

Daily Islamabad POST

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No additional troop deployment at LoC, says DG ISPR

Uzbekistan envoy lauds Islamabad Post's contribution

Warmth and Opportunities in Pak-Morocco Ties



Briefs

Monsoon from coming next Friday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday has informed that moderate monsoon spell is likely to penetrate in upper and central parts of the country from Friday (evening/night) and will strengthen on Saturday. A westerly wave is also expected to enter upper parts of the country on Saturday. Rain/wind-thundershowers (with few heavy falls) are expected in Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Friday (evening/night) to Tuesday. Current prevailing hot and humid weather conditions are likely to subside during the period. Rain-thundershowers with dust raising winds are also expected in Eastern parts of Balochistan (Zhob, Barkhan, Loralai, Musa khel, Sibbi and Kohlu) and parts of Sindh (Sukkur, Jacobabad, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas) during Saturday (evening) and Monday.

PIA, CAA will emerge better than ever from crisis: Zaidi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi on Thursday said that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will go through a thorough cleanup phase. Addressing a press conference alongside Information Minister Shibli Faraz and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Shahzad Akbar said that he was hopeful that the national flight carrier will emerge from this crisis as a top airline of the world, he also said that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will also be among the top aviation authorities post cleanup. Zaidi said that those who have gotten out of turn promotions or were illegally appointed to an office will be severely dealt with in CAA and PIA; "the matter of the fake license holding pilots would soon be wrapped up and reaches its logical conclusion," he added. He also said that the government is introducing a new aviation policy, he went on to reveal that pilot licensing was revised in the year 2010 and after that many licenses were found to be against the revisions or questionable. "After an investigation, 54 pilots were banned and no one will be spared on the basis of their political connections, it's the politicians that destroyed the institute in the first place," said Ali Zaidi.

Brutalities of India need to be exposed

Heart wrenching picture of the three-year-old boy in Sopore will forever remain seared in the imagination of all those who believe in humanity, human rights and fundamental freedoms: Aisha

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday condemned the continued brutalization of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Office Spokesperson, Aisha Farooqi, in a weekly news briefing said images of India's brutalization were flashed across the world yesterday depicting the level of callousness and inhumanity meted out by Indian occupation forces. She said the heart wrenching picture of the three-

Pakistan repatriates 113,154 nationals

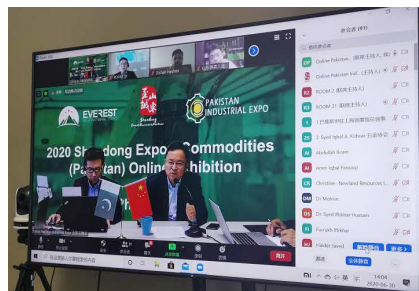
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Thursday that 113,154 nationals had been repatriated who were stranded abroad due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Pakistan started repatriation of its nationals in March in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in different parts of the world. - DNA

year-old boy in Sopore will forever remain seared in the imagination of all those who believe in humanity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. India cannot wash away the truth by fake news and turning its propaganda machinery faster, she added. The spokesperson said ceasefire violations along the Line of Control by Indian security forces continue unabated. She said 1546 ceasefire violations in the first 6 months of 2020 have occurred, resulting in 14 martyrdoms and serious injuries to 114 innocent civilians. Continued on Page 6

Pakistan, China launch 'Shandong online fair'

DNA

BEIJING: The online launching ceremony of 2020 Shandong Export Online Fair (Round II) was held in Jinan, China, demonstrating a creative way of engaging international business during the COVID-19 lockdown, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistani Consulate General in Shanghai, Wang Zihai, president of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), Iqbal Kidwai, Secretary-General of Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers' Association (PCMA), Muhammad Nadeem Zafar, vice president of Pakistan Hardware Association and others attended the online opening ceremony. As per Mr. Hussain Haider, online negotiation for international business will become a new normal as the COVID-19 pandemic dealt the events industry a blow. The Online fair has provided an opportunity for enterprises from Pakistan and China to do business with each other. He further mentioned that China has be-



come Pakistan's largest trading partner, largest country of origin for imports, largest foreign direct investor and its third-largest export destination, while Pakistan has become China's largest investment destination in South Asia due to the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The exhibition is hosted by Shandong Provincial Department of Commerce. Pakistani Consulate General in Shanghai, Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers' Association (PCMA), Pakistan Hardware Merchants Association (PHMA), etc. have provided great support to the event.

Malaysia seeks Pak pilots' record

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) has asked Pakistani authorities to provide information of pilots employed by the operator in view of recent reports of fake licences. The Malaysian aviation authority warned to revoke licences of pilots who were issued licences by Pakistani operator if CAA failed to verify the information. In its letter sent by CAAM deputy director of the flight operations division, CAA has been asked to submit the information of the pilots' licences by July 3. CAAM also issued directives to local operators to 'temporarily suspend their pilot who is issued with Pakistan pilot licence from operating flights until their licences

can be verified by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority. Once verification has been carried out, the CAAM will inform operators for their reinstatement immediately.' The letter, obtained by ARY News, sought complete details of Pakistani pilots employed at 11 local institutions. It also stated that the Pakistani authorities should also provide the permission letter issued to the pilots by CAAM, as well as that the information of licence transfer to Malaysian licences. The action of Malaysian aviation authority was followed by the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) that had sought details of the pilots' licences from Pakistan. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Vazken Kavlakian, Charge d' Affaires of Lebanon in Pakistan called on Acting Dean of Arab countries and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Al Makhzoumi.. On this occasion Ambassador Khadija thanked Vazken for sparing time and offered best wishes for His Excellency health and happiness. - DNA

Thirty Taliban killed

DNA

KABUL: The Afghan forces Killed at least 30 Taliban militants in Helmand, Maidan Wardak, and Balkh provinces during the clash. The Defense Ministry said on Thursday that the militants stormed security outposts of the Afghan forces in Grishk and Nadali districts on Wednesday night. He stated that "at least 13 Taliban fighters were killed in Sarband and Yakhal areas in Grishk and five more were killed in the Nahre Bughra area of Nadali in the counterattack." The Minister added that five Taliban dead bodies have remained on the battlefield. Meanwhile, the Taliban attacked Afghan forces in the Mohammad Quli area in Jaghatu district of Maidan Wardak province which faced "fierce resistance" by Afghan forces. The Ministry of Defense added, as a result, 9 Taliban militants were killed and a vehicle and a motorbike of the group were destroyed.

Monsoon will decrease coronavirus cases: Mirza

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The number of coronavirus cases in the country is declining and will go down even further during the monsoon season, says Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza. He said the reason for this was the smart lockdown imposed in different areas across the country, according to Radio Pakistan. He did not, however, clarify how the monsoon would lead to a decline in COVID-19 cases. As of Thursday Pakistan has reported 217,809 coronavirus cases and 4,473 deaths, according to the government's official COVID-19 portal.

No additional troop deployment at LoC

DNA

DG ISPR Maj. Gen Babar also denied any presence of Chinese troops in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar Thursday said Indian news of Pakistan Army's additional deployment along the Line of Control (LoC) and use of Skardu Airbase by China is false, irresponsible and far from truth. Major General Babar Ift-

ikhar tweeted, "News circulating in Indian electronic and social media claiming additional deployment of Pakistan Army troops along LOC in GB and alleged use of Skardu Airbase by China is false, irresponsible and far from truth." "No such movement or induction of additional forces has taken place. We also vehemently deny presence of Chinese troops in Pakistan."

Minus one formula is brainchild of mafia

Shibili says opposition all moves against govt bound to fail

FIYAZ CHAUDHARY

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz Wednesday said minus one formula was the brainchild of corrupt political forces aiming to destabilize the government. He, in a talk show on a private news channel, said they must know that all the cabinet members, parliamentarians and workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were standing by the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

ing it public which was the first instance in the political history of the country. He said action would be taken against the elements identified in the report after sensitizing the FBR, SECP, State Bank and other related institutions. To a question about the briefing of aviation minister regarding the restructuring of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the minister said as media person, politician and minister, his statement needed to be carefully viewed in the context of ground realities. He said irregularities were made at Civil Aviation Authority level as the sanctioning of papers of the pilots was doubtful. Although, it would not be suitable to disclose the number of terminated pilots at this forum, however, five pilots were chargesheeted after completion of all codal formalities, he expressed. To another question, he said the government had plan to invite European aviation agency for the investigation purposes and introducing reforms in the PIA to make it a splendid airline of an international standard.

Torkham, Chaman master plans shared with Afghanistan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador (R) Muhammad Sadiq said that Pakistan shared Torkham and Chaman border terminal master plans with Afghanistan to enable concurrent and complementary development on the Afghan side. In his tweets, he stated that "In the spirit of brotherly cooperation and regional connectivity, Pakistan shared Torkham and Chaman border terminal master plans with Afghanistan to enable concurrent and complementary development on Afghan side." He further added that "An enhanced compatibility in trade infrastructure on both sides will help realise the shared goal of optimum trade, connectivity and people to people facilitation between the two countries."

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Uzbekistan envoy lauds Islamabad Post's contribution

Col Saad, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy says Daily Islamabad Post, CENTRELINE journal and Diplomatic News Agency have made praiseworthy contributions towards strengthening the Pakistan-Uzbek relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Charge d'Affaires at Embassy of Uzbekistan COL. Saadulla A Tashmatov has greeted the editor Daily Islamabad Post and Diplomatic, CENTRELINE journal and News Agency, Ansar Mehmood Bhatti on his contributions towards strengthening the Pakistan-Uzbek relations. In a letter, the Uzbek charge d'affaires said that every year on June 27, Uzbekistan celebrates media workers' day, we congratulate every representative of Uzbek as well as Pakistani journalists on their contributions to the development of Uzbek-Pakistani relations. It added that there is no doubt that active work of the diplomatic mission is inconceivable without strong shoulder of a brother journalist. We are grateful to your responsiveness, care and sincerity that you render to us. Despite the difficult period when the pandemic has swept



the world, your firm support and assistance in properly reporting on pressing problems, achievements and victories are worthy of strong respect and honor.



achievements and victories are worthy of strong respect and honor.

The Uzbek charge d'Affaires said that we are convinced that your professionalism and sincere desire to elevate Uzbek-Pakistani relations to a new qualitative level will continue to serve as inspiration in the development and strengthening of cooperation between the two brotherly states. The Uzbek Charge d'Affaires then wished Ansar Mehmood Bhatti for great achievements, good health and success in his endeavors and family happiness. It may be mentioned here that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoy excellent relations in all fields. Bilateral relations between the two countries have witnessed some marked progress in past few years. Ambassador Furqat Sidikov who has recently been appointed as the Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan played central role in bringing both countries even closer. It is expected that his predecessor COL. Saadulla A Tashmatov, the Charge d'Affaires will put in his best efforts to maintain this momentum and further promote and strengthen bilateral relations.

Sindh refuses to introduce uniform syllabus

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh government has decided against introducing a uniform syllabus devised by the federal government in the province and said that devising curriculum was a provincial prerogative. A meeting of the education department chaired by Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah reviewed a proposal to introduce a uniform syllabus across the country. Speaking during the meeting, Education Minister Saeed Ghani said that the federal government had conveyed them the contents of a syllabus to be introduced in the country.

Briefs

Smart lockdown only solution: Dr Zafar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza Wednesday said the smart lockdown was only the solution to control the spread of COVID-19 and to improve the national economy. The number of coronavirus cases was decreasing while monsoon season would further help reduce the cases in the country, he said while talking to a private news channel. As many as 128 laboratories had been established across the country, he said adding the people should go to hospitals and laboratories for the COVID-19 tests. He further said the government was taking actions against the medical stores and private laboratories for overcharging the people. Reply to a question, he said children could be affected from the pandemic in the same way as elders got affected from it. — APP

Haleem urges Bilawal to focus on Sindh's sufferings

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Vice President Haleem Adil Sheikh has asked PPP Chairman Bilawal to take notice of the sufferings of Sindh province, especially Larkana. Addressing a press conference here Thursday, flanked by PTI leader and Sindh Baitul Mal president Hunaid Lakhani, Saifullah Abro, Jam Farooq Ahmed, Agha Arslan Ahmed and others, he said Bilawal should focus on Sindh, especially Larkana. He said Saifullah Abro is our senior leader. He said the rulers of Sindh are corrupt and inept. He said people of Sindh face water shortage. He said many children died in Thar due to hunger and diseases. He said Sindh irrigation department is a glaring example of corruption and mismanagement of PPP government. — APP

'EOBI pension increase will benefit workers'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Thursday said the decision of increasing Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) pension will benefit thousands of workers. The federal minister thanked Zulfi Bukhari in a tweet and said "this decision of the Ministry of Labor for increasing pensionary amount will benefit thousands of workers". He extended special congratulations to the workers of Pind Dadan Khan and Khehra. Chaudhry Fawad said, hopefully this month we will be able to start EOBI's Khehra office. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said the decision to implement Provincial Finance Award is a big step towards fundamental reforms in the country. The districts will no longer need to depend on provincial governments for their share of development funds but the provincial resources will be distributed according to the constitutional formula, Chaudhry Fawad said in a tweet. — APP

Pakistan Navy capable enough to match challenges, says Naval chief



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and addressed the course participants of 49th PN Staff Course. On his arrival, the Naval Chief was received by Commandant PN War College Rear Admiral Muhammad Zubair

Shafique. While addressing the course participants, Chief of the Naval Staff dilated upon evolving geo-strategic environment and its interplay with prevalent security dynamics and focus on maritime security challenges. While focusing on threat perception, the Admiral dwelled on various initiatives and developmental plans in line with his vision for Pakistan Navy to be a formidable regional maritime power.

The Naval Chief also underscored Pakistan Navy capabilities to deal with both traditional and non-traditional challenges by ensuring Combat Readiness, instituting effective measures in ideological domain while catapulting Pakistan's maritime sector to promote our maritime interests. Chief of the Naval Staff advised the Course participants to instill Pakistan

Navy's core values of Faith, Character, Courage and Commitment in their noble and demanding profession and draw inspirations from true Islamic values and ideology of Pakistan. Preceding to the address by Chief of the Naval Staff, a panel of Course participants presented Research Paper on 'Hindutva Ideology and its fallout on Muslims of India and Pakistan'. The Admiral appreciated the efforts of

Pakistan Navy War College for providing the academic stimulus and honing professional knack of the course participants. Pakistan Navy War College is the apex training institute of Pakistan Navy inculcating professional staff and military training to officers of Pakistan Navy, Sister Services and friendly countries for assuming future key Command and Staff appointments.

EID-UL-AZHA 2020
NIH issues health advisory

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) in its advisory has warned that the movement of sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha could amplify the risk of coronavirus spreading as crowds are expected to gather in markets to buy animals. The NIH added these animals also risk spreading the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) due to increased human-animal interaction, commonly found in these animals. Recognising the threats, the Field Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Division (FEDSD) of NIH has issued an advisory, alerting various stakeholders including human and animal healthcare providers to take timely steps for the prevention and control of CCHF and COVID-19.

The advisory lists several instructions that need to be adopted for the prevention and control of CCHF since there is currently no vaccine available for the disease. The instructions include use of full sleeves and light coloured clothes, gloves, face masks, and hand sanitizers, practising of social distancing during a visit to cattle markets; frequent hand-washing and hand sanitization to disinfect and clean hands; avoidance of all crowded places including large family gatherings during Eid and sacrifice of animals; and thorough washing of hands with soap after coming in contact with animals or their blood. Moreover, NIH has also issued its 48th Seasonal Awareness and Alert Letter (SAAL) for epidemic-prone infectious diseases. — APP

'India committing worst HR violations in IoK'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs Ali Amin Gandapur Thursday said that the world must stop Indian brutalities as the atrocities of the occupying forces are increasing day by day in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoJK). Condemning the recent killing of a civilian in front of his 3-year-old grandson by the Indian forces in the Sopore area of IoJK, he said, the heart-wrenching photo of a toddler crying on the chest of his dead grandfather speaks volumes about India's fascism and its racial undercurrents. He added that the picture of the toddler looking shell-shocked on the blood-soaked corpse of his dead grandfather was sufficient enough to stir the world's conscience. — APP

CGSS, Punjab Varsity agree to enhance cooperation

It was also decided that both the institutions will jointly work on Belt & Road Initiative encompassing different aspects of BRI

DNA

LAHORE: CGSS team headed by Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad met with Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) - Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore at Lahore. During the meeting, it was decided that University of the Punjab and CGSS will jointly collaborate to enhance cooperation and research with regional countries. It was also decided that both the institutions will jointly work on Belt & Road Initiative encompassing different aspects of BRI.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, leader of the opposition in Senate, exchanging views with Egyptian Ambassador Tarek Dahroug at parliament house. — DNA

BMG urges Sindh government to revoke lockdown extension

KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Siraj Kassam Teli and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan, while strongly rejecting the extension in lockdown up to July 15, urged the Sindh Government to immediately revoke the relevant notification and allow all types of businesses to operate at full capacity which is the only way to save the economy and the businesses from total collapse.

In a statement issued, Chairman BMG Siraj Kassam Teli stated that various businesses including restaurants, hotels, marriage halls, beauty parlors, cinema houses, business centers, sports facilities, and educational institutes etc. have remained completely closed since last four consecutive months that has resulted in plunging all these businesses on the verge of complete collapse. "These businesses are already going through terrible crises and further extension in the lockdown would wipe them out forever that would lead to further intensifying the hardships not only for the business community but also for the already ailing economy, besides triggering massive unemployment which would prove more dangerous than the coronavirus pandemic."

Siraj Teli, therefore, stressed that the extension in lockdown must immediately be withdrawn while the administration should be effectively utilized for strict implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

"If the administration is able to strictly get the lockdown enforced then why it is not being used for strict implementation of SOPs", he asked, adding that the Sindh government will have to alleviate the predicament of businessmen instead of aggravating them.

"On one hand the federal and provincial governments have not provided any relief to these businesses while on the other, the Sindh government has issued COVID-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance 2020 which compels the businessmen and industrialists to retain their employees and keep on paying salaries while the businesses should remain closed. It has created a very odd situation when neither any income is being generated nor financial relief has been provided by the government which happens nowhere around the world. — APP

CCP achieves major milestones during Fiscal Year 2019-20

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in the fiscal year 2019-20, has processed and granted approval to 59 Merger & Acquisition applications against the annual target of 50, showing the CCP's promising performance to facilitate the local and foreign investors despite the limitations caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total 59 approvals, 51 were Acquisitions, 5 Mergers and 3 Joint Ventures applications. The major sectors where these mergers and acquisitions

took place include automotive, household products, food, sugar, oil, power, freight, LNG, insurance, agriculture, coal mining, logistics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, petroleum, healthcare, leasing, plastic, textile, hospitality, financial services, digital payments, mobile phone, investment, IT - Hardware, wind power, and microfinance banking. Moreover, the CCP also processed and granted Exemptions to 43 undertakings under the Section 5 of Competition Act, 2010. CCP grants exemptions to notified agreements between companies from the prohibition of Section 4 of

the Competition Act, on the basis of an individual assessment. Restrictive agreements qualify for exemption if their benefits to general welfare (product improvement, technical or economic progress, benefits to consumer) outweigh their restrictive effects on competition. During the outgoing fiscal year, the CCP complete 14 enquiries, issued 78 Show cause notices, and passed 15 orders. An important enquiry was concluded in the matter of alleged bid rigging in the tenders issued by Power Distribution companies for the procurement of Line

Hardware material. Similarly, the CCP issued hearing notices to 39 sugar mills in the matter of show cause notices issued to the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association and its member sugar mills in 2009 for cartelization. These sugar mills had not challenged the CCP's show cause notices, but legal action had not been started against them in the past. Even in the challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic, the CCP ensured its smooth functioning by extending facilitation to the stakeholders. An Online Merger and Acquisition Application filing system was launched to facilitate the

local and foreign investors in filing merger applications online. Furthermore, to ensure health and safety of the respondents amid COVID-19, the parties have been allowed to respond to the show-cause notices issued to them in the hearings using video conferencing and other online tools. An online application for granting exemptions has also been prepared and will be launched soon. The CCP issued a Policy Note to the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) asking for an immediate reinstatement of the cost audit of companies (particularly, Cement, Sug-

ar, Vegetable Ghee/Cooking Oil, Fertilizer, and Wheat flour companies), so that credible and verified cost information is available to assist in factual (rather than speculative) policy making. In order to curb the bid rigging in tenders and public procurements, the CCP has prepared an in-house IT-based Bid Rigging Analysis and Detection (BRAD) system to help detect signs of collusion in the bidding process. On the legal front, the Islamabad and Lahore High Courts have resumed hearings in the cases wherein the CCP's constitutionality has been challenged by the undertakings.

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Briefs

Attack on stock exchange condemned

DNA

ATTOCK: Central President of National Peace Commission for Interfaith Harmony Sehban Arif Sehba Strongly condemns the cowardly act of terrorists on the Karachi Stock Exchange. He said that Pakistani forces and intelligence agencies would continue to crack down on terrorists who were harming Pakistan's integrity. Strongly condemns cowardly act of terrorist attack on Karachi Stock Exchange He will carry out the great mission of serving the homeland with more diligence and dedication God willing. We are grateful to all the institutions whose timely security measures have saved us from any major tragedy. Praise be to God. We pay tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in this heinous act of terrorism and pray to Allah Almighty for their high ranks. May you always be safe and secure and protect the Holy Land.

UNFPA to assist Pak in population development strategies

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will extend technical assistance to the government to formulate population development strategies and their onward implementation in the country. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar and UNFPA Country Representative Lina Mousa signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday in this regard, said a news release issued by the office of Usman Dar who leads two flagship initiatives of the government on youth including the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Program and Corona Relief Tiger Force. The MoU was aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms to integrate youth voices into national development policies and processes. It would formalize cooperation between Kamyab Jawan Programme and UNFPA for the empowerment and well-being of the youth. — APP

WSSCA completes disinfection spray

ABBOTTABAD: A disinfectant spray campaign is underway in Abbottabad to eradicate germs and prevent corona outbreak by ensuring safety to the public in various public places here on Thursday. Teams from Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA) Thursday completed disinfectant sprays at various places in the city on the instructions of the district administration including Nazeer Teaching Hospital Kaihal, Colony Benazir Teaching Hospital Kaihal, Ehsas Cash Distribution Center, Government Degree College No. 01, Sabzi Mandi and Sehlah Orman Bazar. — APP

IRSA releases 317,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 317,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 320,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tabela Dam was 1461.99 feet, which was 75.99 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 148,200 cusecs and outflow as 170,000 cusecs. — APP

Sector G 14/1 allottees to get possession in Dec this year

District Administration launched full scale operation on Tuesday July 1 against the illegal settlers. Consequent upon this operation the illegal settlers attacked the police and Foundation staff. A senior police officer received injuries in this scuffle

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Govt Employees Housing Foundation has announced to handover possession plots of G 14 sub sector 1 to the owners in December this year. According to FGEHF sources, arrangements in this regard are being given final shape. Sources further said that development work in sub sector 2 and 3 is under way at a full pace. Sources said that the Foundation has determined to get the land vacated at all cost from the illegal occupants. In this regard, the Foundation with the help of the District Administration launched full scale operation on Tuesday July 1 against the illegal settlers. Consequent upon this operation the illegal settlers attacked the police and Foundation staff. A

senior police officer received injuries in this scuffle. The Foundation administration made it clear to all illegal occupants operation against them will continue till the time the entire sector is got vacated. It may be mentioned here The Federal Govt Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF) has given 15 days to all illegal settlers in Sector G 14 to pack up and vacate the place. The final notice was given through an advertisement published in all leading newspapers of Pakistan a few days ago asking all illegal occupants to vacate land as the Foundation has already paid to them for their built up properties. The notice further says that if occupants will not remove their settlements or debris, after 15 days the district administration shall then do so through a full

Allottees body resent attack on govt officials

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the G 14 allottees body has condemned attack on the govt officials. The body expressed concern over this incident and termed it interference in official matter. The body also demanded of the concerned authorities to take action against such elements. The body noted with deep concern that the matter of G 14 development was pending since 2004 therefore it should not be resolved. — DNA

scale operation. The notice further said that the Foundation had surveyed 406 built up properties in Sector G 14-1,2 and 3 and paid to the occupants. "It has been observed that despite receiving amounts the occupants have failed to vacate land. After 15 days if these settlements are not removed, the

administration shall launch operation. The administration shall not be responsible for any loss whatsoever as a result of this operation", the notice further reads. It may be mentioned here that the Federal Govt Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF) had announced that 15 year old issue of development of Sector

G 14 shall be resolved by end of April 2020. The FGEHF further said that measurement target in Sector G 14/1 had also been set and responsibilities assigned in this regard. The housing foundation had made this announcement in response to a number of queries emanating from Prime Minister's Citizen Portal regarding development of Sector G 14 and its sub sectors. The G 14 sector was announced in 2004 but due to illegal Built Up Properties (BUP) it could not be developed. The foundation further said land for Sector G 14/1,2,3 was acquired by the DC office Islamabad vide an award under Section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 in January 2005. The award for Built up Property in G 14/3 could only be announced in 2014 and supplement

ary award in 2017. Almost 70 per cent of the area of Sector G 14/3 has been got vacated and development work is being executed on the site. It further stated, the measurements for BUP are being conducted in Sector G 14/2 and award of BUPs in G 14/2 was done in February 2020. Similarly measurements for BUP have already started in G 14/1 and award of BUPs is expected by 31 March 2020. Earlier, FGEHF had decided to accommodate settlers of G 14/1 to G 15 and a summary in this connection was forwarded to the concerned authorities for approval. Many people who were allotted plots in this particular sector have died while majority of the allottees has sold out plots because they had lost hopes of early development of this sector.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of residents of I-9 Sector busy in filling their pots with drinking water from filtration plant. — APP

Rescue 1122 aided 2209 people in June

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Emergency Services, Rescue 1122 provided timely emergency care to 2209 victims while responding to 2325 emergencies in different areas of the district during month of June. District Emergency Officer (DEO) Rescue 1122, Rawalpindi Dr Abdul Rahman chaired a monthly review meeting and directed the Rescue Officers to ensure quality emergency care to the residents without any discrimination within shortest possible time. The data revealed that the incidents occurred in district included 737 road traffic accidents, 1123 medical emergencies, 76 fire emergencies, 98 crime calls. — APP

Tiger Force committed to serving people with Patriotism: DC

DNA

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Meeting With Focal Persons Of PM Tiger Force Volunteers on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamer has said that the Volunteers of Tiger Force in District are playing their positive role in creating awareness among the people for the prevention of Corona epidemic. Tiger Force Volunteers are fully assisting the district administration in implementing the SOPs, he said this while presiding over a

meeting with representatives of Tiger Force Volunteers of Good Governance across the district. The Deputy Commissioner said that the Volunteers of the Tiger Force are committed to serving the people with patriotism. He further said that more than 8,000 youths from all over the district have registered themselves. In the Tiger Force, out of which about 10,000 youths have approached them from all over the district. The DC said that Tiger Force Volunteers are serving. According to their abilities and performing their duties at Ehsas Centers in the district. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Assistant Commissioners to work with Tiger Force Volunteers in their tehsils to the best of their ability. Earlier, Focal Person Tiger Force volunteer. While giving a briefing, said that volunteers of Tiger Force present at Ehsas Centers, Mosques, Imambargahs, Bazaars And other public places. In this regard, they are not only providing awareness. But also playing their full role in implementing the SOP issued by the government.

The nation is with the Pak Army

MUNIR FAISAL

ATTOCK: Special Advisor to Prime Minister for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that anti-national elements are trying unsuccessfully to disturb peace in Pakistan. The entire nation is with Pakistan Army, Police and other security personnel against terrorism for the sake of the nation We salute those who sacrificed their lives. Their sacrifices will not be in vain. Those who attacked the stock exchange are the enemies of peace. We openly condemn this cowardly incident and want to convince the enemy that Pakistanis The nation knows how to confront the enemy forces.

RCCI inks MOU with Eilya Care Foundation

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Eilya Care Foundation Pakistan inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop a liaison between the plasma donation organization and the patient aiming to provide service to the business community associated with Rawalpindi chamber during COVID-19. Dr. Nadia Raza, CEO Eilya Care Foundation Pakistan and Saboor Malik, President, RCCI signed and exchanged the documents at a ceremony held at Chamber House Rawalpindi here on Thursday which was also attended by senior vice president Noshwan Khalil Khan, Vice President Hamza Sarosh, amongst others. Speaking on the occasion, Saboor Malik, President, RCCI, said, "RCCI has al-

ways envisioned providing services to the business community and has already initiated many projects for the welfare and growth of the community. He said that RCCI has noticed a communication gap between the families of COVID-19 patients and the recovered patients who were willing to donate the plasma. To bridge this gap we came up with an idea to make a close liaison and a platform that brings the willing donors and those looking for plasma together, he added. Dr. Nadia Raza said that this MOU will help in identification of Plasma donors and also provide relief for the patients. Under the agreement, RCCI and EILYA Care will create an awareness drive regarding plasma donation. Both parties will share and assist in communication coordination and information sharing necessary to provide support to the COVID-19 patients of Rawalpindi.

Government spends Rs. 254.95 bln on social protection schemes

ISLAMABAD: The present government has spent an amount of Rs.254.95 billion for different social protection and poverty alleviation schemes under Ehsas Programme. The biggest undergraduate scholarship programme of country's history was initiated on November 4, 2019 under which Rs. 4.8 billion has been provided to 50,500 students through Higher Education Commission. Ehsas interest free loans launched from July 05, 2019 has provided loans worth Rs. 24.082 billion to 712,852 persons. Ehsas Kafalat programme launched since January 31, 2020 has benefited so far 4,576,463 deserving women. Ehsas Saylani Langar programme was started from October 07,2019 through public-private partnership and established six Langar points in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Ehsas Amdan programme which was launched on February 21, 2020 has distributed small business assets worth Rs. 1.5 billion among 25,054 families. Ehsas Ration Portal was launched on April 21, 2020 by the government to create linkage between the deserving persons and philanthropists. — APP

Pakistan moves towards customizing the Practical Guide on Electronic Evidence

UNODC Representative Jeremy Milsom highlighted that internet users have doubled in Pakistan during the last 10 years and the trend is expected to grow and presently there are approximately 35 million users in the country

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: UNODC's Country Office Pakistan together with Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) and in collaboration with national counterparts including the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Pakistan organized an online workshop on requesting electronic evidence from Service Providers (SPs) in counter terrorism related cross-border investigations. The virtual workshop was organized under the framework of a European Union (EU) supported project entitled "Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism"

(PACT) Sindh. The proliferation of networking hardware such as computers, mobile phones, effortless internet access and the availability of various digital tools and software has amplified the ease at which crime is being planned, organized and executed regardless of a perpetrators' location. Once suspects are apprehended nearly all prosecutions depend, at least in part, on the use of electronic evidence, including location data, social media postings, text and email messages and records of cell phone calls. In response to the challenges faced by Member States, UNODC, in close cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism

Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) launched the Global Initiative on "Strengthening the Capacity of Central Authorities and Counter-Terrorism Prosecutors and Investigators in Obtaining Digital Evidence from Private Communications Service Providers (CSPs) in Cross-Border Investigations, with a Particular Focus on Counter-Terrorism Matters", in 2017. As a result of UNODC continued outreach, Service Providers (SPs) regularly supported the delivery of capacity-building events under the global initiative. Facebook, Apple and Careem participated in the online workshop addressing specific issues faced by criminal

justice officials in Pakistan while submitting electronic evidence requests. In his opening remarks, UNODC Representative Jeremy Milsom highlighted that internet users have doubled in Pakistan during the last 10 years and the trend is expected to grow and presently there are approximately 35 million users in the country. In majority of terrorism cases some sort of electronic evidence is relevant therefore it is essential we develop a country-specific guide to enhance the skills and knowledge of investigators and prosecutors to understand preservation, pre-mutual legal assistance, mutual legal assistance and emergency discourse requests.

The EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Anne Marchal, outlined how a strong criminal justice system can contribute to effective counter-terrorism response in the country, and acknowledged the role PACT project has played in piloting this global initiative in Pakistan. Director General Counter Terrorism, MoFA Mr. Asim Khan highlighted that "international cooperation is a key pillar of our counter terrorism strategy" and with the customization of this guide for Pakistan we aim to improve the quality of requests submitted to Service Providers for obtaining electronic evidence which is critical in successfully prosecuting terrorism cases.

Police arrested Gamblers

DNA

ATTOCK: Three gamblers were booked besides recovering bet money amounting Rs15,680, Motorcycle, Cell phones and others from their possession and arrested during raids at their gambling dens in Tehsil Fatehjang attack. Spokesman of police informed that in a crackdown against the anti social elements Fatehjang Police station got information that some people were busy in playing gambling in the area during course of action police arrested the Three gamblers identified as Adnan Sadique, Yar Mumtaz and Sher Ali besides recovering Rs15,680, Two Motorcycles worth Rs1,75,000, Three Mobile phones worth Rs 40,000 were Confiscated.

Briefs

COVID-19
badly
affected
capital's food
industry

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus pandemic has badly affected the businesses of food and hotel industry in the federal capital and some restaurants have started offering online services to cope the situation.

The restaurants owners were trying to shift their businesses from traditional services to online orders. People due to ban on the service at restaurants were only ordering the food items online to fulfill their needs. The demand of food delivering chains at homes also increased in the capital.

The owners of hotel Hamad Aslam said that initially they were waiting for the normalization of situation but the situation was still same due to which they started using new ideas to continue their businesses. However, he said that his business was badly affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. Safiullah Khan an owner of restaurant said that his fast-food place was closed for the 3 months which was caused loss of one million rent and other expenses.

He said that now he restarted work after relaxation in the lockdown by the government with only take away and online services under the complete standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the safety of the people. — APP

AIU uploads
merit lists of
admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University uploaded admission lists of successful candidates in merit-based masters level programmes offered in second phase of semester Spring 2020 admissions.

According to Director Admissions, besides uploading the merit lists at the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) the successful candidates have also been informed through letters dispatched at their postal addresses. He added that last date for fee deposit is July 10. He advised the desiring students to download fee challan from the university website and deposit the fee in branches of Muslim Commercial Bank, Allied Bank Limited, United Bank Limited and First Women Bank Limited.

The director said that students from Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir areas could also deposit their fee in National Bank of Pakistan. Those candidates who have not received intimation letter about admission so far or whose names are not in the merit list of their respective subject can inquire about the status of their admission by calling on phone numbers 051-9057422 and 051-9250043.

He said that the merit lists of MSc Mass Communication, Environmental Design and Forestry Extension have been finalized. — APP

FFC opens
cell

ISLAMABAD: Keeping in view monsoon season, the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has operationalized its communication cell round the clock besides monitoring mechanism to observe water situation in all major rivers. Talking to APP here Thursday, Chairman FFC Ahmed Kamal said that Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) guidelines have already been issued to all concerned departments during annual conference held on June 25.

The concerned department had already directed to complete dredging Leh Nullah before monsoon season, he said. Directives were also issued for dams operation of Mangla and Tarbela in the monsoon seasons under the set rules and regulations, he said. The Chairman said Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) was also requested to share weather and climatic details. There were 10 per cent above normal prediction of rains for AJK and Sindh in the monsoon season, he said. He said it was the responsibility of FFC to implement flood protection plan. SOPs have already made for dams which were reviewed regularly by FFC, he said. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Members of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting bouquet to newly elected President of SAARC CCI. — DNA

Killing grandfather in front of his
grandson an oppression: Wani

He said that it was an Israeli pattern that India was following in Kashmir to instill a sense of fear and insecurity amongst Kashmiris

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Terming killing of a civilian right in front of his 3-year-old grandson by the Indian occupation forces as a chilling reminder of Nazi oppression, senior vice chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani has said that the soul-wrenching photo

of a toddler crying on the chest of his dead grandfather speaks volumes about India's fascism and its racial undercurrents.

In a statement issued here on Thursday Wani said that the picture of the toddler looking shell shocked on the blood-soaked corpse of his dead grandfather was significant enough to stir the world's conscience. While describing this

spine-chilling incident as a sign of growing frustration within the Indian occupation forces the JKNF leader said, "This surge of frustration within the rank and file of the Indian army has led to the killing of a number of civilians in the valley over the past couple of months". Referring to a similar incident Mr. Wani said that "In May, a young man later identified as 25 year old

Peer Mehrajuddin, son of ASI, resident of Makhama, Budgam was killed ruthlessly when Indian paramilitary CRPF forces opened fired at his car near Kawoosa Khalisa village in Narbal area of central Kashmir Budgam". He said that it was an Israeli pattern that India was following in Kashmir to instill a sense of fear and insecurity amongst Kashmiris.

The JKNF leader said that the Kashmir's recent history was apparently awash with such stories of terror, which, he said, would continue to haunt the conscience of those who criminally chose to stay silent on the Kashmiris' unending sufferings despite knowing the fact that the Indian forces were involved in serious war crimes in Kashmir.

These horrifying incidents taking place in the length and breadth of the Kashmir valley he said were the cause and consequence of the long-drawn Kashmir conflict, which he said would continue to wreak havoc on the lives of innocent Kashmir unless the festering dispute was resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions.

PM Imran announces
15 national parks
across country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday has announced to establish 15 national parks across the country to improve environmental condition. Addressing a ceremony, the premier told that the parks will cover a land area of over 7300 square kilometers, spanning the mountains in the north to the scrub forests in the plains and a marine protected area in the south of the country. He said that in the initial phase, almost 5000 direct nature jobs will be generat-

ed for the youth.

PM Imran said that the initiative will create employment opportunities for people across all provinces, especially the youth. He cited the example of Chitral where the local population had gotten involved and preserved ibexes, which in turn, helped them secure jobs. The prime minister lamented that he had witnessed the destruction of Murree and other green areas which were present during his days as a youth, due to an increase in population. "Pakistan faces a big danger from climate changes and global warming," he said,

adding that the government aims to plant 10bn trees to protect and preserve the environment.

He called on his aide Ameen Aslam to study the way national parks were preserved and maintained in the US and implement the same in Pakistan. PM Imran said that the Pakistan government will issue guidelines on how to preserve parks and until then, the parks will not be open for the public.

The PM further stated that Pakistan is rich in natural minerals however, the need is to utilize them in best way.

Vegetable
imports
decrease by
2.13%: SBP

ISLAMABAD: The imports of vegetables products into the country witnessed a decrease of 2.13 percent during the eleven months of ongoing fiscal year 2019-20 as compared to the corresponding month of last year. Pakistan imported vegetables products worth \$ 2251.261 million during July-May (2019-20) against the imports of \$ 2300.456 million during July-May (2018-19), showing nominal decline 2.13 percent, according to the data issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The food commodities that contributed in positive growth of vegetable imports included edible vegetables, import of which grew from \$380.868 million last year to \$472.022 million during the current fiscal year, showing increase of 23.93 percent.

The imports of cereals increased by 7.62 percent, from \$81.182 million to \$87.372 million whereas the imports of vegetable planting materials also increased by 24.17 percent, from \$26.094 million to \$32.401 million, the data revealed. On the other hand, the commodities that contributed in negative growth included coffee, tea, Mate and spices, import of which declined from \$593.303 million last year to \$557.709 million during the current fiscal year, showing negative growth of 5.99 percent. — APP

Reckitt Benckiser
& NDMA to conduct
disinfection drive

ISLAMABAD: Reckitt Benckiser (RB), the makers of leading health and hygiene brands including Dettol, Harpic, and Robin Bleach, has announced a collaboration with the Government's frontline organization, NDMA (NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY), to conduct disinfection drives across major high traffic public places in a bid to further their efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The disinfection drives will be held by the organization in frontline public places with high exposure including public hospitals, bus stops and railway stations in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. To maintain the effectiveness of the disinfection process, RB will use state of the art equipment and its high-quality disinfectant brand, Robin Bleach; a sodium hypochlorite-based product being used in compliance with WHO standards around disinfection ("WHO recommends bleach as an effective disinfectant against germs. However, WHO does not endorse any specific brand.")

On this collaboration, the Chairman of NDMA, Lt. General Muhammad Afzal, said, "We believe there has never been a more important moment in time for the entire nation (public and private organizations) to work towards solving one of the most pressing problems.

That is why NDMA has chosen to work with RB to complement its expertise and resources with RB's high quality products to help protect as many people as possible and curtail the spread."

The CEO of Reckitt Benckiser Hygiene Home Pakistan Limited, makers of Robin Bleach, Akbar Ali Shah, said, "As the world faces this unprecedented global health crisis, it is clear that no one can fight this war alone.

"We have been at the forefront of this battle since the outbreak. This unified effort on our part has been in the hopes to help the country flatten the curve of the spread of COVID-19, and to accelerate the return of everyday life."

RB also previously announced a commitment of Rs. 500 million for relief efforts to help the country fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

These disinfection drives also come as part of RB-PL's efforts to step up preventive measures against the COVID-19 crisis. — DNA

Sub-sectors
of I-8, I-10
de-sealed

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has decided to de-seal the residential areas of Sector I-8/3, I-8/4, I-10/1 and I-10/2 on Thursday evening (today) at 1900 hours. The commercial areas of Sector I-8 Markaz and I-10 Markaz would be de-sealed from July 3rd (Friday), according to a notification issued by the ICT on Thursday. The decision was taken after detailed survey, contact tracing, ground surveillance and testing of suspected individuals, however, the de-sealed areas would be regulated by the prevailing orders of section 144, in case of any violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), strict actions would be taken against the delinquent by the respective Assistant Commissioner, said the notification. — APP

Cantonment
Boards,
1Link sign
agreement

RAWALPINDI: Another significant step has been taken by Cantonment Boards of Pakistan to facilitate the residents of all the cantonments. In line with the e-Governance policy of the Government of Pakistan, an agreement has been signed between 1Link and the Cantonment Boards of Pakistan that will now enable the cantonment residents to pay their taxes and fees online. The cantonment residents can avail this facility by entering challan number mentioned on the challan in 1Bill option from any bank's mobile app, ATM or online portal. Director General, Military Lands and Cantonments Major General Hasnat Amir Gilani on the occasion said that now the cantonment residents would be able to pay their bills easily and avoid hassle of visiting bank branches. — APP

PAL to
hold online
reception of
"Nami Danam"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will hold an online reception of Shakeel Jazeb's poetry collection entitled "Nami Danam" on July 3. Renowned poetess/writer Kishwar Naheed, poet-scholar Ifthihar Arif and Chairman PAL Dr Yousuf Khushi will be the chief guest, an official said here on Thursday. Dr Qasim Peerzada, Amjad Islam Amjad, Muhammad Azhar ul Huq, Asfhar Na-deem Saeed will be the honourable guests. — APP

MOHR
allocates
23.00 mln
for NAP

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights has allocated Rs. 23.00 million for the implementation of National Action Plan which would be completed by April 05, 2021. According to an official of MoHR here on Thursday, the National Action Plan consists of six thematic areas of interventions including policy and legal reforms, access to justice, strengthening/establishing national human rights institutions, implementation of UN human Rights. The provincial task force on Human Rights has been working for strengthening establishing national human rights institutions to implement UN human rights treaties. — APP

Police Khidmat
Markaz facilitates
over 1300 citizens

RAWALPINDI: Police Khidmat Marakaz are facilitating the citizens as the main objective behind establishing the Khidmat Marakaz was to minimize the gap between citizens and the police and the Police Khidmat Markaz Gujar Khan which was inaugurated a few days back has facilitated over 1300 citizens. According to a police spokesman, Gujar Khan Police Khidmat Markaz, like other Khidmat Marakaz of the province, is making all out efforts to provide facilities to the citizens and providing driving learning permit, driving license, character certificate, personal verification and other such facilities under one-window operation. He said, over 1300 citizens were facilitated at the centre which was inaugurated by Inspector General of Police Punjab Shoaib Dastagir a few days back. The spokesman said that the residents of Gujar Khan were applauding the initiative of Punjab Police and efforts of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas made for establishment of the centre. This project is providing the citizens all the facilities under one roof, he added. The objective behind establishing the Khidmat Markaz is to minimize the gap between citizens and the police, he expressed. He further said that these centres were also helping in improving the force's image and aiding in building trust between officials and the public. — APP



ISLAMABAD: President All Pakistan Anjuman Tajiran Ajmal Balouch in a meeting with Tahir Abbasi, SVP ICCI Khalid Chaudhry and Habib ur Rehman. — DNA

Briefs

NZ minister resigns after lockdown blunders

DNA

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's health minister has resigned after criticism of the government's response to coronavirus and his own breaches of lockdown rules. David Clark had already been demoted after breaking rules to take his family to the beach.

He said continuing in his role was distracting from the government's overall response to the pandemic. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed on Thursday that she had accepted his resignation.

New Zealand has been hailed as a success story when it comes to tackling the coronavirus.

The country has recorded 1,528 confirmed or probable coronavirus cases and 22 people have died. Last month, all Covid-19 restrictions were lifted and the nation was declared virus free. However the country's handling of border and isolation facilities has recently come under fire. In one case, two people were allowed to leave isolation early to visit a dying parent without being tested for the virus. They were later confirmed to have Covid-19. Mr Clark said: "I take full responsibility for decisions made and taken during my time as Minister of Health." He said that now was the appropriate time to move on, with no evidence of community transmission in the country.

UK makes citizenship offer to Hong Kong residents

DNA

LONDON: Up to three million Hong Kong residents are to be offered the chance to settle in the UK and ultimately apply for citizenship, Boris Johnson has said.

The PM said Hong Kong's freedoms were being violated by a new security law and those affected would be offered a "route" out of the former UK colony. About 350,000 UK passport holders, and 2.6 million others eligible, will be able to come to the UK for five years. And after a further year, they will be able to apply for citizenship. British National Overseas Passport holders in Hong Kong were granted special status in the 1980s but currently have restricted rights and are only entitled to visa-free access to the UK for six months.

Under the government's plans, all British Overseas Nationals and their dependants will be given right to remain in the UK, including the right to work and study, for five years. At this point, they will be able to apply for settled status, and after a further year, seek citizenship.

Palestinians rally as global opposition to Israeli annexation grows

JERUSALEM: Thousands of Palestinians protested Wednesday in Gaza against Israel's West Bank annexation plans, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said talks were ongoing on the project, which faces intensifying international opposition. Netanyahu's center-right coalition government had set July 1 as the date from which it could begin implementing US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace proposal. While no major announcement was expected on Israel's self-imposed kick-off date, Netanyahu's office said talks with US officials "on the application of sovereignty" were ongoing. Netanyahu was also discussing annexation with his security chiefs, it added, saying "further discussions will be held in the coming days." In Gaza City, several thousand protesters gathered, some brandishing Palestinian flags and placards condemning Trump. "The resistance must be revived," Gaza protester Rafeeq Inaiah told media, "Israel is afraid of force." — APP

Saudi-led coalition hits Houthi held areas in renewed air raids

Houthi-run news outlet reports two civilian casualties as coalition fighter jets pound several Yemeni provinces

DNA

RIYADH: Fighter jets belonging to a Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Houthi rebels have launched dozens of air raids on several Yemeni provinces, as the kingdom announced the start of a new military operation. The Houthi-run Al Masirah Media Network reported air raids

on the capital, Sanaa, as well as Marib, al-Jouf, al-Bayda, Hajjah and Saada provinces throughout Wednesday and into the night. It said an elderly woman and a child were killed and four others wounded in Saada province. In Sanaa, residents described the air raids, which also struck the city's international airport, as "violent". Saudi state television reported

earlier on Wednesday that the coalition had begun a military push against the Houthis after the group stepped up cross-border missile and drone attacks on the kingdom. Sources told Al Jazeera late on Wednesday the coalition launched more than 40 air raids on Sanaa and its surrounding areas. Last week, the Houthis fired

missiles towards the Saudi capital, Riyadh, in the first such assault since a six-week ceasefire prompted by the coronavirus pandemic expired in late May. The coalition said it intercepted the attack. Saudi Arabia was targeted with dozens of attacks using ballistic missiles or drones last year, including a devastating assault on two facilities of oil giant Saudi Ar-

amco that temporarily knocked out half the kingdom's crude output. Yemen has been locked in conflict since 2014 when the Houthis seized much of the country's north, including Sanaa. Fighting escalated in March 2015 when the Western-backed military coalition intervened to restore the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The long-running war has killed tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, and forced millions from their homes in what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Last week, the UN's humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock warned that Yemen will "fall off the cliff" without significant financial support.



BERLIN: Germany has taken over the rotating EU presidency for next six months. — DNA

Huawei signs smart cities deal with Saudi firm

ISLAMABAD: Huawei is involved in smart city projects in more than 100 countries of the world. In recent venture, Huawei has struck a deal with Saudi investment firm name "Batic" to work on smart cities projects throughout the Kingdom. Smart City Solutions Company, a unit of Riyadh-based Batic Investments and Logistics Co. (Batic) will work with the Chinese technology giant on smart projects covering areas such as parking lots, transportation, the reduction of energy consumption as well as lighting and waste management. Batic is already working on a major smart city contract in the Eastern Region, part of a SR1.3 billion (\$300 million) project that will run for 25 years. "Smart Cities Solutions and Huawei will cooperate in supplying the market with an integrated portfolio of services and models for operating smart cities that can be customized," said Adnan Al-Morshid, CEO of the Smart Cities Solutions Company. "One of the first projects within the framework of this agreement is the car park project in Dammam, in which the Smart Cities Solutions Company will assume the task of operating modern parking lots and command centers for Khobar, Dammam and Dhahran cities." Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in smart cities in an effort to modernize the economy and provide high-value tech-focused jobs for its youthful population. It is part of a broader push to diversify its economy away from oil. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs launched the nation's first smart cities program, which targets 17 cities in its first phase, together comprising almost 72 percent of the Kingdom's population. — DNA

Azerbaijan donates \$300,000 to Palestinian refugees over COVID-19

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has allocated \$300,000 to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, local media reported with the reference to the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs on July 1. The aid was allocated upon President Ilham Aliyev order in response to Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Dr Yusuf Al-Othaimen's request to support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic in Palestine. The

need for humanitarian assistance to Palestine has arisen due to the spread and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It should be noted that Azerbaijan recently provided humanitarian aid to Yemen, as well sent medical supplies to Afghanistan and

Iraq over COVID-19. Azerbaijan has also made individual donations to the World Health Organization, and provided humanitarian assistance to 29 WHO member-countries, including \$5 million to Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ethiopia: Military deployed after protests kill more than 80

Oromia demonstrations broke out after assassination of well-known singer Haacaaluu Hundeessaa.

DNA

DOHA: The military was deployed in the Ethiopian capital on Wednesday as armed gangs roamed neighbourhoods in a second day of unrest that claimed more than 80 lives.

Popular musician Haacaaluu Hundeessaa was shot dead on Monday in what police said was a targeted killing. Protests following the killing, and a sense of political marginalisation, broke out the next morning in the capital and other towns and

cities in the surrounding Oromia region. The assassination of Haacaaluu, from the country's largest ethnic group, stoked tensions that threaten to derail the country's democratic transition. "So far 81 people have been killed, including three Oromia special police force members," said Bedassa Merdasa, the Oromia police chief. Gunshots echoed through many neighbourhoods and gangs armed with machetes and sticks roamed the streets. Witnesses described a situation pitting youths of Oromo origin against some of the city's other ethnic groups, and where both sides skirmished with police. Ethiopian singer Hachalu Hundessa shot dead in Addis Ababa "We had a meeting with the community, and we were told to arm ourselves with anything we have, including machetes and sticks. We no longer trust the police to protect us, so we have to prepare ourselves," said one Addis Ababa resident, who like others interviewed asked not to be named for fear of

reprisal. The military had been deployed in some areas, three witnesses said. One described a street littered with rocks that anti-Oromo protesters had thrown at police. Many residents feared Haacaaluu's funeral - scheduled for Thursday in his home town of Ambo - could ignite more violence. "Security forces have invaded our town, we can't go out to mourn. No vehicles are moving around except security patrols with machine-guns," Chala Hunde, 27, said from Ambo, 100km (60 miles) west of Addis.

US gains 4.8 mn jobs in June

WASHINGTON: The US economy regained 4.8 million jobs in June as businesses began to reopen nationwide, while the unemployment rate fell more than two points to 11.1 percent, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The job creation was far higher than economists were expecting, and showed the rapid pace of gains as people who were laid off returned to their jobs, especially in hard-hit sectors like leisure and hospitality. But a separate Labor Department report showed job losses continued, as 1.43 million people filed initial claims for unemployment benefits last week as coronavirus cases surged. — APP

'Huge gamble' on Brexit could add to Britain's jobs crisis

The UK and EU have made little progress in negotiations over their future relationship

DNA

LONDON: The United Kingdom has passed the point of no return. It has less than six months to reach a new trade deal with the European Union or risk heaping more pressure on companies that are already laying off tens of thousands of workers because of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 100 companies, entrepreneurs and trade organizations have written to Boris Johnson, warning the prime minister that erecting barriers to doing business with the United Kingdom's biggest trading partner would put even more people out of work and lower living standards. The firms, many of which are in the manufacturing and chemicals sectors, have called for a new trade deal that matches current arrangements as closely as possible. Brexit took effect on January 31 but UK-EU trade has continued as if nothing changed thanks to a transition agreement. The deadline for the United Kingdom to ask the European Union to extend that transition beyond the end of this year expired on Tuesday. "Businesses simply do not have time or capacity to prepare for big changes in trading rules by the end

of the year - especially given that we are already grappling with the upheaval caused by coronavirus," said the letter, which was shared with CNN Business. The decision not to extend the transition period is a "huge gamble," they added. The warning came within hours of two major employers saying they would slash a combined 6,700 jobs in the United Kingdom because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has pushed the country into its worst economic downturn in 300 years and triggered mass layoffs. UK companies in aviation and retail have cut over 10,000 jobs in just two days.

Signatories of the letter called for alignment with EU regulations in order to allow the free flow of products such as pharmaceutical, medical, and chemical supplies. A good deal is "the only way to avoid chemical supply chain disruption," Peter Newport, CEO of the Chemical Business Association said in a statement. The United Kingdom and European Union have made little progress in negotiations over their future relationship, and time is running out to prevent a rupture when transitional arrangements expire at the end of this year.

Airlift Grocer launches in Pakistan with an impressive foreign investment of \$10m

DNA

LAHORE: Bus ride-hailing service Airlift has introduced a new online grocery shopping service in Pakistan introduced as 'Airlift Grocer', bringing in an impressive foreign investment of \$10 million. This investment comes to Pakistan at a time when the economy is crippled due to the havoc caused by Covid-19 and creation of new jobs and supporting the local suppliers can serve as a lifeline for the local economy through such foreign investments. Pakistan's retail e-commerce sector has registered a significant growth during the recent past but there is ample room for new

entrants to further uplift the market. The initial investment round for Airlift Grocer was led by Quiet Capital, based in San Francisco,

ACE Capital (Taiwan) participating, among other local partners. Existing investors, First Round Capital (San Francisco), Fatima

in this financing. This new service from Airlift promises to provide an international experience of retail e-com-

merce to Pakistan's every growing base of online shoppers, while strictly following safety guidelines

as issued by public health authorities to restrict the further spread of Covid-19. Airlift Grocer promises a satisfying shopping experience through its express delivery of all orders within 45 minutes. Shoppers will also be able to choose from a wide range of products which are sure to be delivered with accuracy of order and fixed transport charges irrespective of order value. The service is currently introduced for online shoppers in Lahore and will soon be launched in Karachi. Shoppers can log on to the website airliftgrocer.com to start shopping or download the Airlift Grocer mobile app from Google Play store and Apple's App Store.



with TrueSight Ventures (London), RT Ventures (London), Sherooq Partners (Abu Dhabi), and

Gobi Ventures (Pakistan) and Indus Valley Capital (Pakistan) also continued their support for Airlift

Putin thanks Russians for 'support and trust'

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Thursday thanked Russians after a nationwide vote approved controversial constitutional reforms that allow him to extend his rule until 2036. "Thank you very much for your support and trust," Putin said in televised remarks after an announcement from Russia's election commission that nearly 78 percent of voters had supported the amendments to the basic law. Putin reiterated that the amendments were necessary as they "improve the political system and fortify social guarantees" as well as "strengthen sovereignty." — APP

