



Islamabad POST

Saturday, April 01, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Belarus President warns of nuclear war over Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-07

Russian top diplomat to chair UNSC meeting

Detailed News On Page-07



Saka's talent fuels Arsenal's title charge

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Elon Musk plans China visit

DNA

HONG KONG: Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk is making plans to visit China as early as April and is seeking a meeting with China's Premier Li Qiang, two people with knowledge of planning for the trip told media. The exact timing of the visit is subject to Li Qiang's availability, one of the sources said. Tesla and China's State Council Information Office did not immediately reply to requests for comment on Friday. China is Tesla's second-largest market after the United States and its Shanghai plant is the electric carmaker's largest production hub.

Law minister stresses on dialogue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has urged country's institutions to utilize collective wisdom to resolve prevailing crisis including economic, political and constitutional. Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah in Islamabad today, he was of the opinion that a full court bench of the Supreme Court should hear the proceedings of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections case. Minister also urged the political leadership of the country to use window of dialogue to overcome political polarization.

Sehr, Iftar Timing

Ramazan 10, 1444
Sehr: 04:30 am
Iftar: 06:32 pm
Fique-Jafria
Sehr: 04:20 am
Iftar: 06:42 pm

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

Election delay case Govt request for full court turned down

Apex court summons Finance, Interior secretaries on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The newly constituted three-member bench of the Supreme Court on Friday rejected the government's request to form a full court on the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa election delay case. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, comprising Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar, rejected the request put forward by Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan on behalf of the government. The initial five-member bench comprising CJP Bandial, Justice Ahsan, Justice Akhtar, Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan, and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail was formed to hear the case. It held three hearings on the matter from Monday to Wednesday. The three-member bench was formed after two of the five judges of the original five-member larger bench recused themselves. Justice Khan was the first member to recuse himself which led to the dissolution of the bench. However, it was CJP Bandial, Justice Ahsan and Justice Akhtar who conducted the proceedings. During the hearing, when the AGP requested the formation of a full court, Justice Bandial remarked that the court had conducted proceedings into the case for three complete days and the inclusion of new judges to the bench will further waste time. "It will take time for the new judges to understand the case," he observed.

Continued on Page 06

SC circular disregards Justice Isa's judgment

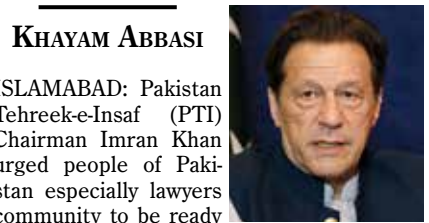
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court in a circular on Friday "disregarded" a judgment authored by Justice Qazi-Faez Isa ordering the postponement of suo motu cases till amendments are made in the Supreme Court Rules 1980 regarding the discretionary powers of the chief justice to form benches. In its circular, the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial noted that the observations made by the majority judgment in paras 11 to 22 and 26 to 28 were beyond the matter fixed before the court and "invokes its suo motu jurisdiction". Interestingly, the Supreme Court issued the circular hours before a four-member bench was to start hearing the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa election delay case. The circular noted that the "unilateral assumption of judicial power" in such a manner violated the rule laid down by a five-member judgment.

Continued on Page 06

PMLN's threat to SC, CJP Imran urges people to protect democracy

Says PMLN seems all-set to launch 1997 like attack on SC



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan urged people of Pakistan especially lawyers community to be ready to come out in streets for protection of Rule of Law, the Constitution and democracy, as the PMLN seemed all-set to launch 1997 like attack on Supreme Court (SC) and Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) because they were petrified of elections. In a statement on Friday, PTI Chairman said that as PMLN did in 1997 by storming apex court to attack the then Chief Justice of Pakistan Sajjad Ali Shah hearing a contempt petition against Nawaz Sharif, PMLN is again threatening SC and CJP today because they were petrified of elections. "I want people of Pakistan to be ready to come out in streets if need be to save Rule of Law, the Constitution and democracy," he added. Imran Khan stated: "We will be talking to

Continued on Page 06

PTI assures SC to remain peaceful

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Friday gave a written assurance to the Supreme Court for remaining peaceful during the general elections for the sake of the survival of democracy in the country. According to the details, PTI has assured the Supreme Court that it will bring peace and reduce the political temperature during the elections. In the written assurance, it has been stated that government repression against the PTI was continuing, but they are assuring the court for the sake of the survival of democracy.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Free Flour Distribution Points established as part of Prime Minister's Ramzan Relief Package for deserving families. - DNA

Sohail Ali Khan appointed new Information Secretary



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A senior officer of the Information Service Group (BPS 21) Sohail Ali Khan presently posted as the Additional Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Division has been appointed Secretary (Incharge) Information Ministry with immediate effect. The outgoing Information Secretary Ms. Shaha Shahid (BPS 22) has been asked to report to

Continued on Page 06

China rolls over \$2bn loan

Final decision within days: Chinese official

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said China had rolled over a \$2 billion loan that matured last week, providing relief during the country's acute balance of payment crisis. Locking in a rollover had been critical for the country of 220 million, where reserves have dipped to just four weeks' worth of imports and talks over

Continued on Page 06

Free ration distribution 11 killed including women, children in a stampede

The incident occurred while people were gathered at a dyeing factory

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least 11 people died and several were injured Friday amid a stampede inside the premises of a factory at the Narurus intersection in Karachi's SITE area, the latest incident in which people lost their lives to seek free edibles.

The incident occurred while people were gathered at a dyeing factory in the city's industrial area to collect ration - which is part of charity drives that Karachiites hold every Ramadan to help the needy. Those killed in the incident include eight women and three children, rescue sources and police officials told media. Six people also fainted during the stampede, rescue sources told. Meanwhile, police officials stated that a huge number of people were gathered at the site when the ration was being distributed.

Continued on Page 06

PM for removing hurdles in flour distribution

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities at the flour distribution centres to remove the hurdles faced by citizens in the verification of their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs). The prime minister stated this during his visit to a flour distribution centre, where the federal government is providing free-of-cost flour bags to needy persons. PM Sharif asked the relevant authorities to chalk out a facilitatory

Continued on Page 06

Full court SC bench imperative: Marriyum

Says Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan should not be part of the bench

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday urged the Supreme Court to form a full court bench to hear a case regarding polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for averting any constitutional crisis in the country. The proceedings of the case regarding the polls' delay started with a nine-member bench, whose strength had now been relegated to three judges only, the minister said while talking to the media outside the Supreme Court. Marriyum said Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, who had recused himself from hearing the suo moto case regarding the polls delay, should not be part of the bench hearing the contempt case.



She said the Pakistan Democratic Movement member parties had already called for the constitution of a full bench for the case as the three-member bench had become "controversial". There was an impression that the three-member bench had lost its credibility, she added. Referring to the circular issued by the SC registrar, she said it was the "decision of one person". Castigating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, the minister said a "mentally sick person" wanted to set the whole country on fire by creating

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

Karachi: 11 killed in stampede during ration distribution - Page 02

Commissioner Rawalpindi assures to address issues of business community - Page 03

President directs insurance company to pay widow claim - Page 04

Israelis need to see through the biggest lie of all - Page 05

European union nation killed civilians in Iraq: Report - Page 06

Belarus President Lukashenko warns of 'nuclear' war - Page 07

Issuance of visa for Afghans becoming source of income - Page 08

Trump first US President to face criminal charges

Trump is seeking Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden next year. Even before news of indictment broke, he had been seeking to use legal threats to raise money and rally his most faithful supporters

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Donald Trump, the ex-president and frontrunner to be Republican nominee in 2024, is set to face a mug shot, fingerprinting and court appearance next week after being indicted over a probe into hush money paid to a porn star in a historic U.S. first. The possible spectacle of Trump's appearance in Manhattan on Tuesday before a judge as the first sitting or former president to face criminal charges could further divide the world's most powerful country. Trump is seeking the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden next year. Even before news of the indictment broke, he had been seeking to use the legal threats to raise money and rally his most faithful supporters. The first U.S. president to have tried to overthrow an election defeat, whose false claims of election fraud inspired the deadly U.S. Capitol assault on Jan.

6, 2021, signaled that he will continue to campaign even as he faces charges. Those specific charges have not yet been made public as the indictment remains under seal, but CNN on Thursday reported Trump faced more than 30 counts related to business fraud. While Trump claimed in a social media post on March 18 that he would be arrested in days, Trump's first reaction at the news was "shock," said one of his attorneys, Joe Tacopina, in a Friday interview on ABC. "We'll go in there and we'll proceed to see a judge at some point, plead not guilty, start talking about filing motions, which we will do immediately and very aggressively," Tacopina said. Trump, 76, said he was "completely innocent" and accused Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, the Democrat who led the investigation, of trying to hurt his electoral chances. "This is Political Persecution and Election Interference at the highest level in history," Trump said in a statement. Trump claims political motivations for all



four criminal investigations he is known to face - including federal probes into his retention of classified documents and attempts to overturn his election defeat, and a separate Georgia probe into his attempt to overturn his loss in that state. He has also accused Bragg, who is Black, of racial bias. Shortly after news of his indictment broke, Trump appealed to supporters to provide money

for a legal defense. As news of Trump's indictment flashed across a news ticker on a Times Square skyscraper on Thursday evening, New York City resident Elizabeth Blaise welcomed the news. "It shows that democracy is finally at a place where it is supposed to be," she said. Trump earlier this month called for nationwide protests, recalling his charged rhetoric ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by his supporters. Neither the White House nor Biden, a Democrat who is widely expected to seek re-election, commented. Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer, called for calm: "I encourage both Mr. Trump's critics and supporters to let the process proceed peacefully and according to the law." The Manhattan charges will likely be unsealed by a judge in the coming days and Trump will have to travel there to be photographed, fingerprinted and appear in court, which a court official said was expected on Tuesday. Trump lawyer Susan Necheles confirmed the Tuesday

surrender date and said she did not expect charges to be unsealed until that day. The grand jury indictment follows months of hearing evidence about an alleged \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in the waning days of the 2016 campaign. But any potential trial is still at least more than a year away, legal experts said, meaning it could occur during or after the presidential campaign. Necheles said Trump will "vigorously fight" the charges. Trump received support from a number of potential challengers for the Republican nomination including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former Vice President Mike Pence. "This will only further serve to divide our country," Pence said. DeSantis wrote on Twitter: "The weaponization of the legal system to advance a political agenda turns the rule of law on its head. It is un-American." Among Trump's faithful outside his Mar-a-Lago property,

Continued on Page 06

91% KP population benefiting of free flour package

PESHAWAR: Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Energy & Finance, Himayatullah Khan Friday said that 91% population of the province was taking benefit of the free flour package introduced by the provincial government. He was jointly presiding over a meeting with the representatives of the flour mills association, concerned administrative secretaries, Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners (DC) with Chief Secretary KP Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry here at Civil Secretariat.

The advisor to KP chief minister assured Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) of all possible cooperation and taking serious steps to address issues faced by them. During a briefing regarding the free flour distribution package, the meeting was told that over 1,80,000 deserving families had been provided free flour under the scheme.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry said that beside the provision of free flour under the Ramazan Package, the provincial government was also ensuring the availability of the commodity in bazaars of the province. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain strict surveillance of the availability and price of the flour in markets.—DNA

PTDC organises 2-week training programme

ISLAMABAD: A two-week training workshop organized by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) to improve the knowledge and skills of tour guides about tourist destinations, tour group management, communication skills, and professional handling of all the aspects of tours, customer service and operational best practices, concluded here on Friday. About 24 trainees from different parts of Pakistan participated in the First National Tour Guide Training Programme, which commenced on March 18 in collaboration with the Department of Tourist Services (DTS), Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan (STFP), College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM), Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) and Legend Hotels, a news release said. International and national trainers and experts of the tourism industry conducted the training. Certificates were distributed among the trainees at the successful conclusion of the training.—APP

Minister remarks on Indus Water Treaty with India

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshheed Ahmed Shah told the National Assembly that India has been given an immediate answer on notice sent to Pakistan regarding Indus Water Treaty.

It is pertinent to note that government of India had sent a notice to Pakistan in January this year seeking modification of the Indus Water Treaty. The notice was sent apparently under Article 12 of the Indus Waters Treaty signed by the two countries in 1960.

Responding to the question answer session, Minister for Water Resources said Pakistan has already responded immediately to the matter of notification sent by India to Pakistan regarding changes in Indus Water Treaty. Syed Khurshheed Ahmed urged the government to allocate 15 percent of GDP to cater population resources. In the National Assembly, Federal Minister for Water Resources Khurshheed Shah said country's population has increased which needs water.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Marriott Hotel hosted corporate iftar dinner. Seen in the picture are General Manager Islamabad Marriott Hotel David Richard O'hanlon, General Manager Turkish Airlines, Ali Battal, Director Sales Marriott Qazi Fakhar Rehman, Sales Manager Turkish Airlines Umer Khan.—DNA

'Govt outsourcing airports to company being run by Indians'

In the next 30 years, the country's airports have a potential of generating more than Rs2700bn and we are outsourcing them for Rs850bn

DNA

KARACHI: Aircraft Owners and Operators Association of Pakistan (PAOOA) on Friday opposed the coalition government's "unilateral" decision to outsource country's top airports without following the PPRA rules. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved the draft Transaction Advisory Agreement reached with the International Finance Corporation for outsourcing of three airports. The ECC was informed that the outsourcing of three airports has been initiated within the scope of the Public-Private Partnership Act-2017 to engage private

investor through a competitive and transparent process to run the airports, develop appertaining land assets and enhance avenues for commercial activities and to garner full revenue potential.

In a statement today, the association condemned the government's decision to award contracts to IFC and World Bank (WB) regarding the outsourcing of three airports. "All the proceedings of outsourcing of major airports have been kept secret by government, making the whole process doubtful and dubious," the statement read.

The statement said no country outsources its money-making assets like the airports to a third country which cannot run its

own airport, adding that the government has outsourced its major airports to a Singaporean company which is being run by "Indians". Eventually, it will be Indians managing our major airports, it added.

"In the next 30 years, the country's airports have a potential of generating more than Rs2700bn and we are outsourcing them for Rs850bn," the statement said. It further added that PAOOA Pakistan will serve a legal notice to Govt of Pakistan and the IFC, World Bank for malpractice and dodging the Pakistan laws.

Abu Dhabi trade delegation visits FPCCI Capital Office

The delegation led by the successful businessman of Abu Dhabi Tariq Al Yousafi

met with the Chairman of Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman and the President of Nagar Chamber Haji Qurban Ali at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. During the meeting, they discussed the matter that how to enhance cooperation in investment, economic, commercial and tourism, agriculture, energy, real estate, information technology, food processing, tourism areas and developing joint ventures to strengthening collaboration, a press release said Friday. They agreed to intensify consultation and coordination, geared toward strengthening strategic partnerships to develop tangible and meaningful bilateral Trade cooperation in key areas.

'Govt outsourcing airports to company being run by Indians'

DNA

KARACHI: Aircraft Owners and Operators Association of Pakistan (PAOOA) on Friday opposed the coalition government's "unilateral" decision to outsource country's top airports without following the PPRA rules.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved the draft Transaction Advisory Agreement reached with the International Finance Corporation for outsourcing of three airports. The ECC was informed that the outsourcing of three airports has been initiated within the scope of the Public-Private Partnership Act-2017 to engage private

investor through a competitive and transparent process to run the airports, develop appertaining land assets and enhance avenues for commercial activities and to garner full revenue potential. In a statement today, the association condemned the government's decision to award contracts to IFC and World Bank (WB) regarding the outsourcing of three airports. "All the proceedings of outsourcing of major airports have been kept secret by government, making the whole process doubtful and dubious," the statement read.

The statement said no country outsources its

money-making assets like the airports to a third country which cannot run its own airport, adding that the government has outsourced its major airports to a Singaporean company which is being run by "Indians". Eventually, it will be Indians managing our major airports, it added. "In the next 30 years, the country's airports have a potential of generating more than Rs2700bn and we are outsourcing them for Rs850bn," the statement said. It further added that PAOOA Pakistan will serve a legal notice to Govt of Pakistan and the IFC, World Bank for malpractice and dodging the Pakistan laws.

Azhar Mashwani returns home

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) social media head Azhar Mashwani has returned home. He informed his social media friends, followers and party leadership through his tweet about his safe return home. Azhar

Mashwani said in the tweet that with the grace of Almighty Allah, he has just returned home safe and sound. He paid very thanks to all his well-wishers and said their prayers, efforts and support made him indebted to all of them

forever. The PTI Social Media head also said that they prayed for other captive workers of the party to break their fast with families soon. Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered to produce Azhar Mashwani, the focal person on Digital Media to PTI chief Imran Khan, before court. The Lahore High Court had also summoned record of the case registered against him.—DNA

Chief NADRA inaugurates dedicated helpline for transgender

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Tariq Malik has inaugurated a dedicated helpline with transgender attendants while a number of other initiatives have also been launched by the authority to enhance registration and maximize facilitation for the transgender community. While celebrating the Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) as a special day for processing of transgender persons, he said sensitization training for NADRA personnel was also conducted by Regional Head Offices (RHOs) across the country to strengthen their abilities for providing information and support on obtaining identity documents to members of the transgender community. He said the most unique feature of the dedicated helpline is the deployment of transgender employees

of NADRA to answer the calls, said a news release. "We want to provide a supportive and welcoming environment for transgender persons so that they are able to obtain their identity documents and access the services they need to thrive," he said. Malik said NADRA wanted members of the transgender community to know that the authority supports them and is committed to providing the services they need to assimilate into society. "I hope that this dedicated helpline will go a long way in ensuring that they can claim their rightful place and are able to register and derive dividends from government schemes", Tariq Malik added. This acknowledgement serves to increase visibility and awareness of the issues faced by the transgender community and looks to promote their rights internationally. The Transgender Day of Visibility

(TDOV) is celebrated annually on March 31 to highlight the contributions and struggles of transgender persons around the world. NADRA declared March 31 as a special day for registering transgender persons. The RHOs of NADRA engaged with local organizations for mobilizing transgender persons to register themselves at NADRA Registration Centres and at locally deployed Mobile Registration Vans. A series of Sensitization Sessions will be conducted in all the regions successively throughout this year. In addition to the helpline, NADRA has launched a number of other initiatives for the transgender community, including but not limited to free of cost first Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), the provision of jobs to transgender persons in NADRA, and recognition of a "guru" for registration of transgender persons.

Passport applications backlog to be cleared soon

ISLAMABAD: The passport applications backlog would be completely eliminated in a minimum time as it has been reduced now upto 50 percent. In an announcement here on Friday, the Directorate General Immigration and Passport said that the extraordinary rush and high volume of passport applications in the previous weeks led to an emergency situation as the number of passport applications exceeded the production capacity. Normally we receive about 400,000 applications for passports in a month, which has increased to about 700,000 monthly in the last three months, it added. At its peak, there was a backlog of around 600,000 passports but the Directorate General of Immigration and Passport has taken steps to reduce this backlog by increasing productivity and working in additional hours. The Directorate has been able to reduce the backlog of 600,000 passports to less than 300,000.—APP

Asad Mahmood meets Caretaker CM

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office to discuss road construction and repair projects across Punjab. Both agreed to complete the projects on time to benefit the people. Additionally, they decided to grant limited powers of a price control magistrate to NHA staff to prevent overcharging of food items on highways and establish measures for axle-load control on highways and motorways. The proposal for a coordinated operation to remove encroachments on both sides of GT Road was also discussed, along with plans to expedite the process of issuing fitness certification for vehicles. The CM expressed his plans to launch a joint project with the federal government to link Bahawalpur with the motorway and accelerate the project relating to Imamia Colony Lahore. The NHA has also been approached for the repair and maintenance of the GT stretch of Lahore-Gujranwala. Additionally, the Punjab government will cooperate with the construction of the Muzaffargarh-Mianwali MM Road and work towards resolving public problems through the construction and repair of roads across Punjab.—APP

8 milkmen arrested for adulteration

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar arrested eight milkmen and sealed four shops for milk adulteration on Friday. On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar Shah Fahad, the Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC) Tania Shaheen along with the Veterinary Supervisor of Livestock Department analyzed the sample of milk from 18 shops on Warsak Road by the modern mobile milk testing laboratory. The administration sealed four shops and arrested eight milkmen after proving adulteration of water in their product while more than 210 litres of adulterated and substandard milk was discarded.—APP

Caretaker minister takes notice of jail clash

PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Prisons, Shafiullah Khan has taken notice of clashes among prisoners of the Central Jail Peshawar and sought a report from the Inspector General of Prisons with immediate effect. According to an official handout issued here on Friday, the Caretaker Minister has hinted at stern action against those diluting the environment of prisons and said that similar incidents should not occur again. He directed the jail administration to perform their responsibilities and duties in a better manner and unveil elements involved in such incidents to take action against them.—APP

13 gamblers held during two different raids

WAH CANTT: Police in Taxila and Wah Saddar launched crack down against the gamblers' den and arrested as many as 13 gamblers red handed during the raids. Sources said, Taxila Police acting on a tip off, raided a gambling den on Friday and arrested as many as six persons red handed while gambling. Gambling tools and bet money worth Rs 22 thousand, seven mobile phones and one pistol was also recovered during the raid. Moreover, Wah Saddar Police raided at a gambling den and arrested seven persons red handed while gambling. According to the police sources, a police party, acting on a tip off, raided at the den and arrested seven persons red handed while gambling.—APP

The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING







Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage



Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Karachi
Room No. 54 & 55, 3rd Floor, Kalkhahar Mall,
Main Tariq Road, 179-Block-2, P.E.C.S,
Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3438028, 34310479
Fax: (+92 21) 3431114
E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

Lahore
F-4, Gulberg Centre,
Main Boulevard, Lahore.
Tel: (+92 42) 3575987, 35761081
Fax: (+92 42) 3571142
E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar
Office No. C-3, 2nd Floor, Zafar Plaza,
Laf Aard, Ring Road, Peshawar.
Tel: (+92 91) 2527979
Fax: (+92 91) 2628988
E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Katip
House # 4, Street # 4,
Chand Anzar Road, Shahr-e-Nasr,
Katip - Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 773 81 79780 808, 83 77348 288
E-mail: katip@freelinemovers.com

Briefs

Legislation on card to for social media platforms registration

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan on Friday informed the Senate that the incumbent government was working on legislation to force the social media platforms to register themselves in Pakistan.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said the Prime Minister constituted a National Social Working Committee in August last year to suggest proper legislation in this regard.

He said Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has processed 59253 URLs related to Sectarian/Hate Speech complaints on social media so far. Out of the total complaints 47,674 URLs have been blocked over hate speech till February.

He said the PTA had also blocked the Wikipedia site on the directives of the High Court for 48 hours.

The minister said under section 37 (1) of the PECA Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 ("PECA"), the Authority has been empowered to remove or block or issue directions for removal or blocking of access to information through any information system if it considers it necessary in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, public order, decency or morality, or about contempt of court or commission of or incitement to an offence under PECA. Under section 37 (2) of PECA, the federal Government has approved the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguard), Rules, 2021 ("Rules"), he added.—APP

No major uptick in Covid-19 disease

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro on Friday informed the House that there was no major uptick in Coronavirus disease spread after the new variant's arrival.

Speaking during the question hour of the 51st Session of the National Assembly, the parliamentary secretary apprised the House and the mover of the question in particular on the government measures and the prevailing situation of the contagious disease in the country.

Soomro in response to the query of MNA Asiya Azeem of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), pertaining to the new variant prevalence and new vaccines introduced by Moderna and Pfizer to counter the latest deadly virus variants, said that the pandemic situation was much controlled as compared to the previous waves as no major deaths and critical care admissions were recorded so far.

She added that the previous standard operating procedures (SOPs) of mask-wearing, hand washing and others were intact to contain the disease spread. However, the Covid-19 disease spread ratio was 3 percent at the moment that had earlier spiked up to 9 and 12 percent, she said.

Soomro informed the house that almost 90 percent of the population was vaccinated with Covid-19 vaccine shots and also administered booster doses that helped manage the situation despite consequent disease waves due to different variants. On the supplementary question of MNA Azeem, she said the government had already rolled out vaccine doses for mass vaccination and would continue to do so further as per the need. Moreover, the parliamentary secretary said the government had already started to procure newly modified vaccines if deemed necessary amid emerging Covid-19 variants.

On a question of MNA Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan on poor treatment of heart patients at the Capital's hospital, she replied to the member that an inquiry was initiated to probe the matter, whereas proper action would be taken and report would be shared with him.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor AIOU and Chairman Mass Comm Dept Prof. Saqib Riaz attending one day seminar on the founding role of Heydar Aliyev in development of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations.—DNA

President directs insurance company to pay widow claim

The President further directed the company to pay the insurance claim to the complainant within 30 days of the receipt of the President's order

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed an insurance company to pay the death insurance claim to the widow of a deceased policyholder who was denied payment on the ground that her husband did not wilfully disclose his true health condition to the company at the time of obtaining the policy.

The President gave this decision

while accepting a representation filed by Mst Shehnaz Akhtar (the complainant) against the order of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) whereby the case had been closed and disposed on the ground that the widow had already been refunded the premiums amounting to Rs 150,000 deducted from her late husband's account and since the matter had been settled on compassionate grounds, thus, the company was not liable to pay the death insurance claim. Feeling aggrieved by

the decision of FIO, the complainant filed a representation with the President, which he accepted. In his decision, the President observed that the company repudiated the claim based on the death certificate alleging that it reflected that the deceased had been suffering from Diabetes Mellitus and Chronic Liver Disease since a year before death but no such period had been specified in the certificate. He further noted that the insurance company was relying on an admission chart issued

by a hospital in Lahore which pertained to the year 2017 whereas the policy had been issued in the year 2015, thus, it did not pertain to the insurance period. He also referred to a decision of the Lahore High Court in the year 2009, wherein it had been held that the majority of people having ailments such as hypertension, diabetes and mellitus lived either for decades or longer than people not having such diseases by remaining more careful in their lifetime, and the concealment of such

diseases could not be termed as done fraudulently. The President held that the insurance company was not justified in repudiating the insurance claim on such flimsy grounds. He said that maladministration on the part of the insurance company had been established, therefore, the orders of the FIO were being set aside. The President further directed the company to pay the insurance claim to the complainant within 30 days of the receipt of the President's order.

NUTECH dominates national idea bank competition



DNA

ISLAMABAD: National University of Technology (NUTECH) emerged as the big winner and the only university in Pakistan

at the National Idea Bank (NIB) competition, with four award-winning ideas that impressed judges and industry experts alike. The NIB is the brainchild of President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, to recognize

and support innovative ideas and promote entrepreneurship culture in Pakistan. The final national-level award ceremony was held at The Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET),

Karachi, with Dr. Arif Alvi gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

NUTECH won the NIB National Level Competition in Manufacturing Sector securing both Winner and Runner-Up positions. Similarly, in Automotive Sector, NUTECH innovators and young entrepreneurs had the honour to secure both 1st and 2nd Runner-Up positions. Rector Lt Gen Moazzam Ejaz congratulated all participants in the competition and highly appreciated the award winners who brought further laurels to University's efforts to become best education institute for the country.

CDA to auction commercial plots

ISLAMABAD: The capital Development Authority (CDA) is all set to auction commercial plots in various developed sectors of the federal capital, beginning on May 3, aiming to generate more revenue for the city and attract investors to participate in the auction. Talking to APP, an official in the authority urged interested investors to participate in the auction, which will take place at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad. The development is expected to have a significant impact on the commercial estate market in the capital city. He said the auction in various sectors of the Islamabad capital territory would continue till May 5, adding that the authority has already publicized the auction schedule of various plots in different newspapers. The official said that the real estate experts have announced it as a must-avail investment opportunity for investors nationwide and overseas. The participants investing in the public sale can possess commercial plots with 'legal protection.' The details about the commercial plots located in the developed sectors of the federal capital included various centres, agro farms, petrol pumps, E-11 northern strip, Class-III shopping centre, Park Enclave commercial and Blue Area E-11/F-11, Canopy side, he added.—APP

Imran wants to damage political system: Javed Latif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Friday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and his party constantly misguiding the public about government strategy as he wants to damage the political system of the country. Talking to a private news channel, he said that Imran Khan was found involved in attacking national institutions to regain power, adding that Pakistan was facing economic turmoil due to his weak policies.

The coalition government had invited Imran Khan many times for talks to discuss the issues but he always refused. Today, we need to work for the unification and well-being of Pakistan, he said. The coalition government would not allow any person to spread anarchy in the country, he added. In reply to a question, he said Imran Khan should go to court to face money laundering and foreign funding cases.

Imran Khan should respect the courts and obey the law of the country, he added. He said that the government would continue its efforts for the welfare of the people.

Chery promotes winter sports in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese automobile brand Chery and its local partner Ghandhara Nissan Ltd and Gulhukh Winter Club are actively engaged in promoting winter sports in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Chery's support for sports in Pakistan extends far beyond ice hockey. Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, President of Pakistan Baseball Association, appreciated Chery Pakistan and Ghandhara Nissan for sponsoring the

15th West Asia Base Cup and their future plan to promote sports in Pakistan, stating that developing sports in the country will ultimately benefit Pakistan. Rabia Kuli Khan Khattak, COO of Ghandhara Nissan Ltd, was delighted to see the Chinese element active in the stadium where the Pakistani people were passionate and sweating. She said that "Chery and Ghandhara have carried out sports marketing in Pakistan and achieved remarkable results. The campaigns transmit our brand concepts of green and scientific

technology and advocate for the general public to develop green, healthy and active life habits. In the future, we will continue to support sports activities in Pakistan and strive to realize more children's sports dreams." The fourth season of Pakistan Winter Sports Festival was organized earlier this year Chery and its local partner where 18 men's and 5 women's teams played ice hockey with enthusiasm. It has become the most influential winter sports event in the country, with skating, ice hockey and other games becoming the favorites

of many participants and spectators. Before the private-label backing, kids had to use their own earnings to buy ice hockey equipment. "Chery's sponsorship of these young people's dreams provides a broader platform for us and the whole country. Chery's role as a major sponsor of the event has boosted children's enthusiasm and confidence in participating in sports," Qadir Karim said, adding that "Chery's Tiggo 4 and Tiggo 8 that have hit the Pakistani market are both sporty vehicles that can be a symbol of Pak-China friendship in sports."

Lack of transparency in diplomatic missions

The prisoner exchange agreement between Pakistan, Malaysia and Thailand, which is intended to facilitate the transfer of prisoners between the countries, has not been implemented

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The plight of Pakistani expatriates in Thailand and Malaysia is a cause for serious concern. Many of these individuals have been imprisoned for years due to a lack of diplomatic cooperation, while others face significant challenges due to corruption and poor policy.

Despite the presence of Pakistani diplomatic officials in both countries, little has been done to address the issues faced by Pakistani citizens. One major problem is the misuse of funds intended for the Pakistani community. The Community Welfare Fund received by the Pakistani High Com-

mission in Kuala Lumpur and the Pakistani Embassy in Bangkok is being pocketed by diplomatic officials instead of being spent on the needs of Pakistani citizens. Additionally, the number of Pakistani diplomats in these countries is significantly lower than that of India, which has resulted in a lack of support for Pakistani expatriates. Despite repeated complaints from Pakistani expatriates, these officials have failed to take action to address the issues faced by their fellow citizens. This stands in stark contrast to the Indian diplomatic staff in these countries, who are known for providing comprehensive support to Indian citizens. One major issue is the difficulty Pakistani citizens face in obtaining entry to

Thailand and Malaysia. Unlike Indian citizens, who receive visa-on-arrival and easy entry, Pakistani citizens are often turned away at the airport and deported back to their home country. This has resulted in significant financial losses for Pakistani citizens, as well as damage to the reputation of Pakistani passports. Despite all of these challenges, the Pakistani High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur and the Ambassador in Bangkok have failed to take action. They are known for their reluctance to meet with Pakistani citizens face-to-face, instead opting to listen to complaints through the e-Kachheri platform, which many villagers or non

educated people find difficult to use. The situation is dire for Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Thailand and Malaysia, who suffer from a lack of access to medication and financial support. The prisoner exchange agreement between Pakistan, Malaysia and Thailand, which is intended to facilitate the transfer of prisoners between the countries, has not been implemented. It is time for the Pakistani government to take action on behalf of its citizens in Thailand and Malaysia. It is only through concerted effort and a commitment to transparency and accountability that the honor of Pakistani passports can be restored, and the rights of Pakistani citizens protected.

Five more tests positive in RWP

RAWALPINDI: Five more people were diagnosed with fatal Coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's confirmed cases to 47,840.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Friday, the infected cases included 44,175 from Rawalpindi and 3,665 from other districts.

Among the new cases, two of each cases had arrived from Potohar town and Rawalpindi Cantonment area while one case reported from Taxila. "Presently, 28 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes while no one at any district health facility", the report added.

The report further said that 7,006,011 people, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 330 samples were collected, of which 325 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 1.52 per cent.—APP

FPSC recommended 2161, 2293 candidates

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan on Friday apprised the Senate that Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) recommended 2161 candidates for appointments against advertised vacancies in 2021 which included 221 officers from Balochistan as per the provincial quota.

In response to a question during the Question Hour, the minister said that FPSC recommended 2293 candidates against advertised vacancies in 2022 which included 133 officers from Balochistan. As many as 30 seats could not be filled, he added.—APP

Daily 25 paediatric eye surgeries are performed at Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital

RAWALPINDI: The prevalence of glaucoma in children is increasing at a rapid pace in Pakistan which require proper intervention, Al-Shifa Trust eye hospital said Friday.

Glaucoma in children is a vision-threatening condition and is highly prevalent in our population. This may be due to the high incidence of consanguinity or family marriages in Pakistan, it said.

Timely medication and surgical treatment can help control this disease with a good visual outcome and can save many children from lifelong visual disability or blindness. Prof. Dr. Sumaira Altaf, Head of the Paediatric department at Al-Shifa Trust, said that glaucoma in children has become a growing cause of concern worldwide and in Pakistan as millions are suffering from it. Treatment of glaucoma in children needs specialised medical and surgical care and frequent follow-ups hence parents of children suffering from childhood Glaucoma have to face psychological and financial stress, she added.

Dr. Sumaira Altaf said that Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital provides free of cost medical and surgical treatment to 80 percent of patients who are treated by experienced and skilled Paediatric Ophthalmologists. On average 22 to 25 paediatric eye surgeries are performed daily including various types of surgeries for glaucoma, she informed.

The successful treatment of these patients has resulted in a high number of referrals to the trust's hospital from all over the country. A large number of cases of paediatric glaucoma have secondary causes either due to trauma, previous eye surgery, associated eye anomalies or injudicious use of steroids. Dr Sumaira highlighted that the vision of many unfortunate children has been compromised because of the careless use of over-the-counter steroid eye drops. Moreover, harmful medicines are frequently prescribed by salesmen at pharmacies.—DNA

