. The winning team was awarded a cash prize of Rs 100,000, sponsored by National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC). In addition, 3 runners-up and 2 winners of Special Categories in SDGs were awarded a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 respectively. A total of 61 finalist teams of FICS '21 demonstrated their prototypes of technology-based innovative solutions to a panel of 29 industry judges. The top teams have also been awarded a six-month free incubation space at TechOne - NUST's Incubation Centre. Apart from the Prototype Development Fund (PDF) sponsored by the NRTC, FICS is fortunate to have patronage from a diverse

set of industries, which includes seed fund for the promising projects. FICS '21 sponsors and partners included NRTC, Central Asian Cellular Forum (CACF), Graana, SI Global Pvt. Ltd. iEngineering Pvt. Ltd. Arkhitech, and Alfoze Technologies Pvt Ltd. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, commended the efforts of NUST for building trust between industry and university. Mr. Sardar was extremely pleased with the quality of prototypes displayed at the Grand Finale. He assured NUST of his complete support and continued interaction in order to take this initiative to new heights. Addressing the audience, the chief guest, Dr. Rizwan Riaz, NUST Pro-Rector Research, Innovation and Commercialization particularly urged S&T universities to play an instrumental role in bringing about improvements to the standard of lives of communities at large through technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship. He said FICS is a perfect example of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, consisting of many critical components, working efficiently in unison to create the desired output. He complimented the winners and runners-up for pulling through the rigorous 3-stage competition, and acknowledged the efforts of faculty supervisors and the management of NUST Schools and Colleges. He also made a special announcement that FICS 2022 will be an international level competition.

APHC pays tributes to Chotta Bazaar martyrs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and other Hurriyat leaders and organizations have paid rich tributes to the martyrs of Chotta Bazaar, Srinagar. It was on June 11, 1991, the Indian paramilitary CRPF troops went berserk, and opened indiscriminate firing with their automatic weapons all the way from their camp at Syed Mansoor to the densely populated downtown area of Srinagar of Chotta Bazaar killing 32 innocent civilians and critically injuring 22 others, KMS reported on Thursday. The bullets hit shopkeepers, passerby, a 75-year old woman and a child of ten years age. The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar, while referring to the bloodstained history of Kashmir, said that the Indian fascist rulers should learn a lesson from their own freedom history which has witnessed a single Jalian Wala Bagh incident where the freedom movement of Kashmir carries in its lap scores of such incidents of bloodshed at the hands of Indian forces. The spokesman, memorizing the gallantry ventures of the freedom-loving people of Kashmir, saluted their valor and said that no power on earth can imagine to defeat the Kashmiris' resistance movement.

SECP warns public against illegal deposit taking

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has clarified that mere registration of a company with SECP did not authorize it to seek deposits from the general public. Deposit taking by companies other than banking companies is illegal in terms of section 84 of the Companies Act 2017, said a press release issued here. Furthermore, financial services including car financing, leasing, acceptance of deposits, house financing etc. can only be offered by specialized companies holding valid license and regu-

latory approvals. General public is advised in their own interest to be careful, not to deal and invest in illegal schemes offered by companies involved in any illegal deposit taking, unauthorized investment or Multilevel Marketing (MLM). The SECP while exercising its regulatory powers to curb illegal deposit taking in the country has taken stern actions against Shaukat Marwat Group comprising of the following companies found involved in illegal deposit taking: Shaukat Marwat Group of Companies (Private) Limited, Shaukat Marwat Estates and Builders (Private) Limited, Shaukat Marwat Transports (Private) Limited, Shaukat Marwat Imports/Exports (Private) Limited Shaukat Marwat Restaurants (Private) Limited, Shaukat Marwat Hotels (Private) Limited. The SECP has observed that the aforementioned companies are using their registration with SECP and FBR to win public confidence and are soliciting financing through unauthorized investment schemes through Facebook groups and posts on social media. SECP has issued a direction under section 474 of the Companies Act, 2017 to the aforementioned Companies to refrain from soliciting deposits and refund the amount, if any, collected from the general public.

Govt for 100 job placement centres

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has set up more than 100 job placement and vocational counseling centres across the country to facilitate the youth in getting employment in local and international markets. In addition to this, the NAVTTC has developed a job portal to connect the job seekers with local and foreign employers at a common platform. It was revealed in the Economic Survey 2020-21, launched by Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin in a news conference on Thursday.

Investors urged to capitalize on tourism potential in KP

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani, Speaker KPK has asked the business community of Islamabad to explore and capitalize on the tourism potential in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the province offers tremendous opportunities of investment in tourism and many other sectors. He was addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani said that ICCI should come up with a proposal for investment in KPK and assured that he would fully support them in exploring JVs and investment in his province. He said that there were many avenues of investment for the business community on public private partnership basis in KPK that should be exploited for business promotion. He said that the government's drive against smuggling was



producing positive results as it has helped the local industry to get a boost. He also briefed the business community about religious tourism potential in KPK as it possessed many historical places for the followers of various religions. He termed the business community as the backbone

of the economy and the government was working for creating a more conducive environment for them. He fully endorsed the ICCI proposal for a 2 percent fixed tax for traders in the coming budget that would broaden the tax base and improve tax revenue of the country. Speaking at the occasion,

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Briefs

Windies look to pounce on unsettled SA

SPORTS DESK

GROS-ISLET: West Indies start a two-Test contest against South Africa on Thursday with the home side believing they have their best chance in 30 years of overcoming the unsettled visitors in a series at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St Lucia.

Kraigg Brathwaite's team are unbeaten in their last four Tests – a 2-0 triumph in Bangladesh and drawn matches at home to Sri Lanka. They go into the campaign ranked just ahead of a Proteas team reeling from successive heavy defeats in two Tests in Pakistan.

They also have senior opening batsman Dean Elgar installed as Test captain following the retirement of Faf du Plessis from the traditional format. West Indies suffered a setback leading into the opening Test when their fastest bowler, Shannon Gabriel, was ruled out through injury. It opens the prospect of 19-year-old pacer Jayden Seales making a Test debut although his lack of experience – he has played just one first-class match – could see the selectors opting for Alzarri Joseph.

Pakistan economy rebounds...

FROM PAGE 01

Shaukat Tarin said FBR collection has seen an increase of eighteen percent as compared to the last year. The revenue collection has so far reached 4.2 trillion rupees, expressing the confidence that it will exceed the target of 4.7 trillion rupees by the end of this financial year. During the current fiscal year, the total revenue as percent of GDP stood at 15.1 percent whilst total expenditures at 23.2 percent. Thus, fiscal deficit stood at 8.1 percent.

During July-March of this fiscal year, expenditures under the PSPD stood at 653.9 billion rupees. Shaukat Tarin said remittances grew by 29 percent this year, which shows overseas Pakistanis' trust in Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the remittances have so far reached 26 billion dollars and these are expected to increase to 29 billion dollars by the close of this fiscal year.

The Survey revealed that Pakistan's exports bounced back after a sharp hit during strict lockdown in the last fiscal year, mainly due to export oriented government policies and strong economic recoveries. By April, exports were amounted to 20.9 billion dollars as compared to 18.4 billion dollars in the same period last year which shows an impressive growth of 13.6 percent. The imports stood at 44.7 billion dollars during the ten months of current fiscal year as compared to 37.9 billion dollars in the same period last year.

He said the inflow of dollars including through exports helped maintain the current account deficit in surplus over the last ten months. Foreign Exchange Reserves stood at 22.7 billion dollars in the first ten months of current fiscal year. Out of this, the SBP's reserves were 15.6 billion dollars whereas reserves held with the commercial banks were 7.1 billion dollars. Pakistan's rupee strengthened against the dollar, effectively appreciating the rupee by 9.5 percent.

Approves \$772 m credit for Angola

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund has approved the immediate disbursement of \$772 million to Angola as part of a three-year arrangement signed in 2018 to reform its economy. It was the latest tranche of a \$3.7 billion facility granted to the southern African nation to improve governance and diversify its economy to promote sustainable, private sector-led economic growth, the Fund said in a statement Wednesday. The Fund's board also indicated it favors an extension of the country's debt service moratorium until the end of December 2021. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the IMF had also authorized a credit increase of \$765 million to help Angolan authorities fight the disease. – APP

Sultans register important win over Karachi Kings

Chasing a target of 177 runs, Karachi Kings were off to a horror start as the batsmen failed to find boundaries. Opener Sharjeel Khan was the first to depart as a return shot from fellow opener Babar brushed the hands of pacer Imran Khan

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Multan Sultans registered an important 12-run victory against Karachi Kings to keep their hopes alive in the Habib Bank Limited (HBL) Pakistan Super League (PSL) season six during their encounter in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. Chasing a target of 177 runs, Karachi Kings were off to a horror start as the batsmen failed to find boundaries.

Opener Sharjeel Khan was the first to depart as a return shot from fellow opener Babar Azam brushed the hands of pacer Imran Khan and crashed into the stumps as the batsman was caught out of his crease at the non strikers end. Veteran batsman Martin Gupthill could not get going either, being bowled by leg-spinner Imran Tahir after scoring just 11 runs off 16 balls.



Batsman Najibullah Zadran tried in vain to up the ante, being adjudged LBW while trying to hit a reverse sweep on Imran Tahir after scoring 11 runs off six balls.

Babar Azam was then joined by wicketkeeper-batsman Chadwick Walton for a big partnership of 77 runs off 45 balls. The asking rate however had

become too steep as the batsmen struggled to provide a fiery ending to the chase. Chadwick Walton was eventually run-out towards the end after

scoring 35 runs off 23 balls.

Pacer Imran Khan then removed all-rounders Thisara Perera and Imad Wasim in consecutive balls as Multan Sultans got closer to wrapping up the match.

All-rounder Qasim Akram scored 10 runs off three balls in the final over before being caught by fielder Sohaib Maqsood.

Babar Azam remained unbeaten in the end after scoring 85 runs off 63 balls as Karachi Kings finished on 164 runs for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted overs. Imran Khan was the pick of the bowlers for Multan Sultans after taking three wickets.

Earlier, After winning the toss and opting to field first, skipper Imad Wasim got his side to a great start. Opener Mohammad Rizwan survived a close shout for an LBW before Imad removed opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (three off four), stumped by wicketkeeper Chadwick Walton.

Faheem rules out of PSL 6

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Islamabad United's all-rounder Faheem Ashraf has been ruled out of action after suffering from an injury in his left hand.

The 27-year-old Faheem received a blow during last night's match vs Lahore Qalandars. He got five stitches due to split webbing. "Faheem had already bowled his first two overs when he suffered the injury, and he immediately left the field. The all-rounder had suffered a split between his thumb and index finger and five stitches have been applied to the deep cut.

The injury means he is likely to miss game time in Islamabad United's forthcoming matches," United said in a press release. It must be noted that United lost to Qalandars by five wickets yesterday.

Pak, Uzbek cooperation in the SCO...

FROM PAGE 01

The speakers of the webinar were Mr. Kabuljon Sabirov, Director of the Center for Public Diplomacy of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan, Mr. Komiljon Karimov, Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, PhD in Political Sciences and Mrs. Farhat Asif, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), Prof.

Dr. Adam Saud, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad, Shonazar Ermamatov, PhD in economics, Head of the Department of Economy of the Eastern countries of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (TSUOS), Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Director, China Studies Centre, University of Peshawar, Mrs. Nargis

Muminova, PhD in political science, Senior Lecturer, UWED, Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Mrs. Etibor Sultanova, PhD in Political Science, Professor of the UWED, Kutbidinov Yuri

Shakhobutdinovich, Chief Researcher of the Center for Economic Researches and Reforms under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Prof. Dr. Muqarrab Akbar, Chairman, Department of Political Science, Bahaudin Zakariya University, Multan. A large number of academicians, faculty members participated in this important webinar.

PM Imran likely to...

FROM PAGE 01

Sources further said that PM Imran had been invited to watch Pakistan-England One Day International (ODI) scheduled to be played on July 8.

However, the sources made it clear that the prime minister's UK tour had not been finalised as yet as 'scheduling' was still continuing. PM Imran is likely to discuss matters of mutual interest such as trade with PM Johnson during his visit to the UK.

Pak, Qatar enjoy...

FROM PAGE 01

The Prime Minister also appreciated the role of Qatar in hosting a larger number of Pakistani workers. Pakistan and Qatar enjoy vibrant bilateral, political and economic relations.

EU for probe into...

FROM PAGE 01

World Health Organisation probe. "Investigators need complete access to whatever is necessary to really find the source of this pandemic," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a news conference in Brussels.

Reuters reports the head of the European Council, Charles Michel, said: "The world has the right to know exactly what happened in order to be able to learn the lessons."

Nine dead after bus crushed in South Korea building collapse

WEB DESK

SEOUL: At least nine people were killed and eight seriously injured in South Korea when a five-storey building – which was in the process of being demolished – collapsed suddenly onto a bus, officials at a local fire station said.

The accident happened on Wednesday afternoon when the bus was stopped on the

street next to the demolition site in Gwangju, some 270km (168 miles) southwest of the capital, Seoul, officials at the Gwangju Fire and Safety Headquarters said. Dramatic television footage showed the bus, which had 17 people on board, being buried in debris and smothered by a huge cloud of dust as the structure gave way. Yang Ikje, who runs a shop across the road from the

construction site, said he ran outside, jolted by the loud noise that made him feel as if "the earth was shaking". "I could not see the road clearly, as if it were shrouded in thick fog," he told Yonhap news agency. "I checked the CCTV to find out that the building collapsed onto a bus."

The reason for the collapse was unclear, and a police investigation is under way,

officials said.

All the workers on the demolition site had been evacuated before the collapse. South Korea has been taking steps to improve its infrastructure safety record following a number of disasters.

A department store collapse killed more than 500 people in 1995, the country's worst peacetime disaster. A bridge collapse the year before killed 49 people.

UEFA tells Ukraine to remove 'political' slogan from Euros kit

LONDON: UEFA, the governing body of European football, has ordered Ukraine to remove a "political" slogan from its national football kit for the upcoming Euro 2020 tournament. The message "Glory to our Heroes", printed on the inside of the shirt, was "clearly political in nature", UEFA said on Wednesday. The slogan was widely used as a rallying cry during a 2014 popular uprising in Ukraine that removed Kremlin-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich. UEFA's move came after Russia

sent a letter of complaint to the governing body on an outline of the country's borders that includes controlled regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. UEFA General Assembly Resolution "recognises the design". It also ruled that a phrase featured on was acceptable as on its own, it may be considered general national significance". That chant was nukovich during the so-called Maidan revolution said the "specific combination" of the two slogan in nature" and had historic and militaristic significance inside the shirt must therefore be removed.

Russia immediately welcomed UEFA's move, with foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova saying that sport should not be mixed with politics. "Sports is not a battlefield, but a place for competition; it is not a political arena but an athletic one. Become heroes of sports and you will have your glory," she said. "Do it that way and not with nationalist slogans." Ukraine had said the shirt was a symbol of national unity, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a selfie on Instagram with the kit on this week.



Zhara Music Festival changes venue

DNA

BAKU: The fifth Zhara International Music Festival will be held in Crocus City Hall on June 23-27. Initially, the festival was planned to be held in Luzhniki complex.

However, the event organizers decided to change venue amid epidemiological situation in Moscow.

"Due to the unstable epidemiological situation in Moscow and the impossibility of holding the event in the format we have planned, Zhara International Music Festival has been moved to Crocus City Hall. The dates of the concerts and the program remain unchanged. All previously purchased

tickets are valid and will be transferred to the concert hall according to the selected categories. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

At Crocus City Hall, we can provide all the necessary security measures for the festival," said Emin Agalarov. The festival's fifth edition was planned to be held in Baku but was cancelled amid the coronavirus pandemic. The gala event is expected to take place in the Luzhniki Olympic Complex on June 23-27.

The music festival will feature numerous concerts with more than 200 pop singers from the CIS countries. However, music lovers in Baku have a chance to enjoy the music festival at Sea Breeze resort next summer.



MECCA: Noor-ul-Haq, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Pakistan and senior clerics from Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan present in MWL's 'Declaration of Peace in Afghanistan' Conference. – DNA

ISE REIT hails new amendments to REIT regulation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The new reforms to the REIT Regulations notified by the SECP, have the potential to unleash an unprecedented boom in the real estate sector of the country. This was stated by Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman ISE Towers REIT Management Company, while talking to reporters. The REIT model has been revamped by introducing pro-business changes including for the first time, the launch of infrastructure REITs on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, REIT Scheme through investment in Special Purpose Vehicle, adding the real estate to existing REIT Scheme(s) thereby ensuring growth for investors, allowing uncapped financing, relaxed regulatory approvals and territorial limits etc.

The process to launch the REIT Scheme has been made easy and simple. Mr. Zahid Latif Khan said that the PPP model is revolutionary from the perspective that globally the PPP model is considered best for all sort of infrastructure developments as it paves the way for the private sector investment and reduces burden on the public

lic funds. In Pakistan, almost all provinces and the federal governments have now adopted the PPP laws, which had more or less remained unattractive because of requirement of high finance from the private sector. With recently introduced REIT Regulations amendments, the private sector would be able to tap the markets and raise money for projects. In the developed world, hospitals, roads, airports and even jail projects are done through REITs in PPP mode.

Talking of the plans for the launch of REIT Scheme(s) by ISE RMC, the Chairman said that he plans to call a Board strategy session soon so that we could become the first REIT to avail the opportunities created under the revamped Regulations for making an entry to the stock market. He said that due to the current low interest rate environment, the rental REITs would be able to offer competitive investment choices

es to investors looking for sustainable and consistent returns. At the end, Mr. Zahid Latif Khan appreciated the enduring efforts of the REIT department of the SECP, the Commissioner Specialized Companies Division Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari and the Chairman SECP Mr. Aamir Khan, for introducing futuristic REIT Regulations. Earlier To promote investment in the real estate sector through Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced a new Public Private Partnership (P3) model under the REITs, besides completely revamping the regulatory framework for REITs.

The SECP Chairman, Aamir Khan, told media that the REITs sector has significant potential to contribute to the growing housing and infrastructure needs of the country. He expressed confidence that the amendments

have removed all impediments faced by bonafide potential issuers and the sector may witness growth in the coming financial year. The new model will create further flexibility, efficiency and ease of doing business to enable REITs to compete with the relatively unregulated and informal real estate sector of the country. The new procedure would also reduce regulatory approvals and rationalise various document submission requirements, the chairman SECP added.

According to the SECP, the amendments have shifted the regulatory structure from approval-based to disclosure-based issuance, reducing entry barriers for new REITs, making REITs competitive with the unorganised sector-led real estate projects, cutting down regulatory approvals and attracting domestic and foreign investment into the formal real estate sector of the country.

The regulations have been finalised after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders, with a view to bring in amendments in conformity with domestic market conditions and in sync with globally-recognised norms.

