

Govt's efforts coming to fruition: PM

SAIFULLAH



con

servation policies were showing results as Punjab government had stopped depletion of Lahore's groundwater for the first time during last four decades. "Our water conservation policies showing results. Usman Buzdar-led Punjab government has stopped fall in Lahore's groundwater for first time since 1980," the prime minister said on Twitter. He said the depletion of water table had been stopped through effective water recycling policies, new aquifer charges, underground rainwater storage, timed well pumping and other targeted actions.

Fawad seeks funds utilization record

NAZIR SIYAL KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad

only way to Afghan peace'

Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said Sunday that the group was committed to the peace talks; calls for ensuring rights - including for women

AGENCIES

KABUL: The Taliban said

Sunday they remain com-

mitted to peace talks but

insisted a "genuine Islamic

system" in Afghanistan was

the only way to end the war

Pak to help recover **US** hostage

AGENCIES

and ensure rights - including for women. Talks be-WASHINGTON: Pakistan will help as a "moral and tween the militants and the humanitarian responsibil-Afghan government have ity" in the ongoing efforts been deadlocked for months to recover a Taliban-held and violence has surged across the country since American hostage, Mark Frerichs, a Pakistani em-May when the US military bassy spokesperson has began its final withdrawal. said, responding to a me-Fears are also growing that dia report that expressed if the Taliban return to powfears that United States' er they will reimpose their harsh version of Islamic withdrawal from Afghanistan has dimmed law, under which girls were hope for his release. banned from school and

Continued on Page 06

hasty

Ghani, Abdullah to visit US

DNA

WASHINGTON: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Afghanistan's head of the peace process Dr Abdullah Abdullah will meet Joe Biden at the White House on Friday, as the American military's withdrawal from the war-torn country continues. Biden has ordered the withdrawal of all US forces from Afghanistan by this year's 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks

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dor of Republic of Indonesia Adam Tugio has written a detailed piece on Oceans and environment: Addressing threat of invasion of plastic waste. The writer stresses the need to save the oceans and pre-

vent them from becoming a trash bin of plastic garbage. The article appears on the Opinion page of Islamabad

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ambassa



News Desk ANTALYA: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoglu in Antalya.

Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated his Turkish counterpart on successfully organising Antalya Diplomacy Forum which

to discuss and to engage on various contemporary global issues. While taking stock of the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, the two sides discussed the ongoing preparations for the 7th Session of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) that will

discuss Afghan peace

FM Qureshi congratulated his Turkish counterpart

on successfully organising Antalya Diplomacy Forum

an excellent opportunity

ghan peace process and the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi lauded Turkey's valuable efforts and its outreach to various Afghan parties. Underscoring Pakistan's abiding interest in a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Qureshi illustrated Pakistan's consistent offorts to fac





Sunday said that PTI-led federal government has transferred Rs1800 billion to the Sindh government during the past two years and asked as to where the money has been utilized. Addressing media at Karachi Press Club. Fawad Chaudhry said that Karachi elected 16 PTI MNAs and they have all the right to ask as to where the Rs1800 billion given to the Sindh government has gone.

Fazl announces new rallies

BUREAU REPORT



(JUI-F) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman on

Sunday that third round of rallies against Prime Minister Imran Khan's government in Karachi and Swat. While addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the PDM head said that the government of PTI had selected the ineligible people through rigging in the general elections.

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KP government increases 100 percent sports budget - Page 02

PMC announces admission policy to facilitate students - Page 03

Speakers at NHS call for mass vaccination drive - Page 04

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A special

flight of National Flag Car-

rier - Pakistan Internation-

al Airlines (PIA) - carrying

1.55 million doses of vac-

cine from China has landed

at Islamabad airport, the

National Command and Op-

eration Centre (NCOC) said

on Sunday. The shipment

of Sinovac corona vaccine

arrived in Islamabad on

board a special PIA flight,

The NCOC said that Pa-

kistan has purchased the

vaccine from China's Si-

novac and another two to

the NCOC stated.

Oceans and environment: Addressing threat of invasion of plastic waste – Page 05

New growth points of Andijan region identified - Page 06

Pakistan HC in Bangladesh interacts with businessmen - Page 07

Gerry's diplomatic football league closing ceremony - Page 08

terrorists killed in IBO

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Jawan martyred, two

Nazakat Khan, 32, resident of Attock, lost his life during the operation; terrorists killed were involved in terror plots against the security forces

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom and two terrorists were killed in a gunfight between security forces and Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP)-backed militants during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Spinwam area of North Waziristan, the military's media wing said on Sunday. The ISPR statement said the Pakistan Army

soldier, identified as Nazakat Khan, 32, resident of Attock, lost his life during the operation, adding that the terrorists gunned down by security forces were active members of the TTP in the area. "The IBO was launched by the security forces on reported presence of the terrorists." The ISPR said the terrorists killed in the operation were involved in terror plots against the security forces.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Canada Wendy Gilmour handing over coordinates to the official of the Interior Ministry. Canada has partnered with UNODC Pakistan to help FIA improve border and immigration management, prevent exploitation of vulnerable populations and deter irregular migration. - DNA

not to meet Indian counterpart

Pak NSA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf will not meet his Indian and Afghan counterparts in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting. According to a spokesman for the NSA, Moeed Yusuf has left for Dushanbe to attend the SCO meeting and will sign a protocol for the meeting. He will be meeting his counterparts from other countries on the sidelines of the meeting, however, the spokesman said that there is no meeting scheduled with the Indian NSA Ajit Doval and Afghan counterpart Hamdullah Mohib. "Pakistan has already con-

veyed that no contact will be established with the Afghan NSA after his tirade against the country," he said. On May 24, National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf met his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Geneva, in what was termed as the

first major official contact between Pakistan and the United States after the Biden administration assumed power in January 2021.

Shipment of vaccine from **China reaches Islamabad**

- Asad Umar says 2.3 million received COVID jabs between June 12-18

Pakistan to begin **PakVac production** on large scale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The government authorities have decided for large scale production of the locally made coronavirus vaccine PakVac. The decision has been taken to initiate preparations for mass scale production of the single-dose PakVac from the next month, sources said. The NIH Islamabad will prepare monthly three million doses of PakVac and the government have been informed about the decision, according to sources. The decision to produce vaccine in large scale, has been taken in view of the increased demand of the vaccine, sources said. "Monthly production of three million vaccine doses will ensure sufficient availability of the corona vaccine jabs.

three million doses of vaccine will reach Pakistan in the next week. "China has been a time-tested friend and it is taking measures to ensure an uninterrupted vaccine supply to Pakistan," the NCOC said. The provinces and other federating units will be provided the vaccine according to their requirement, the NCOC stated. All preparations are complete to supply vaccine to the provinces, the NCOC further said. The country was facing an acute shortage of Covid-19 vaccine as stock were dipping in all

Continued on Page 06

saw high-level attendance The two Foreign Ministers of global leaders. He noted that the Forum provided

exchanged views on the latest developments in the Af-

the Afghan peace process. **Continued on Page 06**

President felicitates Raisi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday felicitated newly elected President of Iran Syed Ibrahim Raisi on his victory in the Presidential Elections. In a letter of felicitation, the president said that Iranian people had affirmed their trust in his leadership for peace, stability and prosperity. He said under President Raisi's leadership, the fraternal ties between Iran and Pakistan would be further strengthened. The president also expressed his best wishes to the



newly elected president and the Iranian people. Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner and fierce critic of the West, won Iran's presidential election on Friday and will take office in early August, replacing pragmatist Hassan Rouhani, under whose aegis the 2015 deal was struck. - DNA



NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Monday, June 21, 2021

Briefs

TikToker held over 'fraud' with Altan

DNA

LAHORE: A local court on Saturday granted two-day physical remand of famous TikToker Kashif Zameer in a case related to alleged fraud with Turkish drama series Diriliş: Ertugrul's hero Engin Altan.

The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) produced the accused before Judicial Magistrate Rehman Ilahi.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case informed the magistrate that TikToker Zameer invited the Turkish actor to Pakistan for different events and handed him a bogus cheque of Rs80 million, after which the actor cut short his visit and

left the country. He said an FIR was lodged against the accused on a complaint of Altan, requesting the court to grant his remand for investigation. The court approved his two-day physical remand and direct ed the IO to produce him on next hearing along with a progress report. According to the FIR lodged at Racecourse police station, the accused issued the Ertugrul actor bogus cheques against some agreements and defamed him by using his name and pictures without his permission for ulterior motives.

New CPO complex approved in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: A new stateof-the-art CPO Complex has been approved for city and for this purpose, the government has sanctioned a fund of Rs 265 million. A spokesman for the police department said on Saturday that new CPO complex would be constructed over 5 kanal land adjacent to CIA Headquarters near Iqbal Stadium. In this connection, the Planning & Development department has approved the design of new CPO Office, which was designed by City Police Officer (CPO) Faisal abad Capt (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry himself. CPO Sohail Chaudhry will lay foundation stone of the new CPO complex very The new complex soon. will be completed within two years, he added. - APP

KP government increases 100 percent sports budget

Asfandyar Khattak said that two new projects have also been included – one of Rs. 3b for the construction and equipping each of the UC of KP with Playground facilities and Rs. 500m allocated for developing grounds at Union Council level

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a 100 percent increase in the Annual Budget-2021-22 for Sports as compared to last year, Director General Sports KP Asfandyar Khan Khattak told APP here on Sunday. He said, last year, the annual budget for sports was Rs 2.1 billion which was 100 percent utilized.

In this year's budget, Rs 4.7 billion has been allocated for sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure in the province besides another Rs 2.7 billion has been allocated for Accel-

erated Integrated Program (AIP) in the merged district alongside another ADP of Rs. 700 million for sports promotion in the merged areas.

Asfandyar Khattak said that two new projects have also been included - one of Rs. 3 billion for the construction and equipping each of the Union Council of KP with Playground facilities and Rs. 500 million allocated for developing grounds at Union Council level in merged areas, following the vision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to provide playing facilities at UCs level.

The projects for which funds have been allocated include Rs 0.590 million for an international standard gymnasium in Abbottabad, Rs 775.120 million for playgrounds in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rs 111.492 million for the construction of a sports complex in Rustam, Mardan district, Rs 5.900 million for rehabilitation and renovation of sports facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rs 11.800 million for international standard indoor gymnasium in Nowshera district, Rs 1,184.150 million for completion of construction project of

Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium in Peshawar, Rs. 232.800m for construction of Sports Complex Rs 141.612 million for hockey Astroturf at Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat, Charsadda and Islamia College Peshawar, Rs 83.695 million for Athletics Tartan Track in Kohat, Dera Ismsil Khan and Bannu, Rs 2.950 million for upgrade of football ground at Peshawar Sports Complex, Rs 2.950 million for construction of swimming pool at Hayatabad Sports Complex, Rs 11,800 million for renovation and up-gradation of sports complexes at Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Haripur and Mardan, Rs 135,000 million for 1000 sports facilities project, Rs.50,000 million for sports activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rs.38.240 million for sports promotion and implementation and Rs.38.240 million for hockey Astroturf in Swat.

He said to provide equal opportunities to the female players of the province, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has given special attention and approved a grant of Rs. 14.880 million for Women Indoor Gymnasium with multiple Sports facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. – APP

Several heavy weights to join PPP

LAHORE: Several political heavyweights expected to join the PPP during the Lahore visit of the party's Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari quoting sources. According to sources, several political heavyweights will meet Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari during his

stay in Lahore. Former Punjab Governor Zulfiqar Khan Khosa is also likely to meet Zardari with strong hints about his joining the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), sources said. Former president has also made contacts with past allies to boost and mobilize the Pakistan Peoples Party in Punjab, according to sources. According to PPP sources, former party president of Punjab, Qasim Zia has been offered important responsi-

bility in the province. - DNA

BISE issues date sheets for Inter, Matric exams 2021

FAISALABAD: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Educa tion (BISE) Faisalabad has issued date sheets for Intermediate and Matriculation Examinations 2021.

will start from July 10 and remain continue up to July 27. Similarly, Matric (10th class) exams will be held from July 29 to August 09, 2021. He said that first year exams would be held from August 12 to 26 followed by ninth class exams from August 28 to September 09, 2021.

He said that all exams would be held according to short syllabus and model papers (old patron). No practical will be conducted this year. The paper time will start from 8:30 a.m. for first group and from 1:30 p.m. for second group. The date sheets for matric and inter exams is available on board website www.bisefsd.edu.pk while more information in this regard can be obtained through telephone numbers 041-9330366 and 041-2517710, he added. – **APP**

Mufti Azizur Rehman arrested in Mianwali

DNA

MIANWALI: Lahore police have arrested Mufti Azizur Rehman, who has been accused of sexually abusing his seminary student, from Mianwali on Sunday. The police have also arrested Mufti Azizur Rehman's two sons from Lahore and Lakki Marwat. A case has been registered by the Lahore police against Mufti Azizur

KARACHI: : Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain addressing media persons at Press Club. - APP

Fawad Chaudhry visits Karachi Press Club

171 cases reported in Punjab

Lahore, 1 in Sheikhupura,

3 in Nankana Sahib,11 in

Rawalpindi, 1 in Chakwal,1

in Gujranwala, 2 in Sialkot,

1 in Gujrat, 8 in Faisalabad,

LAHORE:



er blackmailed him after he failed in one of his examinations and demanded sexual favours in return.

He said that he had been a student of Jamia Manzoorul Islamia since 2013. "During the exam of Darjah-e-Rabia (grade four), Mufti Aziz, who was the Nigran (caretaker) accused me and another guy of putting someone else in our place for the exam and had me banned from appearing in the Wifaqul Madaris exam for three years." He

Three bandits held with weapons

FAISALABAD: Mureedwala police claimed on Saturday to have arrested three dacoits and recovered illicit weapons from their possession. On a tip-off, the police conducted a raid in Chak No.201-RB and arrested 3 outlaws identified as Asfand Yar Jatt, Tayyab Malik and Shehbaz who were wanted by police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. The police recovered illicit weapons, mobile phones and other items from their possession. Further investigation was underway. - APP

House gutted

FAISAL MUNIR

FAISALABAD: Household items were reduced to ashes, in the limits of Sadr police station. Rescue-1122 said on Saturday the incident took place at TNT colony Sitiana Road where fire erupted in a house due to short-circuiting.

The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt valuables including furniture and ceiling, etc. On information, fire fighters of Rescue-1122 rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after hectic efforts. However no loss of life was reported in the incident.

9,231 people vaccinated in KP

PESHAWAR: A total of 399,231 people have been vaccinated in the province as per the information provided by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department. Talking to APP, an official of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department said that corona vaccination is underway in the province and 581,057 people were given first dose of cvano form while 257,405 people were given second dose of cyano form. - APP

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain Chaudhry on Sunday said the government had

focused to develop human resource and short training courses related to digital media were also designed for professional grooming of the media

He said this during his visit to Karachi Press club (KPC). Fawad Chaudhry also held a

er, a three-month training media

course related to digital including short videos production was designed for media persons and advised them to start these courses at the press club. Fawad observed that around 60 to 70 years

needed to be upgraded.

meeting with office bearers President KPC Fazil Jamili, Secretary Rizwan Bhatti and of the press club. Talking to the office bear-

other office bearers briefed the the minister about probthe minister said lems being confronted by the members of journalist fraternity. To a question about health card facility, Fawad Chaudhary said that federal and provincial governments were required to share 50 percent each in the cost of the scheme, but old syllabus of around the Sindh government had 42 schools of journalism refused to do it.

The office bearers sug-

gested extending loan facility under a government scheme for construction of houses on the plots which had been allotted to the KPC members in different schemes in Karachi. To which, Fawad asked them to provide him a list of the KPC members. Member of Sindh Assembly, PTI leader Haleem Adil

Shaikh and other notables were also present on the occasion. - APP

ing to the data shared by the

spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the total number of coronavirus cases reached 344,970 while death toll 10,633 and 324,530 recoveries in the province. The P&SHD confirmed that 91 new cases of COV-

Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shehbaz decide to appear before FIA: sources

DNA

persons

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif and Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz have decided to appear before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). According to sources privy to the matter, Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz have made the decision after consultation with their lawyers. "PML-N activists and MNAs and MPAs are also directed to reach the FIA office on the appearance of both the party leaders," they said. It is pertinent to mention

here that Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz have



been summoned by the FIA in connection with the ongoing probe into the Ramzan Sugar Mills case. Sources having knowledge

of the matter told ARY News that the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has been asked to turn up at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

Lahore office on June 22. The subpoena served to PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif warned him of legal action, including his possible arrest, in case he fails to show up before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). He is required to bring all the relevant documents along with him besides his

replies to four questions the probe team has asked him. Moreover, Hamza Shehbaz has also been summoned by the investigation agency as sugar mills' chief executive officer (CEO) on June 24. Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly and PML-N Leader Hamza Shahbaz has been summoned by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on June 24 in money laundering case. As per sources, League

leader Hamza Shahbaz has been summoned in the Rs25 billion money laundering case. FIA notice states that Hamza Shahbaz is the Chief Executive Officer of Ramzan Sugar Mills, Sharif Feeder Mills, Sharif Poultry Farms and Madani Trading.

5 in Jhang, 2 in Sargodha, 3 in Mianwali, 3 in Khoshab. 7 in Bhakkar, 7 in Multan, 2 in Vehari, 2 in Lodhran,1 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 1 in Layyah, 11 in Rahimyar Khan, 5 in Bahawalpur, 2 in Okara and 1 in Sahiwal during the last 24 hours. The Punjab health department so far conducted 5,478,938 tests for COV-ID-19. The Punjab health department has urged the masses to follow SOPs for

their protection and cover their faces with masks. The people should wash their hands with soap several times in a day to protect themselves from COVID-19. Contact 1033 immediately

on symptoms of coronavirus, the health care department urged the citizens.

Rehman, his sons and two Coronavirus

unidentified persons. claimed another 18 lives A team of the Lahore Powhile 171 new cases were lice arrested Mufti Azizur reported in Punjab during Rehman in a late-night raid the last 24 hours. Accordin Mianwali. The 70-yearold religious cleric and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's deputy ameer in Lahore is now in police lock-up after an FIR was lodged against him for sexually assaulting one of his seminary pupils. "We have been able to ar-

rest this criminal. We will take it as a test case, interrogate him, conduct a scien-ID-19 were reported in tific professional investigation, prosecute and get him convicted by the court," the IG Punjab said in a message on Twitter. He further said that they want their kids protected from these child molesters and keep society safe for their future.

Lahore Police said that Mufti's student Sabir Shah lodged an FIR in North Cantt Police Station in which he claimed his teachsaid that he pleaded with Mufti Aziz to reconsider the decision upon which the cleric said he would if the young man engaged with him sexually. "So, out of compulsion, I came into his deceit and became a victim. He also promised me that he would have my ban removed and get me to pass the Wifaqul Madaris exam.' The man said he was sexually exploited every Friday for

three years and blackmailed.



Notice Inviting Tender

Procurement of Computer Hardware / Software for USF Office

Tender ID: USF/TDRS/IT/2021-22/01

- 1. Universal Service Fund (USF) is a company registered under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017 (erstwhile the Companies Ordinance, 1984) having its office at 3rd floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1, Islamabad.
- 2 US Finvites sealed proposals from bidders registered with FBR for the Sales Tax and Income Tax & must be an Active Taxpayer (verifiable through ATL).
- 3. A Single Stage, Two Envelopes procedure shall be adopted as per Rule 36 (b) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004.
- 4. Bid Security equivalentto five (05%) of total quoted price, in the shape of a CDR/Demand Draft/Pav Order in the name of 'Universal Service Fund', as per Rule 25 of the Rules shall be provided in a separate envelope along with the financial proposal for each applying lot.
- 5. Bids/proposal shall be valid for period of 120 days.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents can be downloaded by interested bidders from USF & PPRA websites (http://www.usf.org.pk) & (http://www.ppra.org.pk/).
- 7. Last date for submission of the proposal will be 06-July-2021at 11:00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in the presence of bidders and/or their authorized representatives in the office of undersigned.

Head of Procurement Department Universal Service Fund 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad. Tel: 051 - 9212308-09, Fax: 051 - 9214261 Email: procurement@usf.org.pk

PID (I) No.7008/20

FESCO advises people for precautionary measures during rainy season

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has advised the general public to adopt precautionary and safety measures to avert any untoward incident during rainy season. FESCO spokesman said on Sunday that chances of short-circuiting increased during rainy days, hence, people should especially focus and implement on the instructions issued by the company for their safety. He said that metallic wire should not be used for cloth drying as it a good conductor for electricity. He said that people should use plastic cord for spreading clothes on it.He advised to use three-pin shoe for using electric iron, washing machine, refrigerator, water pumps and oth-

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

Quran Khawani for DC's father held

FAISALABAD: The Quran Khawani and prayers for high rank of father of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali was offered at Lyallpur House. Mufti Farooq Al Qadri highlighted some aspects of the life of late Haji Muhammad Abdul Khaliq Khaliq and said that the deseased was a God-fearing man who dedicated his life in the service of suffering humanity. Other speakers also paid homage to the social services of the late Haji Muhammad Abdul Khalig Khalig. Provincial Ministers Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro, Muhammad Ajmal Cheema, RPO Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Parlianmentarians Faiz Ullah Kamooka, Raza Nasarullah Ghuman, Sheikh Khurram Shahzad, Latif Naza, Shakil Shahid, Ex MNA Ch.Nisar Jutt, Ijaz Virk, leader PTI Mian Nabeel, Shair Afgan Cheema, Additional Commissioners Imran Raza Abbasi, Ayub Khan, Tariq Khan Niazi, Additional Deputy Commissioners Fazal e Rabi Cheema, Khurram Parvaiz, Muhammad Khalid, Assistant Commissioners Umar Maqbool, Syed Ayub Bukhari, Faisal Sultan, Numan Ali, Tariq Mehmood Gondal, Khurram Bhatti and others participated in the prayer.

er electrical instruments and these items should be earthed properly before using.

He also directed the line staff not to work on live electricity lines without adopting safety measures. The FESCO spends millions of rupees for the purchase of safety gadgets including safety belts, safety helmets, safety boots and safety gloves, etc. Now, it is duty of line staff to use these gadgets properly before working live lines for their own safety and protection.He also asked the general public to get their domestic electricity wiring checked by an expert electrician and if some faults were found in it, the same should be removed immediately on top priority basis as faults in electricity wiring cause short-circuiting which results out in fire eruption incidents.



Briefs Three-day 'World Music Day' festival concludes at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: A three-day World Music Day 2021 fes tival on Sunday concluded mesmerizing perwith formance here at rooftop theater of National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa.

Number of music bands and artists performed in threeday music festival included Ashbel soul-John. Eastern Crossroads, Rebel Club, 21 the Band, D Code, Abdul Sabor, Arsalan Jamel, Shamir Qudwai, Saptak Mustafa, Zain Bin Qaiser, Sad Nasir, Raja Shehryar, and Ahmed Satti. Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali Kushvaha and his band also performed during three-day festival. The festival was organized by Lok Virsa in collaboration with Hill Joint and Echo Records. Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said the World Music Day was officially launched in 1982. Each year, people are encouraged to listen to their favorite music and share it with others, he said and added that the festival was aimed to entertain the youth and provide them an opportunity to enjoy their favorite musicians. Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of COVID-19 was strictly observed at the venue, he told. He also informed that the students of Documentary Filmmaking also participated and shoot a live Musical Festival. A large number of music lovers from twin cities also participated in three day festival. - APP

SPARC organizes rally against Child Labour



ISLAMABAD: Musicians perform during prize distribution ceremony of diplomatic football league. - DNA

PMC announces admission policy to facilitate students MDCAT exam will be conducted from 30th August to 30th September 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic and interruptions in the academic year, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has announced steps to facilitate FSc (Pre-medical) and A2 Cambridge students in the admission of public and private medical and dental colleges of Pakistan.

According to PMC, as per the PMC Undergraduate (Admissions, Education

Curriculum and Conduct) lege admission processes. Regulations 2021, all stu-MDCAT exam will be condents who wish to seek admission in medical and dental colleges can take the MDCAT examination even if they have not yet taken their FSc pre-medical or A-Level examination.

It said that due to disruptions faced by education systems in Pakistan and around the world due to the pandemic, all relevant authorities have put in place special provisions to cater the affected students during the medical and dental col-

ducted from 30th August to 30th September 2021. All stu-PAKIS dents who are taking their A-Level examina-

tion in October 2021 can take the MDCAT in September 2021 while applying for admissions to medical colleges before tak-

ing their examinations. As per the admission regulations of PMC, the MEDICAL COMMUNICATION admissions are to be finalized by January 15, 2022. However, to accommodate the students taktheir ing

A-level examination in October 2021 with expected results in Jan-

Beware of

uary 2022, every medical

and dental college will be directed not to finalize the admissions on the seats equal to the number of A-level students who have applied to said colleges and awaiting their results. For this purpose, PMC will permit medical and dental colleges to finalize admissions for those A-levels students on the special category seats by Febru-ary 10, 2022. This year's elective subject results will be utilized for merit as the FSc examinations are being held for elective subjects

only. Additionally, PMC will be outlining a policy on the same premise for private medical and dental college admissions shortly. A joint meeting was also

held in this regard under the co-chair of Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan to discuss the admissions of FSc. (Pre-medical) and A2 Cambridge students in public and private medical and dental colleges of Pakistan.

AIOU: ICT finalizes the

First PIA Air Safari flight takes to skies

DNA

ISLAMABAD:PIA launched on Saturday its Air Safari flight to boost tourism in the country. According to details, the airline's first scenic Air Safari flight took off from the Islamabad International Airport with 91 tourists, including foreign nationals from as many as 13 countries, on board. Minister for Power Hammad Azhar was also among the tourists abroad the inaugural Air Safari flight that flew over the country's breathtaking snow-capped peaks, including K2, Nanga Parbat and Broad Peak before landing in Skardu Named after the prominent mountaineer Ali Sadpara, "Sadpara Air Safari" will operate every Saturday from the Islamabad airport and its one-way fare will cost Rs25, 000.

3 arrested, weapons recovered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three accused and recovered weapons, arms and ammunition from their possession, informed police

spokesman on Sunday. The cantonment police on a picket stopped a suspected vehicle Toyota Land Cruiser and recovered 01 Kalashnikov, an M4 rifle, 8 magazines and 600 bullets from the vehicle. The arrested were identified as Chaudhry Sajid Mehmood, Junaid Khan and Zeeshan.

Police have registered separate cases against the arms holders and started investigation. CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas commended police team for arresting the arm holders.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized rally on Tuesday against Child Labour in collaboration with Save the Children. SPARC held awareness rally to highlight the problem of child labour and to find ways as how to eliminate it. Large number of students and trainers from different skill centers participated in the rally.

Participants of the rally held banners, placards and raised slogans to raise their voices against social evil - child labour etc. They also raised voices about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour. Speakers highlighted the prevailing child labour laws in Pakistan. They talked about lack of awareness and poverty as a root cause of child labour. Underprivileged parents send their children to earn, rather than sending them to school. The speakers demanded the government to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

IRSA releases 258,100cusecs water

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 258,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 231,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1458.23 feet, which was 74.23 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 100,100 and 155,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1152.40 feet, which was 114.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 48,700 and 20,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 175,300, 152,200 and 44,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 45.800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 6,600 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

driver found hanged

MNA Lal Chand Malhi's

ISLAMABAD: Body of the driver of a minority MNA belonging to ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf was found hanging from the ceiling fan of a room in Parliament Lodges. According to sources, the dead body was found in a room of Parliament Lodges on Saturday. The body was hanging from the ceiling fan of the room.

The sources said the deceased's name was Santosh Kumar and he worked as a driver for minority MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Lal Chand Malhi who belongs to the ruling PTI. The man was wearing a vest and shalwar at the time of his hanging.

MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Lal Malhi said that his driver Santosh had committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan. He said before his hanging, Santosh had recorded a video in which he discussed his domestic tensions.

The MNA informed that his driver held his wife and mother-in-law responsible for his suicide. The MNA cited his alibi saying he was in Umar Kot and his driver was alone in the Parliament Lodges. Police have started an investigation into the case. SP Rana Wahab along with his team reached the scene and the investigators collected evidence from the driver's room. - DNA

PHA vows to plant millions of trees

done by our predecessors

in the past under the pre-

text of non-availability of

funds. With the cooper-

ation of the citizens, we

will make Rawalpindi an

ideal and model city of the

country in terms of natural

chambers,

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Malik Abid Hussain, Vice Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority, Rawalpindi has said that under the Clean and Green Pakistan Vision, we have achieved a great deal of successes and millions of trees will be planted in the coming Tree plantation campaign.

He expressed these views while talking with the concerned staff during his visit to Allama Iqbal Park Murree Road and Rawal Park Rawal Road on Sunday morning.

green environment. Malik Abid Hussain said He said that various types

of plants are also being dethat all 53 parks located in Rawalpindi city and canveloped in the nurseries inside most of the parks. tonment areas have been turned into lush green. "PHA is providing these Led by Asif Mehmood, Adplants to the citizens at very affordable rates while visor to the Chief Minister of Punjab and Chairman during the tree plantation PHA, for the first time campaign these plants will businessmen be given to the citizens and companies joined free of cost" he added. hands with us to beauti-Malik Abid Hussain said fy the city which was not

that the Punjab government has set aside ample funds in the New Year financial budget for the success of Clean and Green Pakistan and 10 Billion Tree Tsunami with the help of which we will further advance the efforts to eradicate environmental pollution.

Wergo,

individuals posing as attestation agents: HEC

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has warned the individuals seeking attestation of their documents to beware of the fake agents who are offering their assistance in getting their degrees and transcripts attested through fraudulent means. According to a public alert

issued by the Students Affairs Division of Higher Education Commission, it has been brought to Higher Education Commissionattention that some individuals posing as "agents' offer to assist applicants in getting their degrees and tran-

scripts attested. In some cases, these individuals cheat the applicants by pasting fake Higher Education Commission stamps or tickets on original degrees and transcripts. All such degrees and transcripts, with fake stamps, are liable to be confiscated when submitted to Higher Education Commission. All concerned are advised to be extremely careful in this regard and follow the prescribed procedure for

attestation instead of engaging potentially fraudulent agents, the public alert said. - APP

Pak investors to get opportunities in Niger to link with Africa

ISLAMABAD: Chairman FPCCI, Capital Office Islamabad on Sunday hoped that Pakistani investors and exporters would acquire huge opportunities for economic activity in Niger and also connect to all African regional economies.

"Pakistani investors can work in infrastructure, agriculture, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other industries" Chairman Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and industry Qurban Ali said this while business delegation of Republic of Niger, led by Minister for Commerce and Industry Gabo Sabo Moctar, visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan



Zakaria Industry Abdoulaye Boubacar, prominent businessman Saleem Gado Sabo and

Capital office, Mirza Abdur Rehman along with senior business leadership participated in the negotiation. The other members of Niger delegation included Minister for Investment

business-to-business meetings were also held. While Chairman FPCCI Capital Office, Qurban Ali that exploration of new markets and regional trade integration are the key elements for economic and trade expansion to materialize the industrial policy. Whereas exploration of the untapped Secretary markets likes Africa region and additional potential market of European Union (EU), North American countries besides Associ-

ation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are the major potential for Visiting delegations increasing the connectivity and trade integration with regional and world economy, he said. - PR

process of online admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)'s Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has completed the process of online admissions for the educational programs to be offered in the 1st phase of autumn 2021 semester. It is pertinent to mention here that ICT has completed the process of automation of key academic, administrative and financial operations of the university. Now, the students will avail all educational facilities of the university online. Admissions for autumn 2021 semester will commence from July 15 and prospectuses and admission application forms will be available online on the university website and students will be able to apply for admission and deposit fee online. However, students will be allowed to apply for admissions manually for the programs including matriculation, intermediate and BA (Associate Degree) besides online method. Students can also deposit admission fee through Easypaisa, Upaisa, Jazz Cash and mobile applications. Course books will also be available online. According to the Director, ICT all educational matters will be dealt online ranging from submitting admission application to applying for degrees resulting not only into saving precious time of the students but also overcoming unnecessary delay in problem handling. - DNA



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For further information please contact the following. Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). While Ex. President FPC-CI Senator Haji Ghulam Ali and Coordinator FPCCI

Pakistan's ambassador to Niger Ahmed Ali Sirohey also participated in Business to Business negotiation. signed agreements with Pakistani companies to promote bilateral trade, and

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

PEW lends support to impose Sec. 203 (A)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Saturday supported the decision of the government to introduce changes in the Income Tax Ordinance to boost revenue.

The move is good by Section 203 (A) must be amended so that it does not contradict the government's policy of minimal interaction between taxpayers and the tax authority, it said.

"We fully support the decision of the government regarding installation of a point-of-sale (POS) system and measures such as a fine of one million rupees and sealing of the shop which should not be withdrawn," said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

He said that the business community is worried about possible harassment by the tax officials in the wake of new powers granted to them therefore safeguards should be provided.

Dr Murtaza Mughal said that the tax officer should only arrest a taxpayer after undeniable proof of tax evasion which can be proved in the court of law.

Tax officer should be punished and losses of the businessman must be compensated for losses if the charges against him could not be proved in the court, he demanded.

Shoaib launches Pakistan's first NFT

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Shoaib Akhtar, who is a big name in Pakistan cricket, and famous for his real fast bowling in the world, has announced the launch of his NFT. As soon as the announcement was made, "Shoaib Akhtar NFT" became a top trend on

Speakers at NHS call for mass vaccination drive

Ehsaas Programme transfers 41,762 assets

DNA

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: COVID-19 has triggered a global crisis in addition to an enormous human toll, is leading to the deepest global recession. Its spread has left national economies and businesses counting the costs, as governments struggled with lockdown measures to tackle the spread of the virus. These remarks were passed by President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Mohammad Nasir Mirza at the National Health Summit (NHS) (Battel against COVID-19) at a local hotel in Islamabad. The summit was organized by RCCI aimed to provide a platform to address challenges faced by developing countries like Pakistan for mass vaccina-



prevention and treatment of tion and bringing back trade the Covid-19, he said. and economic activities.

New virus mutations and Pakistan has also started various types of vaccines vaccination drive for all its citizens however a number along with myths surroundof confusions have hazed ing the pandemic have also minds of people regarding given rise to an infodemic.

he further added. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja - Secretary Health Ministry of Na-

tional Health in his remarks highlighted the government initiatives on vaccination and curbing the spread of COV- ID-19. He lauded RCCI for organizing the summit and assured full support from the ministry for the mass vaccination drive. Executive Director NIH

Aamir Ikram gave his valto the audience.

uable remarks on advancement of vaccination across the country NIH role in conducting research and local manufacturing of vaccines in the country. CEO Drap Dr. Asim Rauf also addressed the session and highlighted the challenges faced during procurement of medicines, equipment, NOC for imports of medicines and vaccines etc. Chairman of the Summit,

Usman Shaukat briefed the audience about role of pharma, vaccine manufacturing in Pakistan, its prospects and efficiency. He also highlighted the challenges faced by pharmaceuticals specially maintaining supply chain due to lock-down and pricing issues due to high demands. Speakers of leading diagnostic labs, and hospitals also gave presentations

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas Amdan (Income) Programme has overall transferred 41,762 livelihood productive assets to the ultra-poor and vulnerable households identified as per set criteria since the inception of the programme till March 2021. According to an official source, a total of 20,175 productive assets had been transferred during the

reporting period i.e. Ju-ly-March Fiscal Year 2021. Over 95 percent assets have been transferred to women beneficiaries. The categories of these assets include livestock (81.21 percent), enterprises (9.56 percent), transportation (8.38 percent), production (0.25 percent), services (0.41 percent) and other (0.19 percent).

The Ehsaas Amdan programme, under the umbrella of Ehsaas, is aimed at creating livelihoods opportunities for the most disadvantaged segments of the society. The programme, launched by the Prime Minister on February 21, 2020 is an integral component of the government's Ehsaas Strategy and National Poverty Graduation Initiative (NPGI). The programme involves giving small "assets" to those who live below the poverty line so that they can earn a living and escape from the shocks of poverty.

Chairperson CPWB laid foundation stone

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chairperson Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Sarah Ahmed laid the foundation stone of the new building of Child Protection Institute at a cost of Rs. 223 million

Mandra here on Sunday. The building would be com-pleted by 2023 and separate hostels will be set up to accommodate 200 children who are victims of violence. Speaking to media after the foundation stone laying cer-

Indifference will boost imports, prices and trade deficit

Policy of compromising agriculture for fancy megaprojects should be abandoned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said Pakistan is spending 40 percent of its export earnings on import of agriculture products. The neglected sector of agriculture need serious reforms as it will not grow on the back of claims and promises and the import bill will continue to grow.

that policy of compromising agriculture for fancy megaprojects, which is being practiced for decades should be abandoned in the national interests.

crop tops in wastage of but it is being pro moted on the cost of cotton which is a threat to the textile industry and the whole agriculture sector. A provincial government is closing down departments related to agriculture development which should be noticed and reversed, he informed.

Islamabad Police set up complaints desk

by experienced and professional police officer Qazi Iamil ur Rehman, Islamabad police have introduced a toll free helpline (1715) and set up desk with the main objective to prevent misuse of police powers and make cops more responsive toward pubic complaints.

These unique initiatives have been taken under the guidance of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman. Through, IG Complaint Desk (ICD) and helpline (1715), the internal accountability of police employees would be accelerated while they would be also more responsive to public issues. A ceremony was held at Central Police Office (CPO) to formally launch this system and IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman inaugurated it.

The ceremony was attended



complaints against policemen by following a simple process. Islamabad police chief said that he would himself review the complaints received through this system.

IGP Islamabad said that police is being provided resources and capacity building programs have been initiated for them. his/her complaints. Along with, he said we want an effective and efficient system for police accountability and toll free helpline (1715) service has been launched which would work round the clock. He said that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been issued for the staff working at ICD desk

and helpline (1715). The received complaints, he said, would be forwarded to the supervisory officers who would contact with complainants within six hours and ensure meeting with

them within 24 hours. The complainants would be informed through mobile SMS regarding progress on

communication sources for taking up their issues. The received complaints would be reviewed from various aspects and to be resolved according to the law.

citizens can easily access

to it rather than resorting

to social media and other

It is to mention that Islamabad police have introduced FIR SMS alert system, Trafemony, Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Sarah fic SMS alert system, online Ahmed said that the founappointment system for dation stone of the Child getting driving license, on-Protection Bureau building line system for registration has been laid on the instrucof tenants, online gender protection unit and helpline tions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazdar (8090). All these systems and child protection units have been introduced to will soon be set up in 13 disfacilitate citizens which are tricts of the province. also being lauded by the cit-She said that it would be a izens, the IGP added. state-of-the-art institution and besides a school, it

been imported during the er wheat crop but it has

he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said

also decided to import thirty million tonnes of wheat costing one billion dollars which is amazing. The practice of smuggling three hundred thousand tonnes of wheat will con-

tinue unabated during the He said that sugarcane next fiscal, he said, adding that policy of reducing

first eleven months of this fiscal which include He said that the government has claimed a bump-

wheat, sugar, cotton, pulses, palm oil, milk, and dairy products. The annual import of cotton has been estimated to be two billion dollars resulting in total imports of agri products of 9.5 billion dollars which will be 40 percent of total exports.

STAFF REPORT ISLAMABAD, Spearheaded

Twitter. Shoaib Akhtar is the only Pakistani who has announced the launch of his NFT in Pakistan, through which he will be able to exchange his digital copyrights in the world of crypto currency. It may be recalled that the world's most expensive NFT has been sold for 69 million US dollars which was bought by a South Indian. In addition. Shoaib Akhtar has decided to launch Pakistan's first crypto exchange with the students of NED University through the platform www.tenup.IO. Shoaib Akhtar said that he would also support the corrupt community of Pakistan and take Pakistan forward in technology.

Punjab govt presented welfare budget

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Punjab Minister for Revenue Malik Muhammad Anwar Khan on Sunday said the provincial govt has presented a budget having no new taxes and this is a welfare and development oriented budget. He said that each resident of Punjab would get Insaf Health Insurance Card by the end of this year for which Rs 80 billion had been allocated. Addressing a press confer ence in connection with recent budget in Pindigheb, he said that in the new fiscal year, Punjab would get Rs 53 billion as a share from Hydal power and Attock district would get due share from this amount which would be spent on the development of the area and welfare of the people. He said, the Board of Revenue has reserved Rs 40 billion for development projects which is a good omen. He said that Fatehjang to Pindigheb road would be carpeted and sports complex would be built in Pindigheb during the fourth coming fiscal year as both projects had been included in annual development program. Malik Anwar said that recruitment for Rescue 1122 personnel from Pindigheb was under process and soon this facility would be available for the residents of teh-

sil Pindigheb.

He said that food products

prices of cars and mobile phones and making food items costly is beyond understanding and highly unwarranted. He said that budget measures will increase the price of flour, sugar, milk, and dairy products putting

worth \$7.55 billion have

an additional burden of billions on the masses which is unjustified.

among others by AIG (Establishment)) Dr. Naveed Atif, SSP (Headquarters) Muhammad Omer Khan, Director IT Saleem Raza Sheikh. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the IGP said ICD desk and 24/7 helpline (1715) have been set up to address the public grievances and people would be able to launch

The relevant SPs would also meet with one-fourth of the complainants and to forward the reports to CPO regarding progress or legal action on the complaints. Islamabad police chief said that existing Online Complaint Management System (OCMS) has been merged with ICD and the

> would also be equipped to teach skills to children. "The suffering of boys and girls who have been victims of violence and oppression cannot be described in words, and it is the responsibility of the state to address their plight and try to make them the best members of society," she added. She said that laws were being tightened to prevent violence against children and legal experts were being consulted in this regard.

Chairperson Sarah Ahmed said that the Child Protection Bureau has been set up in a rented building in Rawalpindi with a monthly rent of Rs. 400,000 and only 50 children can be accommodated in the building. Later, Chairperson Sarah Ahmed was given a detailed briefing about the organization.

Assets include livestock (goats, cows, buffaloes and poultry), agricultural inputs, body of Qingqi rickshaws and inputs for small retail outlets and small enterprises.

Amendments to reform bill violate constitution

ISLAMABAD: Criticizing the government for bulldozing the Electoral Reforms Bill in the National Assembly, PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "The PPP will be placing a number of amendments as the amendments drafted by the government are violates both of the Constitution as well as the Elec-

DNA

tion Act 2017. The amendments made in

this Bill are not only controversial in nature but now the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has also expressed their reservations which only goes out to reflect the problematic legislation done by this government". "It's no secret that Tabahi Sarkar has been running the country in a reckless manner but such dangerous legislation is a threat to our



democratic system. It seems that the government wants to disempower the ECP so they can have their way in the next elections. What they are forgetting is that these amendments are not for one election but for years to come," she added. Highlighting ECP's reservations, "It does not come as a surprise that out of the 72 amendments drafted by the government, the ECP does not support, fully or partially, 45 of these amendments. 15 these amendments have been termed as a violation of our Constitution whereas only 27 amendments

(tentatively) new

(HRD),

ships will be awarded.

and Herbal Medicines.

ration, Failure analysis and



with open ballot voting, and

EVMs all comes down to

2023 elections but this is not how elections are won. ECP has made it clear that these changes cannot be made without everyone's consensus and they have also shared their reservations on using the controversial EVMs. Had the government taken ECP and opposition on board, this shoddy legislation could have been avoided but they are more invested in theatrics and hurling abuses at each other," she added. Vice President PPPP Senator Sherry Rehman concluded by saying, "ECP's letter has made it clear that they want the government to reconsider the amendments to the Electoral Reforms Bill and take into account their reservations.

Speakers term role of local govt vital

ISLAMABAD: Local govern-

ments play vital role in the sustainable development with effective participation of the people. However, this tier of the governance must be strengthened and empowered including fiscal resources to perform and deliver effectively. The speakers from diverse background of expertise on governance systems said this while sharing their views with the participants during the webinar 'Local Government, challenges, strategies, and the way forward' held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Saturday. Altaf Baluch, Secretary Local Governments, South Punjab, informed the participants that Article 140 exists in law which bound for financial, political, and administrative independence of local government. – DNA

CDA DWP meeting to be held on June 29

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 52nd CDA/ Development Working Party meeting will be held on June 29 at the CDA Headquarters. In which many big projects worth billions of rupees in the history of Islamabad will be reviewed. These include a 100-bed facility at CDA Hospital having cost of Rs. 186 million, a two-year plan of Rs. 57 million for rainwater harvesting, two year plan of Rs. 4 billion for construction of parking areas in various urban commercial areas of Islamabad to alleviate the problem of parking, one year plan of Rs. 185 million for construction of bridge on Kayani Road to restore traffic flow in Bhara Kahu, one and half year plan of Rs. 1168 million for development of Sector D12, Rs.1705 million costing one and half year plan to make Nineth Avenue Shaheen Chowk signal free, one and half year plan of Rs. 1472 million to make E-11 Chowk signal free, one and half year plan of Rs.1422 for establishment of provincial courts, a two-year plan of Rs 1,800 million for the Litigants Facilitation Center for Litigants and Lawyers, a three-year plan of Rs 3,500 million to maintain and enhance the natural beauty and greenery in Margalla Hills National Park will be considered. The CDA Development Working Party meeting will review all the projects mentioned in PC-1 and give final approval to them.

684 overseas scholarships to be awarded

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The government has planned to award 684 overseas scholarships. 2,171 indigenous scholarships and 2,490 need based scholarships during the year 2021-22, under the Knowledge Economy Initiatives. According to the Annual Development Plan (ADP),

another target is to train 300 needs-based scholarship beneficiaries in 10 workshops during the period. While around 200 Postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded to the scholars during period. The largest ongoing pro-

gramme for local undergraduates is Ehsaas Undergraduates that provides 50,000 scholarships per annum. Under this programme, 12,000

patent support will provide key ingredients of developing During the year 2021-22, knowledge economy.

According to the ADP, an under knowledge economy amount of Rs 8,341 million vertical, an important project is planned for advanced skill has been allocated to Minisdevelopment in priority techtry of Science and Technology nology areas for top scholars for its development projects in top 100 global universities. including Rs 3,490.76 million The major developmental for projects of the ministry focus of the Knowledge Econwhile Rs. 4,851.23 million omy initiatives would be mainwill be provided for projects suggested by Prime Minister ly in the areas including Human Resource Development Task Force on Knowledge Nano-Technology, Economy. An amount of Rs Quality Assurance and Stand-37.3 billion will be provided for development projects of ards, Halal Accreditation, Medical Devices and Health, higher education sector. In Electronics and Automation addition, funds amounting to Rs. 5.15 billion will also be The new projects, to be exeprovided for projects under special packages for Southcuted by Science and Technology Task Force, relating ern Balochistan, Gilgit Baltito Gene Editing, Industry stan and Interior Sindh. Research Centre Collabo-

About the projects to be executed by Ministry of Science

and Technology, Science Talent Farming Scheme (STFS) is one of the flagship schemes of the ministry that focuses on creating Science and Technology manpower for future. Under this ongoing scheme, more student batches would be selected for award of scholarships. The innovative activities and entrepreneurship culture in talented vouth will be supported by providing challenge funds to youth, researchers and academia in a competitive environment. In order to build capabilities for sustainable growth, the ministry has been implementing a Competitive Research Programme under which research grants will be provided to address the mega national issues and promote world class research. To identify and facilitate the intelligent

and science oriented students, the ministry is launching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at school and college levels in Pakistan which would enable the students to achieve their goals in their field of interest. Awareness among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for adoption of certification systems to help for improving their performance and productivity would continue to be undertaken under the Certification Incentive Programme. Under the scheme, awareness seminars in association with local Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be arranged throughout the country, as and when required in order to maximize the receiving number of applications by SMEs for grant of Incentive Awards

PUBLIC NOTICE GULSHAN-E-BENAZIR TOWNSHIP SCHEME PORT QASIM AUTHORITY

It is to inform that deceased Muhammad Ali Gabol S/o Khamiso, R/o Haji Umid Ali Goth Razzagabad, Bin Qasim, Karachi, having transferred Plot No 67, Category-A Block-C, Measuring 200 sq. yards (Approx.) in GBTS Karachi has reportedly xpired on 14.09.2007 leaving behind following Legal heirs.

S. No	Name	Relationship with Deceased
1.	Mst Sohni	Widow
2.	Sahiba	Daughter
3.	Mawak	Daughter
4.	Shanawaz	Son
5.	Khuda Dini	Daughter
6.	Samiullah	Son
7.	Sabira	Daughter

The above said plot is now being transferred in favor of the above named legal heirs. Anyone having any claim/ objection regarding the plot should notify Secretary Gulshan-e-Benazir Township Scheme PQA Karachi in writing within (15) fifteen days after issuance of this notice. No claim / objection after the above period shall be entertained by GBTS, PQA

Advertisement given by Dilshad Murree S/o Ghulam Hussein Murree

Preventing hate speech

HE reports of Khyber's police stepping up to prevent hate speech are highly encouraging. The District Police Officer of the district has banned the entry of specific clerics into the region to ensure that sectarian elements cannot use religious platforms such as mosques to spread problematic and divisive opinions. This is a policy that must be implemented in other areas as well. The Khyber district is a work in progress like all other former-FATA areas. With development continuing apace and law and order gradually coming to the region, it is important that local security officials make proactive decisions such as this to ensure that residents can live in peace.

The clerics banned are not from Khyber-this implies that these visits might not have the best intentions behind them. Khyber is a frontier district and cross-border movement to and from Afghanistan also makes it all the more important for security personnel to be extremely vigilant at all times.

Pakistan has nearly completed its fencing across the western border, but even when complete, this barrier alone will not be enough to restrict both legal and illegal movement. There will always be ways and means across any boundary, and the best any security forces across the world can do is to minimise this risk.

The gaps left behind are then filled in by local law enforcement and on this occasion, it is positive to see this in action. The problem of hate speech however, is not only restricted to Khyber or other frontier districts. Both provincial and federal governments have stepped up massively in this area in recent years, but the proliferation of hate speech against sects or minority religions still continues. There must be greater diligence in ensuring that all minorities are protected both online and in the real world.

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World Bank approves \$442m loan to Pakistan

OMAR **I**FTIKHAR

HE World Bank (WB) recently approved a \$442 million loan to Pakistan for improving access to water and sanitation services for the most vulnerable rural communities in Punjab, as the lender predicts "sizable increase" in poverty across the country. According to an official statement from the World Bank, the WB board of directors approved the Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) to upgrade water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services for sustainable access to drinking water and safe wastewater management.

The report claims that the project will pursue activities related to rural settlements, where water contamination and poor hygiene are more dominant. They cause illness and child stunting. Interestingly, the World Bank approved the project the day the government decided to reverse its decision of increasing tax incidence on dairy products, which would have reduced their consumption.

In the recently passed budget, the government has proposed to increase the sales tax rate on dairy products from 10% to 17%. While the approval of the WB loan can be seen as a positive step that will bring growth to the country, some steps need to be pursued in this regard. The government must create a committee to oversee how and where the loan money is being spent or invested.

There must be complete transparency as far as financial matters are concerned. The government, while using its vision and experience, must comprehend the consequences of the loan granted. Once the WB approves a loan certain specific stipulations become a mandatory part to be completed by the government that acquires the loan.

The Pakistani government must know these stipulations and what actions it would need to complete to complement WB's decision to grant a loan in the first place. According to a news report, the World Bank project documents underlined that the Covid-19 pandemic crisis is expected to lead to a sizable increase in poverty, reversing the sustained reduction observed over the past 20 years.

Oceans and environment: Addressing threat of invasion of plastic waste

Adam M. Tugio



I can expect further

and mitigation.

Maintaining healthy oceans and marine ecosystem is equally vital, because the challenges and threats they face are intertwined, necessitating concerted efforts and strategies to address them comprehensively. This immense body of salty water occupies 70% of the earth's surface.Oceans are considered to be the lungs of the planetproducing at least 50% of the world's oxygen and home to most of the earth's biodiversity, including flora and fauna, and organisms.

Similarly, oceans are vital to the economy and the survival of humanity. They provide not only supplies essential resources and services to support world population but also help in the production of energy from fossil fuels to environment friendly of tidal waves. Report by the UN indicates that by 2030 it is expected that ocean-based sectors would employ 40 million people.

Oceans also absorb roughly 30% of human-produced carbon dioxide (CO2), helping to mitigate the effects of global warming. Despite humans only inhabit about 3% of the total area of the globe, the increase of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have a significant impact on oceans and marine ecosystem. Many studies have revealed the adverse impact of raising the temperature of oceans which varies from coral bleaching to ocean acidification. Especially prone to this is coastal communities as they are living in the frontline and will be affected by sea level rise. Faced with this concern, the international community has adopted a number of steps to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. As part of the implementation of UNFFFC's principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), individual countries have been racing to make voluntary pledges to cut national emissions through National Determined Contributions (NDCs). I can expect further courageous steps by governments throughout the world to make bold and meaningful pledges to further cut carbon emissions at the next COP-22 in Glasgow later this year. Nowadays, the use of plastic and synthetic materials has revealed a new layer of harm posed by healthy oceans. Plastic, which was invented in 1907, has been widely used for a variety of purposes. Plastic's versatile nature makes it suitable for a wide range of applications from packaging, building and sporting goods, to automobiles, electronics, and agriculture. According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the world generates about 450 million tons of plastic each year, half of which is used in single-use items such as shopping bags, cups, and straws. The fact that plastic waste accounts for 80% of all marine garbage indicates the seriousness of this problem. Plastic enters the ocean in amounts ranging from 4 to 12 million metric tons per year, with this figure expected to triple in the next 20 years. According to some projections, by 2050 there may be more plastic in the oceans than fish if we fail to prevent it from becoming a trash plastic soup. Also concerning is the fact that when plastics are exposed to sunlight, they degrade into microscopic particles, the majority of which are imperceptible to the naked eye. These minuscule plastic particles can easily enter the human body through the consumption of fish or other seafood, putting our health at risk.

Given the importance of the ocean to many sectors of human activities, the livelihood and human health, we can anticipate the impact of plastic pollution to worsen if we do not take quick and decisive steps to reverse this trend. What can we do to counteract this trend in light of these challenges? At the national and global levels, I believe there are strategies to achieve this goal.

To begin, a significant focus on recycling policies at the national level is required to minimize the amount of new plastic in circulation. To put this into perspective, only 9% of plastic is recycled globally today. In order to improve this percentage, nations must establish eco-industrial estates based on the 4R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recovered). This 4R strategy should be used as an intermediate target toward a total ban on single-used plastics.

Good news is that countries around the world are taking far more drastic measures to hold back the rising tide of plastic pollution. Rwanda was the world's first "plastic-free" country in 2009. A six-month prison sentence might be imposed on anyone discovered in possession of a plastic object. Kenvan government has also imposed a four-year prison sentence and a hefty fine on anyone caught creating. selling, or merely carrying a plastic bag. Chile and Peru are two Latin American countries that have banned single-use plastic bags. Developed nations like Canada, France, and Sweden have also enacted laws prohibiting the use of all single-use plastics. Others, working step-by-step approach through developing a comprehensive roadmap to reduce plastic waste, such as Indonesia by 70% by 2025 and achieve net-zero plastic waste by 2040. Interestingly, a consortium of private sectors in the US also took the initiative with the launching of US Plastics Pact's Roadmap to 2025. Its major goal is to address plastics waste at the sources, complementing the US Government's National Recycling Strategy. Second, imposing taxes to discourage the use of plastic while also rewarding customers to participate in the recycling programme. Customers must pay a fee to pay for plastic bags at supermarkets. In 2003, Germany, which popularised the Green Dot recycling sign, established a deposit return of 25 cents on each bottle of soft or alcoholic drink. Almost all of the country's plastic bottles have been returned for recycling as a result of the initiative. Norway also boasts an outstanding deposit return programme with 95% of the country's plastic bottles being returned for recycling since the programme began in 2014.

troduced a bio-based plastic made of cassava.Philanthropic foundations and crowd funding should see this as an opportunity to inspire more of world's brightest minds to investigate new biodegradable plastics innovations, complementing government assistance through the banking sector.

Some may even go further by suggesting that we reconsider our perception of plastic as trash and introduce the concept of sustainable uses of plastics. In essence, they are advocating for a restorative and regenerative approach to plastic usage in order to limit the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfills. This new strategy will, without a doubt, necessitate new technology. And, in order for this method to proliferate, transfer of technology and know-how are required so that private sectors in developing countries may participate in and benefit from the circular plastic economy. Fourth, via education, raise awareness of the dangers of plastic contamination in the oceans. Communities, particularly millennials, must be inspired to discuss zero-waste plastic and preventing ocean pollution from macro and micro plastics. Millennials and Gen-Z are eager to become agents of social change for the conservation of oceans and marine ecosystems once they have been inspired. Take a look at Plastic Bank, a social company that is led by millennials in their advocacy to transform plastic trash into cash. It has worldwide networking in Haiti, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil, and Egypt. People that collect plastic can exchange it for cash or essential things like gasoline, stoves, or even services such as transportation tickets. In Cote d'Ivoire, plastic waste has been turned into classroom building materials, thanks to the creative idea of ConceptosPlasticos, a Colombian company that developed a method for manufacturing non-PVC plastic bricks that are cheaper, lighter, and more durable than traditional bricks. Finally, ocean governance must be examined in order to remedy legal lacunain response to the invasion of plastic waste into the oceans. To regulate the emission of plastic waste from ships and the transportation of non-hazardous waste containing plastic, the international community must act together. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) would be an appropriate institution to develop a more coordinated global vision for collective measures to address the threat posed by plastic pollution to the ocean. Previously in 2001, IMO adopted a legal framework and mechanism to prohibit the use of harmful metallic compounds in anti-fouling paints used in ships following findings that the compounds persist in water and kill sea life, harming marine environment as well. The IMO's actions would eventually give legal weight to a number of initiatives, including the UNEP Clean Seas campaign of February 2017, the UNGA 73 Campaign's #BeatPlasticPollution and collaboration of IMO and FAO on GloLitter Partnership of 2019, for a cleaner planet and oceans and safe food for human health.

courageous steps by governments throughout the world to make bold and meaningful pledges to further cut carbon emissions at the next COP-22 in Glasgow later this year

June 5 and World Oceans Day on June 8. World leaders have seized the momentum to call for concerted action to reverse the devastating effects of human-induced climate change on the global environment, including to the ocean. The year 2021 is particularly significant for Pakistan because it hosted the World Environment Day. PM Imran Khan, speaking at the event, emphasized the impact of global warming and the problem of water scarcity and its far-reaching implications for future generations.

It is well understood that lack of access to water may become sources for conflict. We have seen this in various cases both across international borders and within the national boundaries. Water crises have been placed among the top five risks in terms of impact by the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report (GRR) for the eighth year in a row, alongside failures in climate change adaptation Such regulations will help the advocacy and gradually raise customer awareness and encourage people to engage actively in recycling programs.

Third, the incentive should be extended to the business sector, encouraging them to find alternative methods to reduce plastic consumption. Biodegradable materials as alternatives to conventional plastics should begin with the packaging of foodstuffs, which is the most prevalent application of conventional plastics. In Indonesia, a start-up business called Evoware has offered edible and nutritious seaweed as a packaging material while another company EcoPlas has in-

Only by integrating the entire global community in the implementation of these comprehensive measures will we be able to save the oceans and prevent them from becoming a trash bin of plastic garbage.

The writer is the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia. Views expressed here are personal.

Biden's multilateralism; let's see action

Baria Alamuddin



OR international correspondents, the last couple of weeks represented a gourmet meal of global summits, bilateral meetings and multilateral fora. But what does all this frenzied diplomatic activity mean for the real world?

Among Western leaders, there have been smiles and backslapping aplenty, with the G7 and NATO meetings functioning therapeutically as a dance upon Trumpism's grave — and good riddance! Leaders can once again see eye-to-eye and hold civilized debates on issues that matter.

The question is whether these global powers today collectively possess the unassailable diplomatic clout they once enjoyed in an international environment where authoritarian leaders are running amok, entire regions are afflicted by disintegrating states and human rights are trampled upon on an industrial scale.

One of the most visible tests of Biden's fledgling presidency was whether or not he could stand up to figures like Putin and Erdogan, both of whom exploited the anarchy of the Trump years to invade a handful of states and aggressively project personal power inside and outside their borders. How did Biden do?

A single meeting was never going to compel Putin to admit the error of his ways, and many commenters dismissively condemned the encounter as an opportunity for the Russian president to bask in his own self-importance. They simultaneously criticized Biden for naivety and stubborn optimism.

However, Biden used the summit to establish ground rules on issues like cyber-warfare, his implied message being: We don't want to have to hurt you! Perhaps a textbook example of the diplomatic art of speaking softly while wielding a big stick would do? We've already seen tin-pot dictators like Erdogan moderating their behavior in the knowledge that the current US administration will no longer tolerate flagrant warmongering and demagoguery.

Given that much of Putin's aggressive behavior apparently stems from a sense of personal and national inferiority, there is no harm in offering him respect and cordiality as part of this reset. The world is sick to death of unearned excessive Western superiority and over-confidence. The West can deservedly earn superiority if its human rights and governance record remains superior, but let's see an era of greater modesty, honesty and respect for non-Western civilizations, coupled with a pragmatic readiness to genuinely set the world to rights and address existential challenges like climate change, regional instability and extreme poverty.

The Trump regime inflicted lasting damage upon the

credibility of American democracy, and Europe is asking: What will happen in four years' time? Will anything Biden signs be torn up by a bellicose successor?

These summits were a glorious triumph of style over substance. Leaders took pains to proclaim their unity versus China, but regrettably, Secretary of State Blinken isn't being imitated by many other foreign ministers when he defines Beijing's actions against the Uyghurs and other minorities as genocide.

Only fleeting exposure was granted to chronic instability in locations like Syria, Yemen, Burma, Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America. Have Western leaders surrendered responsibility for far-flung areas of the world engulfed in quasi-permanent conflict and turbulence – ungoverned spaces that relentlessly export mass migration, terrorism and anarchy?

This is the pervading situation throughout much of conflict-wracked Africa, while Lebanon and Iraq - sitting precariously on either side of Syria - are a mere step away from the abyss.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's impending disintegration risks dragging Central Asia into compounded turmoil. Why scarcely a word about these disaster zones?

France is currently withdrawing 5,000 troops from the Sahel region at the worst conceivable moment, following a succession of coups in Mali, with neighboring states still confronting a jihadist onslaught.

Britain is equally disastrously slashing funding for the world's poorest states, abandoning millions to starve. None of this is unrelated to the West's current obsession with China and Russia, with both states profiting from such chaos to aggressively expand their global footprint. Recent reports spotlighted the embroilment of Russian mercenaries in appalling human rights atrocities in the Central African Republic. Why is the US withdrawing its Patriot anti-missile batteries from the Middle East at the exact moment that Khamenei has engineered the coronation of grizzled hardliner Ebrahim Raisi for the presidency? Raisi is a dangerous extremist who has built his national profile upon the mass executions of political prisoners, blatantly heralding a new phase of terrorism and mischief-making on a global scale.

Hence, it's all very nice for Biden and Western leaders to waffle passively and complacently about cooperation and multilateralism, but to what end? Where is the commitment to promoting good governance, fighting poverty and supporting failing states? It is difficult to envisage Western pressure having any meaningful influence on Putin and Xi's style of governance, but what about the dozens of states where they could have an impact through vigorous diplomatic pressure and well-targeted developmental support?

With these latest summits taking place in rarefied locations like Geneva, Brussels and Cornwall, it's easy to miss the fact that our planet sits atop a live volcano.

The world is an infinitely less stable place than just a decade ago. Climate change threatens to render vast regions uninhabitable. Conflict-resolution and international law institutions like the UN Security Council are broken beyond repair.

Mass refugee movements and polarized political discourse will continue rocket-fueling the same xenophobic, anti-immigrant backlashes that swept Trump and other repugnant far-right tendencies to power.

Hence, if Biden, Trudeau and Macron don't want to be swept away by a new tsunami of anti-democratic populist barbarians, enough of the platitudes and backslapping. Roll up your sleeves and start seriously putting this broken world to rights!

WORLD / SPORTS



'Islamic system only way to Afghan peace'

FROM PAGE 01

women accused of crimes such as adultery were stoned to death in stadiums. Despite the rise in violence, Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said Sunday that the group was committed to the peace talks.

"Our very participation in the negotiations... indicates openly that we believe in resolving issues through (mutual) understanding,' Baradar said in a statement. He said the only way to end the conflict in Afghanistan was to establish an Islamic system after the departure of all foreign forces.

"A genuine Islamic system is the best mean for solution of all issues of the Afghans.' Baradar said. His statement acknowledged the fears in Afghanistan and abroad about the kind of system that would emerge - and its impact on women - saying that fell "within the ambit of the intra-Afghan.

Pak to help recover US hostage

FROM PAGE 01 ABC News said that the location of Frerichs, a 58-year old civil engineer, who was kidnapped in January 2020 from Kabul, is unknown. "Pakistan has always regarded any assistance it can provide TASHKENT: Andijan city in helping the United States hosts a meeting with the and other foreign countries participation of hokims of with the recovery of their the region and districts. hostages from Afghanistan heads of state agencies, as a moral and humanitarian deputies of the local counresponsibility," Spokesperson cil, and public activists. Maliha Shahid said in a statement to ABC News

ABC News, citing experts, said the U.S. will lose most of whatever leverage it might have to free the hostage through one of the limited number of tracks the government has already contemplated or acted upon during his 17 months Frerichs

lyze people's problems, draw up clear plans, increase per capita income, captivity after



LAHORE: Fighters in action during Punjab Fighting Trial Tournament organized by SA Garden and Mixed Martial Arts at SA Garden stadium. - DNA

New growth points of Andijan region identified

This year, an additional US\$100 million will be allocated from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development to support small and medium-sized businesses and finance investment projects in the region

DNA

velopment of the region.

there in Andijan, what worries people, and take appropriate measures. For this, heads of executive bodies and local deputies need to change their worldview. Everything will change if they change their outlook and work selflessly", the President said.

other growth points are

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirzi-The main attention was yoyev assessed the current paid to the development state of affairs in Andijan reof economic sectors, gion and outlined the tasks poverty reduction, and for the comprehensive dejob creation. It was noted that the possibilities "We are in Andijan to anawere studied in 882 mahallas of Andijan region. Based on the historically established types of activity

Henley share 54-hole

US Open lead

at the par-5 18th.

poultry farming. Entrepre- located from the Fund for Reconstruction attached to

In 2021-2022, 584 investment projects worth about 20 trillion soums will be implemented in the region, 60 thousand new jobs will be created. The "drivers" are the textile, construction, electrical, leather and footwear, food and pharmaceutical industries.

This year, new capacities will be launched at Asaka Textile enterprises in Asaka district and Zumrad Textile in Jalalabad district, a cement plant and a cluster of building materials in Khojaabad district, as well as a syringe production plant in Andijon Pharm free economic zone.

vest, it is possible to employ 220 thousand people. The Head of the state paid special attention to the floriculture potential. It was noted that growing orchids on 10 acres can

bring income up to 850 million soums, growing lilies up to 450 million soums, peonies up to 320 million soums. An instruction was given to

turn Andijan Flower Garden enterprise in Andijan district into a cluster. To lav a 30-hectare flow-

er and ornamental plant garden and to open a floriculture school at the Vocational Training Center in

India's Covid-19 tally rises to 29,881,965

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, June 21, 2021

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 29,881,965 on Sunday, with as many as 58,419 new cases recorded in the past 24 hours, said the federal health ministry. Less than 60,000 daily cases were reported in a day after 81 days, added the federal health ministry. Besides, 1,576 COVID-19 deaths since Saturday morning took the death toll to 386,713.

This was the 13th consecutive day when less than 100,000 cases were registered across the country, after peaking to over 400,000 for several days in April-May which was dubbed as the pandemic's second wave.

Still there are 729,243 active cases, after a decrease of 30,776 active cases during the past 24 hours. The country's active caseload is the lowest in nearly 80 days. A total of 28,766,009 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals across the country, with 87,619 of them discharged since Saturday morning. Delhi, which has been one of the worst-hit COVID-19 hotspots in India since last year, witnessed as many as 135 new pandemic cases and seven deaths through Saturday. – APP

Shipment of vaccine from...

FROM PAGE 01

the major cities including Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Mardan, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Mianwali and Dera Ghazi Khan while the government was saving the shortage will be ended as the Federal Minister for Planning and Development has assured that 1.5 million doses were arriving Sunday. In Hyderabad, almost all vaccination centres have been shut down. According to Health Ministry, as many as 6,000 people were being inoculated at 21 centers in the city which are now closed. In Nawabshah, people had to leave the vaccination centres without getting vaccine jabs. In Mardan, 20 vaccination centres were closed due

American military and special operations personnel leave Afghanistan expected to be by July Fourth.

The report said the options that have been considered for freeing Frerichs include trying to arrange a controversial prisoner exchange involving an Afghan druglord, ask Pakistan to influence the Haqqani network, or staging a high-risk rescue operation if the hostage can be located.

But ABC News said the hostage-rescue option was seen as even less likely than the prisoner exchange.

In her response to ABC News report, Spokesperson Maliha Shahid, who is a press attache at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, said that Pakistan had always extended its assistance in recovering hostages "in good faith, and not driven by 'incentives' or 'pressure.'" Ms. Shahid also said that Pakistan has "no evidence to suggest that Mark Frerichs is being held in Pakistan" and that Pakistan "remains committed to play any role it can" to reunite Frerichs with his family.

Ghani, Abdullah to visit US

FROM PAGE 01

that triggered the invasion. In moving to end America's longest war, the president said he believes that no more can be achieved. "The visit by President Ghani and Dr Abdullah Abdullah will highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan as the military drawdown continues,' spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement on Sunday. As the US military presses ahead to meet the September 11 deadline, the Taliban have fought daily battles with government forces and claim to have captured 40 districts The growing fear and uncertainty about the future have left many Afghans desperate to leave, including thousands of men and women who fear reprisals because they worked with foreign forces. The Taliban said Sunday they remain committed to peace talks but insisted a "genuine Islamic system" in Afghanistan was the only way to end the war and ensure rights - including for women.

of the population, the most a improve living con ditions in mahallas. We should look critically at each outcome. It is necessarv to understand what

effective growth points were determined - handicrafts, gardening, vegetable gardening, floriculture and

each mahalla and the necessary funds will be allocated. This year, an additional US\$100 million will be al-

opment to support small and medium-sized businesses and finance investment projects in the region.

Instructions were given Snakhrikhan district. The in agriculture. Due to the need was noted for creating greenhouses and supportsecondary lease of 70 thousand hectares of land ing the cultivation of flowers on household lands. freed from the grain har-

French far-right eyes

gains in regional polls

PARIS: France went to the polls for the first round of

regional elections on Sunday that could see Marine Le

Pen's far-right party make gains and step further into

the political mainstream. The election will see new as-

semblies elected for mainland France's 13 regions and 96

departments, with Le Pen's National Rally (RN) tipped to

win at least one region for the first time in what would be

a major coup. Le Pen is not standing as a candidate, but she

has been campaigning hard ahead of presidential elections

ning a region with a budget of billions of euros and pow-

ers over schools, transport and economic development

would lend it the sort of legitimacy that Le Pen craves,

analysts say. The one most likely to tip is the southeast-

ern Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur - home to Marseille,

Saint-Tropez and Cannes - where the RN is fronted by

Thierry Mariani, a former minister who defected from

A total of 2,736,013 people have recovered from the

disease or been discharged from hospitals across the

country, while 3,307 remain in intensive care units,

By Saturday, 4,374,729 people have received coronavirus

vaccines in the country, with 906,546 taking two doses. Iran

reported first cases of the disease in February 2020. - APP

to vaccine shortage. DHO Kachkol said that the vaccine supply would arrive on Sunday night. He said from Monday more inoculation

would be done than usual. As the shortage of coronavirus vaccine worsened, most of the vaccination centres have been shut down in Karachi. Sources in Sindh Health Department divulged that the small vaccination centers have been closed down to maintain the vaccine supply to the main vaccination centers in all the districts. Thirty of the 40 vaccination centers of Karachi's District South have been shut down, said DHO South Office.

Pakistan, Turkish FMs...

FROM PAGE 01

He expressed hope that the Afghan parties would seize the opportunity and workout an inclusive politically-negotiated settlement. It was Foreign Minister Qureshi's third visit to Turkey in three months upon the invitation of Foreign Minister Çavuşoglu. The frequency of high-level interaction between the two sides reflects the strength of the bilateral relationship.

Jawan martyred, two...

FROM PAGE 01

Three days ago, a Pakistan Army soldier was martyred in a terrorist attack near Turbat airport. The military's media wing had said that terrorists using "small arms" attacked the troops near Turbat airport, as a result of which a 'brave soldier, Naik Aqeel Abbas, embraced shahadat (martyrdom)". Following the attack, Frontier Corps personnel had launched a largescale operation in the area to hunt the attackers.

In its statement, the ISPR had said that "such cowardly acts by inimical elements, backed by anti-state forces could not sabotage the hard-earned peace and prosperity in the province. In a similar attack on June 14, at least four Frontier Corps soldiers were martyred in an improvised explosive device explosion on the Margat-Quetta road in Balochistan.

Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and defending champion Bryson De Chambeau shared fourth on 210 LA JOLLA (United States): South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen closed with a stunning 52-foot eagle putt to grab a share of the lead with Canada's Mackenzie Hughes and American Russell Henley after Saturday's dramatic third round

of the US Open. Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, fired a one-under par 70 to stand on five-under 208 after 54 holes at Torrey Pines with Hughes, who fired a 68, and Henley, who saved

par from a bunker at 18 to shoot 71. Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and defending champion Bryson DeChambeau shared fourth on 210, charging into contention to set the stage for an intense final round. "There are a lot of great players up there that have a chance of win-

ning this," Oosthuizen said. "I just need to go out and play as good as I can. "You're going to have nerves. You're going to

feel it. It's just about how



you handle it." After sinking a 30-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th, Oosthuizen - who has five major runner-up finishes since his win 11 years ago at St. Andrews - made his incredible closer "I was talking too it to slow down a little bit," Oosthuizen said. "It was a good line and good speed." On a day of electric shotmaking, his eagle. Hughes sank a 63-foot eagle

putt at the par-5 13th and blasted out of a bunker to five feet to set up a birdie at 18. Hughes, who missed the cut in his past five PGA

events and six of his eight prior major starts, won his only US PGA title in 2016 at Sea Island. "I know I'm going to be nervous tomorrow," Hughes said. "I'm going to try and enjoy it lots and embrace the moment." A crowd limited to about 8,000 people by Covid-19

safety measures roared when Hughes knocked in "I loved it," he said. "The charge when it goes in the hole and the crowd erupts

is why we play. It gives me goosebumps just thinking about it." - APP

World Test Oosthuizen, Hughes and final hit by another weather delay

SPORTS DESK

SOUTHAMPTON: The ill-fated World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand was hit by another weather delay on Sunday as a wet outfield prevented the third day's play at Southampton from starting on time. The match should have resumed at 10:30 am local time (0930 GMT) but the umpires ruled the outfield was too wet, with a further inspection planned for 10:20 am (0920 GMT). India are currently 146-3

in their first innings after losing the toss, with captain Virat Kohli 44 not out and Ajinkya Rahane 29 not out after New Zealand's all-pace attack kept things tight in favourable, overcast conditions.

washed out without any play at all and there were three interruptions due to bad light on Saturday, even though the Hampshire Bowl's floodlights were on full beam.

180 scheduled for the first two days have so far

Friday's first day was The pandemic has so far claimed 82,854 lives in Iran, up by 108 in the past 24 hours, the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education reported.

been bowled.

the centre-right Republicans party. - APP Iran reports 6,448 new COVID-19 cases TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday reported 6,448 new COVID-19 cases, taking the country's total infections to 3,086,974.

Only 64.4 overs out of

National Health Commission says it aims to have fully vaccinated 70% of the population by end of the year ment now," the 27-year-old said, adding that incentives such as free

vaccines have

centres were no longer being of-

Other regions have been offering

a range of modest incentives. The

central province of Anhui has also

been offering people free eggs

while some in Beijing have re-

The National Health Commission

says it aims to have fully vaccinat-

ed 70% of the population by the

been authorised for emergency

use within the country. Two - the

ceived shopping vouchers.

end of the year.

Three Chinese

fered.

according to the ministry.

Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines - have been approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).

They are both already in use in a range of other countries, including the Philippines, Chile, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey.

The WHO said the Sinopharm vaccine's efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalised cases of Covid-19

was estimated to be 79%. It said the Sinovac vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in 51% of those vaccinated and prevented severe symptoms and hospitalisation in 100% of samples.

China vaccine doses pass one billion mark

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: China has administered more than a billion Covid vaccine doses, officials say - more than a third of all vaccine doses given globally. The country's vaccination drive began slowly after authorities successfully suppressed virus cases. But incentives such as free eggs and concern over an outbreak of the Delta variant have seen jabs accelerate.

Chinese authorities aim to have fully vaccinated 40% of the country's 1.4 billion population by July. People in China are being offered

domestically made Chinese vaccines, including the Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines. Both require two doses

After lockdowns and mass testing prevented the virus from circulating, many Chinese felt little need to get vaccinated. Previous vaccine scandals had also left some people wary. However the pace of vaccinations has rapidly increased and China's National Health Commission said it had taken just five days to administer the latest 100 million doses.

An outbreak of the Delta variant in the southern province of Guangdong has also convinced some Chinese to be vaccinated. Doctors in the southern city of Guangzhou told the New York Times that symptoms from the new variant appeared to be different and more dangerous than those linked to the initial form of the virus that began spreading in the city of Wuhan at the end of 2019.

The newspaper quoted a resident of Shenzhen, a city near Guangzhou, who said she had not wanted to be vaccinated because of possible side effects but had now changed her mind.

"I want to get vaccinated, but it's really hard to make an appointeggs or free rides to vaccination

next year that surveys show could end up being a close race between her and centrist President Emmanuel Macron. "What would be great for her (Le Pen), and would spark some momentum in the pre-presidential campaign, would be if the National Rally won a region," Stephane Zumsteeg from the Ipsos polling firm told AFP. Though far-right politicians preside over a handful of towns, run-

N7

BUSINESS / WORLD



Briefs

Iran nuclear deal negotiators take stock

VIENNA: Negotiators trying to save the Iran nuclear deal will meet on Sunday, after an ultraconservative cleric won presidential elections in the Islamic republic. The latest meeting is part of their regular discussions since early April, aimed at bringing the US back to the 2015 landmark agreement and Iran back into compliance with curbs on its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian envoy at the EU-chaired talks, said Sunday's meeting would "decide on the way ahead".

"An agreement on restoration of the nuclear deal is within reach but is not finalised yet," he wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

Parties to the agreement – Britain, China, Germany, France, Russia and Iran have been meeting in Vienna with indirect US participation since April to restore the deal, which promised Tehran sanctions relief in exchange for curtailing its nuclear programme.

The deal was thrown into disarray in 2018 when former US president Donald Trump withdrew and reimposed sanctions, leading Iran in turn to step up its nuclear activities from 2019 onwards. - APP

Russian envoy returns 'optimistic' to Washington

WEB DESK

MOSCOWThe Russian ambassador in Washington flew back Sunday to the United States saying he hoped to build "equal and pragmatic" ties after a US-Russia summit in Geneva aimed at reducing tensions.

The plane transporting ambassador Anatoly Antonov, who was recalled in March for consultations, took off at 9:20 a.m. (0620 GMT) from Moscow's Shereme-

Pakistan HC in Bangladesh interacts with businessmen

High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui briefed DCCI about Pakistan's huge export potential in high quality goods and services and underlined the need for leveraging this potential

DNA

DHAKA: High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui visited Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). He was accompanied by relevant officials of the High Commission for Pakistan, Dhaka During the formal meeting,

the two sides agreed that there was a vast potential to further strengthen trade. business and investment cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui briefed DCCI about Pakistan's huge



ly inaugurated a 10x4 ft calexport potential in high ligraph-art presented by the quality goods and services and underlined the need for High Commission to DCCI. The art piece has been leveraging this potential. The High Commissioner painted by Mr. Asghar Ali, and President (DCCI) joint-Naqqash Masjid-un-Nabvi

Ashareef, Madina Munawwarah. It may be recalled over 55 Pakistani companies had attended the DCCI Business Conclave in January

this year. Later, President Rizwan Rehman had spoken at Pakistan International Chambers Convention.

Bangladesh and has an experience of over four decservices for the development of business and indus-

Established in 1958, DCCI is the largest Chamber of try in the country.

ades of rendering useful

Gwadar power plant to light up "gate of wealth"

We are currently spending millions of dollars a year to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant will be put into operation soon to solve the port's power problem

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, June 19 () Work is in full swing on a 300 megawatts coal-fired power plant, the project will be functional by October 2023, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday quoting official sources.

Around 150,000 people of Gwadar will be free from electricity and water problems by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar. The power plant, an independent power producer, is one of the key energy projects on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While addressing a meeting with members of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan, Shahzeb Khan Kakar, Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority, stated that the project aims to improve the reliabili-

opment and urban construction in the Gwadar region being restricted by the shortage of power. "We are currently spending

millions of dollars a year to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant will be put into operation soon to solve the port's power problem," said Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company.

The power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic construction in Gwadar Port.

In January 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong visited all major projects under CPEC in Gwa-

the China-Pak Friendship Construction Corporation, Hospital, China-Pak Technithe general contractor of the cal and Vocational Institute project, the construction of in Gwadar, the Gwadar Eastthe pre-production and living bay Expressway Project, camps and plant walls of the Gwadar Free Zone, and power plant is progressing Gwadar Port. smoothly.

Nong said that the Chinese side attached great importance to the development of Gwadar, and he had every good reason to believe that Gwadar would become a shining pearl of the region.

At present, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), the project investor and constructor, is actively promoting the operation of the project.

Zhao Bo, chairman of CCCC(CIHC PAK POWER - guad meaning wind and dar meaning gateway, thus Gwa-COMPANY PRIVATE LIMdar means "the gate of wind". ITED), has signed relevant Mir Jahangir, a local builder, agreements with Private Powsaid: "the power plant not only brings us jobs, but also er and Infrastructure Board. light and hope. I hope the Central Power Purchasing Agency and other authorities plant will be put in use as

Post-war Armenia votes in snap polls

YEREVAN: Armenians went to the polls Sunday in early parliamentary elections called by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in an attempt to heal divisions after a disastrous war with Azerbaijan and renew his mandate.

But the reformist leader, who spearheaded peaceful protests in 2018, has lost much of his appeal after a humiliating defeat last year to Azerbaijan over a decades-old territorial dispute and is in a tight race with former president Robert Kocharyan.

"The destiny of our Armenian nation will be decided today," said one voter, 73-yearold Emma Sahakyan.

Analysts say the election result is hard to predict, with both Pashinyan and Kocharvan drawing massive crowds on the eve of the polls and planning four days of rallies after the vote.

The election in the South Caucasus country of three million people is being watched by Armenia's Soviet-era master Moscow, arch foe Baku and Ankara, which backed Azerbaijan in the six-week war over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kocharyan, who hails from Karabakh and was in power between 1998 and 2008, appeared in good spirits as he showed up at a Yerevan polling station. - APP

Turkey's daily Covid vaccine shots exceed 1.5 million

ANKARA: The number of Turkey's daily COVID-19 vaccine shots has exceeded 1.5 million, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Saturday.

Turkey has started to administer vaccines to its citizens aged 30 and above, Koca tweeted.

Turkey on Saturday confirmed 5,480 new COVID-19 cases, including 494 symptomatic patients, raising the total number in the country to 5,365,208, according to

the health ministry. The death toll from the virus in Turkev rose by

"Gandhara's Smile" launched through Pak-China joint efforts

DNA

BEIJING: Knowledge knows no boundaries: launching of "Gandhara's Smile" through Pak-China joint efforts, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

As part of the celebratory activities to mark the 70th years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the Embassy of Pakistan, in collaboration with the School of Foreign Studies, Peking University organized a book launch, titled "Gandhara's Smile: the tour of cultural relics in Pakistan" at the Embassy. "The way the Pakistani people respected, preserved their historical artifacts moved me a lot, we should learn from them.

As soon as we set foot in the Peshawar museum, we realized that this country (Pakistan) is a treasure to modern civilization. We, as scholars, cherish these academic exchange opportunities enabled by CPEC. "Prof. Duan Qing from the school of foreign languages, Bejing university told Gwadar Pro. The book launch focused on academic research on Ghandhara civilization and publication of "Ghandhara smile" conducted by a team of renowned Chinese scholars and experts from Peking and Renmin universities led by Prof. Duan Qing and Associate Professor Zhang Jiamei during their visit to various archeological sites in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin ul Haque appreciated the School of Foreign Studies, Peking University and the experts for introducing Gandhara civilizational linkages which existed between Pakistan and China along the ancient silk route.

He said that the year 2021 is a special year when Pakistan and China are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties and the launch of this book is an opportune moment to celebrate the achievements of ancient Gandhara civilization as the common heritage of the two countries. The Ambassador promised to extend the Embassy's complete support and assistance in continuation of exploration and research in Pakistan.

tyevo airport for New York, where he will travel on to Washington, Russian news agencies reported. "Given the results of the meeting between the two presidents, I am counting on constructive work with my American colleagues to build equal and pragmatic relations," Antonov told the Ria Novosti agency, adding he was in an "optimistic mood."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Moscow and Washington agreed for their ambassadors to return, after summit talks in Geneva with US

counterpart Joe Biden. Diplomatic relations between Moscow and Washington had all but broken down since Biden took office and accused the Kremlin of interfering in US elections and launching cyberattacks. After Biden likened Putin to a "killer", Russia in March took the rare step of recalling ambassador Antonov and said the US envoy John Sullivan to Moscow likewise should return to Washington.

Textile exports surge 18.85% to \$13.748 bn

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile commodities witnessed an increase of 18.85 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year and surged byů percent on year-on-year basis (YoY).

The textile exports were recorded at \$13748.296 million in July-May (2020-21) against the exports of \$11567.400 million in July-May (2019-20), showing growth of 18.85 percent, according to latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The textile commodities that contribut ed in trade growth included knitwear, exports of which increased from \$2572.991 million last year to \$3414.300 million during the current year, showing growth of 32.70 percent. Likewise, the exports of varn (other than cotton yarn) increased by 20.24 percent, from \$24.048 million to \$28.915 million whereas, exports of bed wear increased by 24.60 percent from \$1984.502 million to \$2472.782 million. - APP

supply and gradually solve the current situation of economic devel-

dar, including Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project,

in Pakistan. According to Power China SEPCO1 Electric Power

soon as possible to illuminate the "gate of wind" into the "gate of wealth".

SEPCO1 project manager Ma

Bo said that they will continue

to vigorously promote local-

ized management and fulfill

the social responsibility of

They plan to hire more than

1,300 local residents during

the construction period and

provide more than 3,000 jobs

The word "Gwadar" is a com-

bination of two Balochi words

after its completion.

China's central enterprises.

51 to 49,122, while the total recoveries climbed to 5,228,419 after 4,195 more recovered in the last 24

Brazil hours. tops The rate of pneumonia in COVID-19 patients stands at 500,000 deaths 3.4 percent while the number of seriously ill patients is 829 in the country, said the ministry. – APP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil surpassed half a million COVID-19 deaths after registering 2,301 more deaths from the fatal disease in the past 24 hours, the health ministry said Saturday.

With the national death toll reaching 500,800, Brazil has become the second country in the world to record more than half a million pandemic deaths, after the United States. -Foreign Desk

Govt may exempt tax on manufacturing cold storages

LAHORE: Pakistan Businesses Forum demanded that Federal Government may exempt the tax and general sales tax on the manufacturing of cold storages for the period of next ten years before the approval of the federal budget in order to address food security and increase perishable exports, similarly in the operational mode, five years tax holiday may be granted to the respective firms.

PBF Vice President, Ahmad Jawad said inflation in country is high with food prices fluctuating all the time. This is basically because Pakistan does not have proper food storage facilities, and seasonal demands put a strain on supplies, resulting in ever-rising food prices.

In Pakistan, cold storages are filled only with potatoes and apples most of the time. However there is no food processing industry to increase storage life. "This is needed not only to reduce food losses which are significant in Pakistan, but also to help farmers get better incentives and income, better document the value chain, increase credit to farm economies and help achieve overall competitiveness in the country's rural sector". said Jawad.

He said government has to

increase food processing industries, for processed food increases storage and in this regard viable incentive policy may be announced. "Tomatoes and onions can be converted into paste, wheat into biscuits, fruit into juices and concentrates, etc. Similarly mangoes and kinnows can be stored for about three and half months, cherries for 45 days, kiwifruit for six months, apples for 3-6 months, and bayberries for about 30 days." - APP

Flat tariff extension for Industry to accelerate the economic activities try under this package will

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday said Prime Minister Imran Khan's prudent decision of flat tariff extension package for Industry till June next will accelerate economic activities and boost industrial production besides bolstering export.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Mian Aftab Zia Arain he said that Indus-

further benefit and industrial units of B3 and B4 categories will continue to get electricity at flat rate of Rs 12.96 per unit which he added is a good decision at right time in right direction. He said that federal government in this regard had already earmarked Rs 26 billion amount of subsidy for next fiscal year ending on June 30.2022 He said NEPRA (National

Electric Power Regulatory Authority) has also approved same package across the

country without the application of expensive peak charges. He said that industrial support package had contributed significantly to growth in industrial output and resultantly the economic growth rate. Iftikhar Ali Malik said this

package of cheap electricity will bring down the cost of production and ultimately help a lot Pak exporters to compete globally in international markets especially with their neighbouring competitors. He said provision of

7/24 electricity to Industry will also play key role in timely meeting the export targets at their foreign destinations. He hoped that under the dynamic leadership of Imran Khan after bearing the brunt of previous governments corruption based power policies now "country starts moving towards prosperity with sustainable economic growth". He said IPPs expensive electricity caused price hike and inflation in the country and poor segments of the society suf-

fered a lot. He said cheap power is imperative for the survival of the industry which he added is only possible through launching of new hydropower projects. Iftikhar Ali Malik expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister and federal finance minister Jehangir Tarin to accepting their major chunk of demands in budget and assured full cooperation on behalf of business community for economic revolution in the country which is must for the survival of state.

Pak-Iran rail service restored after 30 hours

CHAGHI: After suspension of 30 hours, the rail services between Pakistan and Iran has been restored.

The Pak-Iran rail service was suspended, when six wagons of a Quetta-bound freight train overturned near Dalbandin tehsil of Chaghi district on Saturday. The freight train was travelling from Iran's Zahedan city to Quetta when six of its wagons overturned, suspending the Pak-Iran rail service.

to winds.

As per, the railway authorities, the track has been restored on emergency ba-

sis and the Quetta-bound freight train has left for its stop. Officials of the Pakistan

Railways had said the wagons overturned due to sand dunes covering the tracks. Balochistan's Chaghi district, particularly Dalbandin, is sandy and dusty. Trains passing through the area often get stuck when the tracks are covered with sand due

Last week, six tankers of a water supply train got derailed due to sand covering the tracks. - APP



ANTALYA: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with his Malaysian counterpart in Turkey. He discussed further strengthening our strategic partnership with Malaysia in economy, trade, defence, education and science and technological fields. - DNA

PBHF launches 'Kashtkar Facilitation Centres'

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Basmati Heritage Foundation (PBHF) in collaboration with the rice industry stakeholders has launched 'Kashtkar Facilitation Centres' to provide quality inputs, financial solutions and promoting mechanization in order to boost rice per acre yield in the province especially of Bas-

mati variety. Punjab Minister for Agriculture Sved Hussain Jehanian Gardezi inaugurated the one of such centre in Kamoke at galaxy rice mills recently and appreciated the inter-

vention saying that it complement the government efforts to include private sector for boosting the agricultural sector's productivity. Gardezi said that the incumbent government is utilizing all the available resources to bring in a revolution in the agricultural sector which is the backbone of the national economy. Asad Rehman Gillani Secretary

Agriculture Punjab speaking on this occasion shared the impact of agriculture on overall economy of the country. He congratulated the farmers for setting highest records of yield in rice and wheat. He assured farmer for providing full support to uplift small farmers. Dr. M. Azeem Khan Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council highlighted adoption rate of mechanization under PM Emergency Program to drive scale. He further briefed that through public private partnership small holders will enable to adopt climate smart sustainable agricultural practices in rice. He further shared that although the yield of rice increased 30% in last 40 years but yield gap still is more than 50 % between potential and actual. He underlined the productivity enhancement project under the PM Emergency Program. Dr. Anjum Ali Buttar DG

Agri. Extension & amp; Adaptive Research shared about the project "National Program for Enhancing Profitability through Increasing Productivity of Rice" in 15 rice districts of Punjab.

He further highlighted the subsidies on fertilizers, rice transplanters, certified seed and rice specialized harvesters in addition of interest free loans. Ch. Rafig Director Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku also shared insights on the scope & amp; potential of Basmati rice. Rana Umar Nazir Khan, a Progressive Farmer gave his feedback and endorsed the success story of Farmer Con-

nect Program. He paid his gratitude for bringing international funded projects for welfare of small farmers. He revealed that project under the project farmers were able to save 25% of water along with 30% increase in net in-

come. Imran Sheikh Project Manager WAPRO National Coordinator (PBHF) welcoming the distinguished guests shared the importance of global rice standard of Sustainable Rice Platform (co-convened by UNE & amp; IRRI) for promoting climate smart agriculture and improving water productivity in rice sector of Pakistan.







Briefs 16,531 health workers infected with virus

Gerry's diplomatic football league closing ceremony

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki praises the organizers and sponsors for making the event a great success

ISLAMABAD: The number of healthcare workers, infected while battling the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, has reached to 16,531.

DNA

According to sources at Ministry of National Health, so far 9,876 doctors, 2,357 nurses and 4,298 other staff of hospitals have contracted the coronavirus.

While battling the deadly outbreak of COVID-19 in the country 162 healthcare workers have lost their lives, the health ministry sources said. Overall 16,068 medical workers have recovered from the virus while 289 health workers are under isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 at homes and 12 under treat ment at hospitals, the ministry's sources said.

As per the province-wise breakup, in Sindh, 5,820 health workers were infected by coronavirus while 56 died in the disease. In Punjab, 3,477 health workers contracted the coronavirus and 29 of them died. In KP, 3.942 healthcare workers were diagnosed with the Covid-19 and 43 of them died. In Islamabad, 1,508 medical workers contracted the coronavirus and 13 of them died.

COVID-19 infects 1,050 more people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Sunday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 33,972 with 1,050 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,282 people recovered from the disease during the



Saudi envoy and GM Marriott Maurizio Romani giving the winning trophy



GM Marriott giving award to President **ICCI Sardar Yasir**



with his presence as chief guest.

He was accompanied by Ms. Agnes

Pompos, Head of Missions Relations

and Communications of Gerry's

Visa, representative of the title spon-

The chief guest lauded the efforts

of the organizers and sponsors for

reviving football in Pakistan. The

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia also

praised the efforts of the Marriott

sor of the League.

Ms. Agnes and Ambassador of Bulgaria

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of Gerry's football league was held at the Marriott Hotel. Diplomats and members of civil society were invited to take part in the mega event. General Manager Marriott Hotel Maurizio Romani, being a co-host of the event, welcomed the guests.

The final matches of Gerry's diplomatic football league concluded after some thrilling and dramatic matches in Islamabad between the top teams of the league. The Saudi embassy team won the last crucial and decisive match against Brazil United scoring 6-3 goals to become the crown champions with a total of 24 points.

At the last day of the tournament, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf

Ambassadors of Kenya, Brazil, Bulgaria, Germany and Austria Saeed Al Maliki graced the occasion Hotel and its management for spon-

soring the event.

Ms. Agnes said it was very important for the company to support events such as Gerry's diplomatic league in order to promote health and outdoor activities, and especially during the times of the COVID pandemic. Ms. Pompos appreciated the enthusiasm of the players and the commitment of the organizers. It may be mentioned here that the diplomatic community had an experience in Gerry's league and players cherished the efforts of the organizers for providing a wonderful platform to spread the message of healthy sports activities in Pakistan. In the end the winning teams were decorated with prestigious awards. The players who performed excellently in the entire fixture were also awarded with

trophies and souvenirs.

supplies to Nepal **News Desk** KATHMANDU: The UNDP Nepal handed over to Ne pal medical equipment and supplies to help Nepal fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Senior officials

UNDP

gives medical

of the Ministry of Health and Population received 200 units of Bio Medical Oxygen Concentrators 5L and 200 units of Bio Medical Oxygen Concentrators 10L from Ms. Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, Resident Representative to the UNDP, Nepal at a brief ceremony at the Ministry of Health and Population. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Population, UNDP as well as WHO were also present at

the ceremony. These medical items will be distributed to all seven Provincial authorities soon. The Government of Nepal sincerely appreciates and thanks the UNDP Nepal for its valuable support of critical medical items at a time Nepal is fighting against the second wave of COV-ID-19 pandemic.

Peaceful Afghan settlement vital: Qureshi



ISLAMABAD: As the international community observed World Refugee Day on Sunday, Pakistan

reiterated its call for greater global responsibility-sharing, redoubling of efforts for durable solutions, and an early peaceful political settlement n Afghanistan

last 24 hours. Thirty-seven corona pa-

tients have died during past 24 hours, 33 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and four out of the hospitals had perished 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 37 deaths occurred in the last 24 hours 17 of them had died who were under treatment on ventilators.

There were 2,296 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical care among four of them admitted in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities in past 24 hours

The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 2.55 percent. It may be mentioned here that the Covid positivity ratio was the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals.

The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major areas including Islamabad 24 percent, Lahore 21 percent, Bahawalpur 26 percent and Multan 37 percent.

> Sinovac vaccines

arrive in

Indonesia

JAKARTA: Another batch

of COVID-19 vaccines pro-

Health Ministry.

more medical supplies to Pak

US delivers

This latest airlift included more than one million pieces of critical PPEs, which is necessary to help protect frontline healthcare workers

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), delivered its most recent shipment of emergency medical supplies to Pakistan today in our continuing joint effort to combat the scourge of COVID.

This latest airlift included more than one million pieces of critical personal protective equipment, which is necessary to help protect Pakistan's frontline healthcare workers and medical professionals.

"Today, the United States is pleased to support the Government of Pakistan in protecting the country's frontline healthcare workers in the fight against COVID-19," said USAID Mission Director Julie Koenen.

"During this unprecedented time, the United States will continue to work together with Pakistan to provide critically needed medical supplies."

Earlier in June, USAID delivered a shipment of protective equipment and fingertip oximeters to be delivered to Pakistani healthcare facilities throughout the country.

The donation also included \$3.5 million in additional funding for local procurement of health-related supplies to support the overall COVID-19 response.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the United States has delivered \$49.7 million in assistance through our partnership with the Government of Pakistan. Last July, USAID provided 200 ventilators and trained more than 600 health workers in 64 Pakistani hospitals.

completes under CPEC: Bajwa

Pilot project of chilli farming

ISLAMABAD: Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, Lt. Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Sunday said the pilot project of Chilli farms in the country had been completed with cooperation of the Chinese agricultural experts. "Pilot project of Chilli Farm with100 acres is completed," he said in his tweet, adding that in the next phase, as many as 3000 acres of land would be brought under chili cultivation.

He said the Pak-China Condiment alliance had been formed with the Chinese partners CMEC



and Sichuan Litong Food Group. Asim said this project would also help boosting

exports of spices from the country. He said this project would enhance yield, improve seed quality, skill development, farm labour, and processing.

to

According

sources the project chili farming is expected to produce more than 8,000 tons of dried chilies with a net income of more than 100,000 rupees per acre for local farmers.

Based on this, it will further develop downstream deep processing industries and create more employment opportunities. The sources added that in the first phase of Chili Contract Farming Project, China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Pilot Zone is to be set up in five years, while in its Phase II, it is expected to grow 30,000 acres of chilli and build pigment extracting

plant, with an industrial output value of US \$ 200 million. While in the third phase,

a China-Pakistan food industrial park would be established in 5 to 10 years, to promote the condiment industry in both countries. As per agricultural cooperation under the mega project of CPEC, a plan of 20 projects is being implemented to modernize the agriculture sector in Pakistan, including new seeds to increase the crop yield, upgrading of irrigation system, promotion of agribased industry for value addition and setting up global chain network. -APP

hammad Amin and Justice Maqbool

Baqir will retire on March 25 and

Justice Mazhar Alam Mian Khel will

retire on July 13, 2022 and Justice

Sajjad Ali Shah will retire on August

13, 2022. Moreover, reports said that

the Federal Shariat Court has a back

log of 178 pending cases whereas the

Lahore High Court (LHC) has a back-

log of astounding 193,030 pending

April 4, 2022 respectively.

cases. - DNA

Minister Shah Foreign Mahmood Qureshi, in his message on the international day, said the peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan could pave the way for dignified, time-bound and well-resourced repatriation of Afghan refugees supported by the international community. He said for over four decades, Pakistan has led by example in refugee protection and had been one of the world's largest refugee hosting countries. Pakistan still hosts around three million Afghans providing them necessary protection, he added.

He said people of Pakistan had demonstrated exemplary values of generosity, solidarity and compassion towards the refugees in the country, showcased in Pakistan's inclusive policies on public health, education and livelihoods, including during the on-going COVID-19 response.

"The people of Pakistan have contributed more than their fair share of shouldering an international responsibility by hosting millions of refugees. Pakistan has also been playing a key role in facilitating sustainable peace in Afghanistan," the foreign minister remarked.

He said this year, the Day was being observed in the backdrop of unprecedented public health and socio-economic challenges posed by the COV-ID-19 pandemic.

Five SC judges including CJP to retire next year

official

ISLAMABAD: Five Supreme Court judges including the Chief Justice of Pakistan are retiring next year whereas the load of unheard cases, the apex court has yet to hear, is 51,338.

The apex court has 51,138 pending cases with a total strength of 17 judges, of which two posts are already vacant.

As per details, Justice Mushir Alam will retire on August 18, and the number of posts vacant in the apex court will be three. Last year, Justice Faisal Arab was retired on November 4 and despite the passage of seven months, no appointment has been made so far. Similarly, Justice Manzoor Malik was retired on April 30 this year but no appointment has been made. Another five judges will retire next year (2022).

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmed is retiring on February 2, 2022 while Justice Qazi Mu-

'NAB gives high priority to fight against corruption'

duced by the Chinese pharmaceutical company Sino-ISLAMABAD: vac arrived at the Soekarno Hatta Airport in Indonesia on Sunday, according to the In January 2021, Indonesia's Food and Drug Author-

ity issued an emergency use authorization for the Sinovac vaccines amid efforts to fight the pandemic. Indonesia has signed agree-

ments on the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines through bilateral and multilateral cooperations as well as domestic research explorations.

The country has set up a target of inoculating 181.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to achieve herd immunity. – APP

progress of the country but

DNA

Chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Honorable Justice Javed Iqbal has said that corruption is estimated to cost the world at least \$2.6 trillion annually, approximately 5 percent of the glob-

al GDP. It is estimated that \$1.26 trillion are lost by the developing countries to corruption etc each year. He said that NAB continues

to give high priority to the fight against corruption. We believe that corruption should be prevented in all its forms and manifestations. He said NAB's commitment

to eradicate corruption from the country is across the board as per law. He said that come the voice of the whole NAB would not spare those nation as it not only halts the



as per law who have after devouring billions of rupees of innocent Pakistanis. NAB considered the case not the face behind it and whoever will commit corruption will be brought to justice as per law. "The NAB has no affiliation with any individual, party or organization but with the country and is performing its duties. He said that NAB is pursuing a policy of accountability for all. He said that eradication of corruption has be-

also usurps the rights of the deserving people. Pakistan is facing the challenge of corruption which is the root cause of all problems being endured by the country. He said that NAB has chalked

out a comprehensive Anti corruption strategy comprising awareness, prevention and enforcement under "Accountability for All" policy. Besides overhauling and perfecting working procedures in order to make NAB a more credible and reputed organization to eradicate corruption in all its forms and manifestations.

The Chairman NAB said that NAB has rejuvenated by implementing his Accountability for All Policy across the board under the slogan of "NAB's Faith-Corruption free Pakistan.'

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