

# Sanahar

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Somalia, Pakistan ties growing with each passing day

**Detailed News On Page-01** 

Egypt enjoys good and brotherly ties with Pakistan

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



Nishtar visits street hawkers in federal capital

**Detailed News On Page-03** 



## Briefs

## **Palestinian President** sends prayers

DNA



Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State Palestine sent

best wishes for a speedy recovery from Covid-19 to Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. In his message, President Mahmoud Abbas stated, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the PM and all those affected by coronavirus around the country". The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also wished prosperity and goodness to Pakistan and its brotherly people.

## Putin extends greetings

DNA



Russian President Vladimir Putin sent con gratulatory messages to President

Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan as the country would celebrate Pakistan Day on Tuesday. "Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, sent the congratulatory message on the occasion of a national holiday - the Pakistan Day to H.E. Dr. A. Alvi, President of Pakistan, and H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan," Russian Embassy in Pakistan said Monday on Twitter.

## Bilawal takes a dig at Maryam

**DNA** 



LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while deny-

ing the accusations of being selected clarified that he has no such blood in his veins, alleging that there is a political family from Lahore with such background. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari gave this statement while talking to media after meeting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq in Lahore. He said the long march should not have been delayed adding that our party was well prepared for the long march and our rooms in Rawalpindi were also booked.

## Inside..

Chairman CDA reviews drainage system of highways

Dr. Nishtar reviews street hawkers' economy firsthand - Page 03

President AJ&K meets Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval HQ - Page 04

Kazakh reforms: Implementations & achievements (P-I) – Page 05 Kabul eyes US troops

until Taliban fully observes truce - Page 06 Pak, China and

Afghanistan exhibition for youth kicks off Page 07

Anomalies reported in DG Sports Board's Page 08

## NCOC unfurls strict SOPs to curb virus surge

Decision about schools shall be taken in a meeting on March 24; Education Ministry wants schools to remain open: Shafqat

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: In view of the surge in coronavirus cases in the country, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Monday issued renewed standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the virus, adding that they would be implemented with immediate effect. Per the new guidelines, all businesses will only be allowed to operate five days a week, while all commercial activities will be closed by 8 pm. Under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, the NCOC meeting was held on Monday and was attended by the chief secretaries of all provinces via video link. In cities with a coronavirus positivity ratio of less than 8%,

Continued on Page 06

## Pak to get 60,000 doses of CanSino vaccine

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will receive the fourth shipment of a Chinese COVID-19 vaccine this month. The sources said the shipment containing 60,000 doses of Can-Sino Biologics COVID-19 vaccine will arrive in Islamabad on March 26 while the fifth

### batch of the vaccine will reach the country on March 31. They said the government has asked China for shipment of one million doses. So far, Pakistan has received three shipments of Sinopharm vaccine as Beijing has donated 1.5 million doses to Islamabad.

## Japanese envoy greets people on "Pakistan Day"

The Ambassador further said that Japan attaches great importance to its ties with Pakistan



STAFF REPORT

auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, MAT-SUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan ISLAMABAD: tended his warm con-

gratulations and good wishes to the people Dr Geoffrey Shaw conand the Government of Pakistan, saying the gratulated Pakistanmeritorious sacrifices rendered by the re- is on Pakistan Day. silient people of Pakistan over the decades In his Pakistan Day message on the occasion, has said that the 81st anniversary of the passing of the

**Australian HC** ISLAMABAD: On the extends greetings

ZUBAIR AHMED

to Pakistan, has ex- Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan,

towards achieving the goal of a peaceful and message, he said, "I congratulate the developed Pakistan are highly commend- people and Government of the Islamic able. The Ambassador, in a felicitations Republic of Pakistan as they celebrate

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## pp strategies came to naught, says Shibli

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Information and Broadcasting Minister Senator Shibli Faraz said Monday that cabinet reshuffles were "common" and that the Opposition parties' anti-government recent strategies "came to naught". Addressing a press briefing here in the federal capital, the minister noted that the Opposition leaders' appearances at various courts



alongside their fans and supporters may encourage other inmates. "Even those sitting in jails may be thinking that when they have to go to court they should do so with their gang," he said. "The PTI government will not come under such pressure and no matter what they do, we will not be blackmailed.

"We will never give them NRO; the PDM is over," he added, referring to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the Opposition's anti-government campaign. "All the strategies of the Opposition came to naught".



## Saudi Arabia announces steps to end Yemeni crisis Pak welcomes initiative

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has welcomed the peace initi-

ative announced by Saudi Foreign Minister today, of-

fering comprehensive roadmap including ceasefire for

negotiated settlement of the Yemeni crisis. Pakistan

considers this initiative a step in the right direction. We

fully support Saudi efforts for peaceful settlement of the

IP REPORT

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced an initiative to end the Yemeni crisis and reach a comprehensive political resolution. The initiative comes in continuation of the Kingdom's concern for the security and stability of Yemen and the region, and its serious and practical steps to support peace in Yemen and put an end to the crisis.

The initiative aims to end the human suffering of the brotherly Yemeni people, and affirms the Kingdom's support for efforts to reach a comprehensive political resolution between the

Yemeni parties in line with discussions in Biel, Geneva, Kuwait and Stockholm. The initiative includes the following proposals: A comprehensive ceasefire across the country under the super-

conflict in Yemen and stand in solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We urge all parties to the conflict in Yemen to engage in a meaningful dialogue to end the hostilities in order to save thousands of innocent lives. vision of the United Nations. Depositing taxes and custom revenues for ships carrying oil derivatives to the port of

Hodeidah in the joint account of the Central Bank of Yemen in Hodeidah, in accordance

the US envoy to Yemen, Continued on Page 06

ment on Hodeidah. The reopening of Sanaa International

Airport to a number of direct

regional and international

destinations. The start of

consultations between the

Yemeni parties to reach a po-

litical resolution to the Yeme-

ni crisis under the auspices of

the United Nations based on

the references of UN Securi-

in the framework of the

continuous support for the

efforts of the United Na-

tions Special Envoy to Yem-

en, Mr. Martin Griffiths,

ty Council Resolution 2216.

## **President** confers NI upon CAS

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nisupon Chief of Air Staff, Air titure ceremony in Islamabad. the Air Chief as a tribute to his professional services and Sidhu was commissioned in an Operational Air Base and Regional Air Command.

### Saudi King, Crown Parade on Prince pray for PM March 25 Imran recovery

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: The Joint Day Parade has been rescheduled on March 25, amid ongoing inclement weather and rains being forecast over the next two days. "The JS Pakistan Day Parade will now be held on March 25, as per programme and timings already specified," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release on Monday. It may be mentioned here that the ISPR had also released its public service message on creating awareness among the general public for participating in the JS parade with

## **DNA**

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday wished Prime Minister Imran Khan a speedy recovery after the latter tested positive for the coronavirus. State-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA), reported that the two leaders sent cables to PM Imran about his health Continued on Page 06

han-e-Imtiaz (Military) award Chief Marshal, Zaheer Ahmad Baber at a special inves-He conferred the prestigious Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on achievements while serving the Pakistan Air Force. Born on 16 April, 1965 Air Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Baber GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in April, 1986. He has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing,

## Somalia, Pakistan relations strengthened: Khadija Almakzoumi

She further said, in 1969, Pakistan and Somalia were among the founding members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Somalia's relations with Pakistan remained strong in the following years

## **EXCLUSIVE**

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Almakhzoumi has said relations between the two countries are growing with each passing day. She said educational links between the two countries have been strengthened further. She expressed these views while giving an exclusive interview to Islamabad POST. Ambassador Khadija, who is in Pakistan for the last four years, has contributed significantly towards cementing bilateral relations. She also talked about the COVID situation in her country adding the situation had deteriorated in the past few months mainly because of influx of tourists. She said there was no COVID in Somalia in the beginning but suddenly cases

She said her government was taking all possible steps to overcome the situation. To a question about Pakistan's Look Africa policy the ambassador said, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan has done well by organizing a conference of the country's envoys in the African Continent with a view to deliberating on issues relating to enhanced cooperation with them. The move is timely in the sense

other countries of the world espe- a lot of goodwill in the region as cially the United States and China are focusing more on Africa as its economies are considered as 'lions on the move'. African continent is a rising market of 1.26 billion people; it is rich in mineral resources and is an exporter of energy resources. Pakistan has

In this backdrop, it is unfortunate



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Almakhzoumi reading Daily Islamabad POST

the country always championed the cause of the African countries at the UN and remained in the forefront of peacekeeping missions in Africa.

that Pak-Africa trade is negligible and the country has diplomatic

- thirteen missions to cover 54 countries (the rest are managed through concurrent accreditation). Apart from Africa being a huge potential market for Pakistani goods, the country's geo-strategic location and connectivity

presence in a few countries alone

offers opportunity for African

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Almakhzoumi presenting a souvenir to Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti goods to reach Central Asia and South Asia. 'As Somali Ambassador to Pakistan, I consider my role is to facilitate the contacts between the players in the economic field, to get them to know each other better and also to interconnect in a better way'. She further said, in 1969, Paki-

stan and Somalia were among the founding members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Somalia's relations with Pakistan remained strong in the following years and through the ensuing civil war period, when the Pakistani military contributed to a UN peacekeeping operation in southern Somalia. She stressed to further intensify trade and economic relations between the two countries adding she had already interacted with various chambers of commerce and industry in Pakistan with a view to exploring more and more avenues of cooperation.

- Detailed interview shall be published in April issue of CENTRELINE magazine

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Changan

Motors signs contract with

**Orient Power** 

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Leading automobile company Master Changan Motors Company

Limited (MCML) is proud to announce it has signed

a contract with Orient Pow-

er System for installing a

2.5MW solar power project

at its Changan production

facility at Port Qasim Kara-

chi. Bank Al Habib has been

nominated as the lead bank-

ing arranger for this project.

The project will initiate a

Green Automotive Manufac-

turing Revolution at Master

Changan Motors by helping

the sustainability of its en-

ergy mix and, at the same

time, reducing its carbon

footprint and the burden on

Samir Malik, COO of

MCML, said: "In recent

years, Pakistan has been

one of the most adversely

impacted countries by glob-

al warming, severely affect-

ing the weather patterns

resulting in flooding, heat

waves, a water crisis and

much more. Pakistan has

also faced an energy deficit

of huge proportions, which

has crippled the manufac-

turing industry, hindered

growth rates, and impacted

the lives and livelihood of

At Master Changan Motors

we deeply care about the

well-being of our communi-

ty, environment and future

generations. It is our vision

to be Pakistan's first Green

Automotive Manufacturer

by becoming a carbon neu-

This 2.5 MW solar power

project is one of the larg-

est adoption of renewable

energy among the automo-

tive manufacturers in Pa-

kistan. It is being installed

for self-consumption, pro-

ducing approximately 3.5

million units of clean and

tral company by 2025.

people.

the national grid.

## **Briefs**

## **Sarina Isa files** contempt of court petition against Fawad

**Z**UBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sarina Isa, the wife of Justice Qazi Faez Isa, filed a contempt of court petition against Federal Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhary and media person Sami Ibrahim in the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP).

She urged the SCP to ban the Twitter account of Fawad Chaudhry permanently. In her petition, Sarina Isa said Fawad Chaudhary put allegations against Justice Qazi Faez Isa and her wife.

The petition maintained that Fawad Chaudhry confirmed through tweets that spy-cams were installed in the SCP. As he did not come to the SCP for even a day and he must have listened to the conversation via spy cams. The petitioner also attached the screenshots of the Fawad Chaudhry.

Fawad Chaudhry had tweeted two days ago in which he said, "I have been listening to the speeches of an under trial judge of the Supreme Court for a week now. If I will give any reply then I will get sermons of contempt of court." He said, "Respected, if you have interest in politics just like your Godfather Ikhtikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

## Single inch of Railway land not to be sold: Swati

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati on Monday said that a single inch of railway land would not be sold out but it can be outsourced under public-private partnership for generating revenue.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said the property of Pakistan Railways was precious asset of the country which would be utilized properly to make the department, a profitable organization.

The minister said Pakistan Railways would hold a presentation to attract the investors to launch projects under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on April 1 at Governor House Karachi. The department was making all out efforts to outsource its land particularly in Rawalpindi Division and in this regard a presentation would also be held at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on March 6 in which the investors to participate. Azam Swati said that corruption, inefficiency and mismanagement had destroyed Pakistan Railways and now as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the department is going to introduce automation

### Cultivation of paddy banned on left bank of Indus

**DNA** 

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, keeping in view the growing issue of waterlogging, has imposed a ban on paddy crop in the left bank of River Indus.

He took this decision on Monday while presiding over a joint meeting of Agriculture and Irrigation departments and divisional administrations here at CM House

The meeting was attended by Minister Agriculture Ismail Rahu, Minister Irrigation Sohail Anwar Siyal, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah, Secretary Agriculture Raheem Soomro, Secretary Irrigation Saleem Khuhro and divisional commissioners and GIGs of Larkana, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Mirpur khas and Shaheed Benazira bad divisions attended the meeting through video link. The chief minister said that the paddy was a semi aquatic (high delta) crop required 70 acres inches during its lifespan. "In other words, paddy requires 16.50 mm water per day and it requires 2500-3000 liters of water to produce one kg rice," he said and added that heavy and clay soils were needed to hold water for a long time.



LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Sirajul Haq in Mansura. Election reforms, accountability and Kashmir issue discussed. Yousuf Raza Gilani, Liaquat Baloch and other officials of both parties were also present. - DNA

## Chairman CDA reviews drainage system of highways

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) during his visit to federal capital reviewed the drainage system of major highways and main roads after recent rains. Chairman also reviewed ongoing development works in New Blue Area. He issued instructions to complete street lights survey in New Blue Area and issue tenders.

According to details, Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Amir Ali

Ahmed visited New Blue and main roads. On the Area and issued instructions to complete the ongoing works immediately. The Chairman said that the sewerage and drainage works should be completed as soon as possible.

He urged Sanitation Department to take effective sanitation measures to provide facilities to the builders in New Blue Area. Meanwhile, after the recent rains, the Chairman reviewed sewerage and drainage system at Jinnah Avenue, 7th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Margalla Road and other major highways

occasion, the Chairman said that the sewerage and drainage system should be made more efficient and proper maintenance and cleaning of the sewerage and drainage system should be done. He said that in rainy season the concerned staff should be on duty at all times for the provision of services to the citizens.

The concerned departments should make effective arrangements for drainage of water accumulated on the roads to maintain the flow of traffic in the rainy season, he added. Chairman CDA paid a surprise visit of Capital Hospital

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) paid a surprise visit to the new blocks of Capital Hospital. Chairman reviewed ongoing construction work, and directed to complete new blocks as soon as possible. While briefing the Chairman at the occasion, the officials told that, construction of new blocks has been delayed due to corona pandemic lockdown, demolition of old blocks and

transfer of services. How-

ever, work on construction of new blocks is in full swing now. Work on these blocks started in September 2019, while the project will be completed in three more months.

Officials informed that, 5-storey building will have capacity of 100 beds. ICU and CCU departments will be set up in the said block. All OPDs and diagnostic centers will be set up in the 5-storey building with basement, while rooms for 6 consultants, 8 rooms for medical officers and 4 rooms for diagnostic procedures will be provided. clude ECG, ETT, Echo-cardiography and Gastro Endoscopy.

Moreover, 33-bed complete (Male) Medical Ward will be set up on the ground floor, while a Women's Ward with 33 beds will be set up on the first floor. On second floor, 16 beds, CCU, an angiography suite, VIP cardiac room, Nurses station, duty rooms and medical equipment store will be constructed.

On the third floor, Officers Medical Ward with 18 beds will be constructed, they



HYDERABAD: Famous Folk artists are performing their music during the last day of 6th Hyderabad literature Festival HLF at Sindh Museum. – DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

## Overseas committee meeting held

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The District Overseas Committee meeting was held in the DC Office.Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali presided over the meeting. Member Committee Talha Hameed, Police and other officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner listened to the issues of migrants and said that the concerned departments of the district should ensure speedy relief to the Overseas Pakistanis so that their problems were not delayed. He said that the Punjab Government has issued clear instructions for speedy resolution of

the problems of Overseas Pakistanis so the applicants should look satisfied with the departmental progress. Deputy Commissioner said that serious steps were being taken to resolve the complaints and problems of Overseas Pakistanis in the district departments.

He said that the provincial commission was also being informed by taking immediate notice of the complaints received and departmental proceedings along with reports.

He said that strict instructions have been issued to Assistant Commissioners and Revenue Officers for expeditious disposal property related cases.

### renewable electricity every year, which will result in a significant drop in MCML's carbon footprint. Making Changan vehicles one of the most sustainably produced

vehicles in Pakistan."

loot: Zaidi **DNA** 

Maryam

trying to get

away with

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi Monday said Marvam Safdar was in frame of mind that she would be escaped by creating riot in front of the National Accountability Bureau

(NAB). He tweeted, "Maryam Safdar getting more delusional every day, thinking she will get off the hook if she takes along corrupt Pakistan Democratic Movement mafia bosses to her

NAB hearings.' The minister said, "She thinks she will get away with her loot by creating a riot in front of NAB. "She should act her age... not her shoe size," he pro-

## No deaths, 174 cases reported from Sindh

**DNA** 

KARACHI: In a declining trend contrary to nation-wide cases, as many as 174 more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Sindh province and no one died during the past 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Monday.

"We have tested 6622 samples for the infection in the last 24 hours," Murad Ali Shah said while giving a daily briefing on the infection. He said that overall 4479 deaths have been reported from the province so far. "105 more people recovered from COVID-19 in a day," he said adding that overall 253,835 people have recovered from the infection so far.

Giving a break-up of cases in the province, the chief minister said that out of the total cases reported today, 73 of them were reported from Karachi. "District east reported 37 cases, Malir 12 cases, South 10 cases, district West nine cases while Korangi and West districts reported three and two cases respectively," Murad Ali Shah said.

Coronavirus has claimed 20 more lives in Pakistan during the past 24 hours. taking the overall death toll to 13,863.

## Govt endorsed FPCCI's proposal of holidays

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Government has formally endorsed the proposal of Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) to observe weekly two holidays on Friday and Saturday instead of on Saturday and Sunday due to the spread of coronavirus. In this connection, official notification is expected to be issued today.

Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed told that earlier the business centers practically

consecutive days which was badly hitting the business

activities in the town. He said that this issue was immediately taken up with Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro, Provincial Minister for Culture & Colonies and other local parliamentarians hailing from this city. He said that this issue was discussed at the highest level and the government was convinced to observe two holidays on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.

Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed along with Senior

Vice President Ch.Talat Mehmoodand Vice President Ayub Aslam Manj has thanked Mr. Khayal Ahmad Kastro and other parliamentarians who raised the voice of the business community

at the highest level. President FCCI has also welcomed this decision and thanked Mr. Khayal Ahmad Kastro, local parliamentarians, Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner who strongly recommended and supported their genuine demand. He hoped that two holidays are sufficient to control the coronavirus

without affecting the business activities.

Overseas committee meeting held

The District Overseas Committee meeting was held in the DC Office.Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali presided over the meeting. Member Committee Talha Hameed, Police and other officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner listened to the issues of migrants and said that the concerned departments of the district should ensure speedy relief to the Overseas Pakistanis so that their problems were not

## RAdm Ovais takes over as commander Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

their fundamental rights.

Agreement with Delhi.

EU must link FTA with

India to Kashmiris

rights: Masood

ISLAMABAD: The AJK President Sardar Masood Khan

has said that the European States championing freedom,

independence and the human rights should not give trade

concessions to India because the fascist Modi regime will

utilize their wealth to manufacture weapons to use against

those demanding freedom, right to self-determination and

He expressed these views while welcoming the statement

of the Chairman European Parliament's Human Right

Committee Marie Arena in which she said that the Eu-

ropean Union must examine the human rights situation

in India before negotiating a comprehensive Free Trade

The AJK president said that of late, India has emerged as

the worst country in the world in terms of human rights

trampling. Excluding a the particular section of the Hindu

community, all religious minorities are being subjected to

hatred, victimization and discriminations, and the Mus-

lims are the specific target of the fascist regime, he added.

The state president asserted that 1.3 billion people of

India would have to reap what the BJP regime had been

sowing in occupied Kashmir as the seed of hatred. - DNA

KARACHI: Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami assumed the responsibilities as Commander Karachi (COMKAR) during Change of Command ceremony held at Karachi. Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi handed over the Command to the newly appointed Commander Karachi. Upon assumption of Command, Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami is now Commander of all training units of Pakistan Navy at Karachi. Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in July 1989. The Admiral has an illustrious career with wide ranging Command and Staff experi-

His major Command appointment was Commanding Officer of PNS KHAIBAR. His distinguished Staff appointments include Directing Staff at NDU, Director Naval Development Plans, Director Naval Operations, Chief



Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operational Plans) and Principal Secretary to Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters Islamabad. The Admiral has also performed duties as Additional Secretary at Ministry

of Defence. Prior assumption of duties as Commander Karachi, the Admiral was serving as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Op-

erations) at Naval Headquarters Islamabad. Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami got his initial training from

Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, UK. He is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore: National Defence University, Islamabad; Naval Command & General Staff College Philippines and Royal College of Defence Studies UK. The Admiral is a Principal Warfare & Navigation specialist. He also holds Master Degree in International Security and strategy from King's College London

The Admiral has been awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) by Government of Pakistan in recognition of his meritorious services. During Change of Command ceremony, the Admiral was presented Guard of Honour and introduced to the Commandants/ Commanding Officers of units under Command. The ceremony was attended by Pakistan Navy officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy

## **Briefs**

## **Spring** festival held to promote healthy environment

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: A colorful spring festival titled 'Jashn e Baharaan' coupled with tree plantation was organized by a local martial arts and fitness club at Downtown Giga DHA-2 here Sunday evening with aim to create a recreational activity, promote tree plantation and importance of sustainable society.

The event was attended besides local residents, by more than 100 karatekas along with their families participated. As part of Clean and Green Pakistan initiative, children actively participated in tree plantation by planting more than 250 trees on the occasion. During his visit to the event, Managing Director of Al Ghurair GIGA Najeeb Ameen lauded the efforts of the organizers for engaging the Giga Downtown community in healthy activities.

Later in their separate addresses on the occasion, CdrAftab Iqbal, Ch. Abid-Tarar, Haider Awan, M. Ramzan and Maaqsood-Chughtai highlighted the importance of Green Pakistan for healthy nation.

## 'Awareness for Youngsters' on saving water

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Water& power development authority (WAPDA) Lt Gen (R) Muzammil Hussain Monday stressed the public not to waste water and asked media for creating awareness about conservation of water among youngsters.

Talking to local TV channal, on 'the world water day' Chairman said that a huge quantity of clean water is being wasted due to its irra tional use, adding that there is a need to enhance awareness among people regarding water conservation.

He said, "We would have to sensitize public about conserving water by putting it to a judicious use to meet our needs". WAPDA Chairman also suggested launching an integrated awareness program at the national as well as regional level to apprise the masses of their due role for safety and protection of the water resources besides to discourage

excessive use of water. He said it is a good news that in next few 8 to 9 years almost 90% of water storage would filled increased in the country, adding, all available resources would be utilized to conserve water in the country. – **APP** 

## Bootlegger held with 103 bottles of liquor

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Margallah police has arrested a bootlegger and recovered 103 bottles of liquor and 128 tin of beer from his possession. According to police sources, on a tip off a team under the supervision of DSP AbidIkram comprising SHO Margallah Abdul Ghafoor stopped a vehicle during snap checking on Sunday night.

They held the suspect and impounded the vehicle after confiscating liquor bottles and beer tin. Meanwhile, according to a news release, Shahzad Town police arrested three accused Mushtaq, Waseem and Shahbaz and recovered two pistols along with ammunitions and 105 gram heroin from their possession.

Tarnol police arrested an accused Sadaqat and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Similarly, Shalimar police arrested an accused Usman and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Banigala police arrested two accused Khurram and Zafar Mehmood and recovered 300 gram hashish and one 30 bore pistol from him. Cases have been registered against the nabbed persons and further inves tigation is underway.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Dr. Sania Nishtar visits G-11 Markaz to Review Street Hawkers' economy first-hand. - DNA

## Dr. Nishtar reviews street hawkers' economy firsthand

Syeda Shafaq Hashmi, Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad and Zia Banday, Focal Person for Street Vendors' Initiative at the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division also accompanied Dr. Nishtar

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar on Monday visited G-11 Markaz to review the street vendors' economy firsthand and realize the positive role and potential of street vendors in supporting poverty alleviation efforts. Ehsaas is striving to improve the operating environment for street vendors through multi-stakehold-

In this regard, Ehsaas is collaborating with Islamabad Municipality, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Pakistan Institute of

Development Economics (PIDE) to explore a sustainable and evidence-based solution to support street vendors. "Ehsaas is aware of the difficult working conditions for street vendors, but it is also the matter of fact that other citizens also have the right on the usage of public space", Dr. Sania Nishtar said while talking to street vendors during her visit to G-11 Markaz. Dr. Nishtar toured the whole Markaz, met different street vendors and listened to their plight. It included the 42-year Shaheen

home-cooked food. Street vendors informed Dr. Nishtar about various operational is-

dor in the market, who is selling

sues being faced by them in the market. Syeda Shafaq Hashmi, Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad and Zia Banday, Focal Person for Street Vendors' Initiative at the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division also accompanied Dr. Nishtar.

At present, 85 street vendors are operating in the area, among which some have been vending for over 15-years, but none of them has any vending license.

Lack of legal status makes vendors susceptible to frequent eviction ploitation. Majority of the street vendors are less educated and low skilled migrants from other areas of the country, who have limited capacity and resources for earning their livelihood.

Public spaces in markets with sufficient footfall provides them room to make their living. A whole informal ecosystem existed in commercially viable public spaces for accommodating street vending. On per square feet basis, they are paying more monthlies to do their business than rent of the formal shop in the area. However, perpetual fear and uncertainty of tenure constraint restrict capacity of vendors to sustain more hygienic practices.

mand is inducing more congestion and cleanliness issues in street vending. Street vendors asked the government to recognize their positive role in generation of self-sustaining economic activities and poverty alleviation. Under Ehsaas, Vendors' Support

Group has also been set up which is overseeing the development of number of interventions in streamlining vending in the city. Ms. Hashmi informed that municipality is pioneering efforts through the setting-up of dedicated Street Economy Unit to recognize and organize better governance and management of street vendors. Mr. Banday shared details of an vendors planned in collaboration with different partners. PIDE has been providing the intellectual input and design of the pilot.

## Rainfall threat to dengue spread

RAWALPINDI: The present spell of rains has increased the threat of dengue larvae, which needs to be tackled on urgent basis as Met office has forecast more rain in the next two days.

Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr.FaizaKanwal while talking to APP said that prevailing weather was suitable for breeding of dengue larvae and asked the concerned to remove stagnant water in outdoor and household settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water.

She advised the residents to adopt precautionary measures and inform the department immediately if dengue larvae is found in their houses as the government alone cannot check the spread of dengue larvae.

The CEO informed that to check the occurrence of dengue larvae, surveillance is underway as present spell of rains has increased the threat of dengue larvae.

She urged the residents to keep their water tanks clean and not to leave any place wet with stagnant water as accumulation of water after rain was a major cause of mosquito-borne diseases including dengue fever. DrFaiza said dengue is under control in Rawalpindi and health department has adopted precautionary measures to cope with any situation. - APP

## IGP urges to respond swiftly to complaints

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, QaziJameel-ur-Rehman on Monday urged the police guides, deputed at police stations to respond he complainants swiftly

The visitors should be treated in respectful way with all possible guidance so the negative perception of police among public could be changed, he stressed.

He passed these directions during his visit at rural zone police stations including Khanna, Lohibhir and Sahala. SP rural zone and other police officers were also present on the occasion.

The IGP inspected record of first information report (FIR) registration, front desk and cleanliness and hygenic conditions at the stations. He made an interaction with

the visitors and inquired about their issues.

He directed the police station staff to expedite actions against anti-social elements and promote police-public coordination to control

crime in the society. 'FIRs should be filed on time and no lexity would be tolerated in that regard, the IGP warned. Rehman further directed to improve cleanliness conditions at police stations to provide good atmosphere to the visitors as well as personnel.

## ICT admin to set up five 'Ramzan Sahulat Bazaars'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration will be setting up five 'Sahulat Bazaars' in urban and rural areas to provide essential food items to general public on controlled rates during the holy month of Ramzan. The decision to this effect was taken during a meeting, chaired by ICT administration Director General SvedaShafaq Hashmi, said a news release on Monday.

The meeting, which was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner General, all the Assistant Commissioners (ACs), Deputy Director Food, representative of market committee and others, held on the direction of Chief Commissioner, ICT Amer Ali Ahmed. The 'Sahulat Bazaars' would be established in multiple areas including Rawat, BharaKahu, Tarnol, Tarlai and sector G-7 of Islamabad. On the occasion, SayedaShafaq directed to all the ACs for ensuring strict implementation of the anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) at the facilities falling within their jurisdiction. The market committee administrator was asked to ensure constant food supply in all bazaars. It was also decided in the meeting that stalls of Utility Stores Corporation would also be set up in each bazaar. The Chair also directed to the secretaries of respective Union Councils and concerned staff of DMA to provide necessary support for the purpose. - DNA

## Khushhali Microfinance Bank goes live on 1LINK 1TIP

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Khushhali

Microfinance Bank has partnered up with 1LINK 1TIP (Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform) to implement a robust cyber security posture for the bank and further strengthen their payments ecosystem against ever increasing cyber threats. Given the industry-wide need to formulate a collaborative deterrence model that enhances the security posture via a trusted threat intelligence-sharing platform, KMBL has implemented 1TIP Base & DRP platform that will provide them with a holistic view of cyber threat landscape and



effectively combat threats

that materialize. signing ceremony was held at the KMBL Head Office in Islamabad and was attended by Mr. Ghalib Nishtar, President & CEO KMBL, Saleem Akhtar Bhatti, Group Head Finance & CFO, Ms. Amina Hassan, Group Head Operations KMBL and other department heads

of KMBL, along with Mr. NajeebAgrawalla, CEO 1LINK, Mr. Bashir Khan, COO 1LINK, and Mr. Mahir-Mohsin, CEO Trillium and Cydea Tech along with other senior officials of 1LINK.

With this implementation, KMBL now has access to a full suite threat intelligence community sharing platform, threat advisory services from centralized

across multiple time zones, data feeds/enrichment from multiple sources, sandbox environment for malware analysis and external brand monitoring. On the occasion, Mr. NajeebAgrawalla CEO, 1LINK commented, "1LINK is committed to improving the cyber security posture of the financial industry.

24/7 SOC covering regions

## **Collaboration** through science diplomacy urged

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: International webinar on 'Academic Collaboration, Science Diplomacy and OIC: Challenges and Opportunities' organized jointly by COMSTECH and Department of International Relations, Islamia University Bahawalpur on March 22, 2021.

The objective of the event was to bring stakeholders from academic management and diplomatic circles together to address bottlenecks and create opportunities for international academic collaboration through science diplomacy. COMSTECH set up Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) comprising of leading science, technology, and engineering academic and research institutions of Pakistan, under the "Science Diplomacy Initiative" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) last year. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur being the founding member of the CCoE, through its department of international relations offered to jointly organize this international webinar. In his message,

chief guest, Dr. Arshad Mahmood, Federal Secretary, MoST appreciated the establishment of COMS-TECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) and the Islamia University Bahawalpur, being the leading higher education institution of Southern Punjab, the founding member of the CCoE.

Dr. Arshad said that it is our collective responsibility to collaborate and join hands for addressing challenges effectively, particularly in the current COVID-19 situation. He said that academic institutions have a vital role to play in addressing various problems being faced by the Muslim Ummah.

## **MARCH 2021**

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Tuesday, March 23, 2021

## IHC suspends FIA notices to Absar Alam

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday suspended the notice of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against former chairman PEMRA Absar Alam.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah also summoned the investigation officer with relevant record on next hearing, while hearing the case filed by former chairman Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and renowned TV anchor Absar Alam through his lawyer Barrister Jahangir Jadoon against FIA notices.

The petition had named secretary interior ministry, director general FIA, director anti cyber crime cell and FIA investigation officer as respondents in the case.

The petition said that the FIA had served notice without attaching the copy of complain against him and it was received after expiry of the date. The petitioner had requested the FIA to provide the complain copy with the attached material but he was given no response.— APP

## 9,388 people get vaccinated

### **DNA**

RAWALPINDI: As many as 9,388 people have contracted themselves jabbed against the lethal COVID-19 from 26 centres operating across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched in first week of the last month.

District Health Officer(D-HO) Dr. Jawad Khalid told media, that 3580 health workers while 5808 people including senior citizens have been administered the shot out of the total 14,173 registered themselves for the vaccination.

Sharing details, of the COVID-19 situation in the division, he informed that samples of 120,081 suspects have so far been taken for testing, out of which 104,562 cases were tested negative while results of 1326 still awaited.

Dr. Jawad said that 16,343 declared while 14,212 were discharged after treatment. Recently 179 Coronavirus confirmed patients were admitted at 26 various

quarantine facilities out of which 87 belonged to RWP district while 3288 were quarantined in isolation including 2033 at homes and 1255 at facilities, he informed.

The total 904 have so far been died including 697 belonged to Rawalpindi and 207 from other districts. The DHO said that 120 more patients were reported at district Covid centres while 7 were died due to this deadly disease including 5 belonged to Rawalpindi and 2 others during last 24 hours.

## World Water Day observed

## **DNA**

ABBOTTABAD: The world is facing the pressing question of how to ensure a clean, reliable water supply with strains from population growth, booming development, and global warming, though some restrictions at homes and other places we can ease the burden on water supply and save

money in the process. This was stated by the speakers while addressing a seminar on World Water Day organized by Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA) at a lo-

cal college. Media Manager WSSCA Omer Khan Sawati while emphasizing the need for water conservation said that clean drinking water is becoming a huge issue in all societies owing to growing population and environmental changes.

He said that these water-saving measures can have a big impact on water demand. while saving money, you also have the opportunity to get involved in your local community.

The media manager WSSCA further said that we need to save clean water by opting for simple precautionary measures and imposing restrictions including turn off the tap while brushing the teeth, only run the washing machine when you have a full load, use a low flow showerhead, and faucet, fix leakages and also install a dual flush or low flow toilet on your existing toilet

## Briefs President AJ&K meets Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval HQ

Naval Chief reiterated the resolve that entire Pakistani nation and Pakistan Navy will continue to support the struggle of Kashmiri people

### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Masood Khan Called-on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters Islamabad. During the meeting, mat-

ters of mutual interest including latest security situation in Kashmir region and human rights violations in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) were discussed.

While showing solidarity, the Naval Chief reiterated the resolve that entire Pakistani nation and Pakistan Navy will continue to support the struggle of Kashmiri people.

President Azad Jammu &



## 'Anti-Islamophobia Day' widely appreciated

### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Experts from academia and religious scholars on Monday lauded Pakistan's historical move to observe International Day to Combat Islamophobia, from the platform of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

They call it a great success for the country against growing anti-Islam tendencies in the world at any international forum in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The Combat Islamophobia unanimously adopted the resolution moved by Pakistan in its 47th session in which 15 March was designated as the 'International Anti-Islamophobia Day'.

In an exclusive talk, researcher on Islamophobia tendencies, eminent scholar and Dean of Media Studies of International Islamic University Islamabad Prof, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Baloch told media that it was undoubtedly a historical moment for Pakistan as the Prime Minister Imran Khan in his address at the last meeting of United Nations General Assembly, had stressed on collective resolve by the Muslim states to put their heads together and realize the comity of nations about heavily funded Islamophobia as real threat to global peace and

Dr. Zafar Iqbal added that it was high time for Muslim ummah to look beyond their decision of observing 15 March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia and expose the hate mongers behind anti-Islam sentiments through framing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) like protocol against its huge funding.

## **Delegation of IIA visits** newly established NAC

Executive Director NAVTTC, Dr. Nasir Khan apprised the delegation about NAVTTC's initiatives which will be helpful to produce skilled work force suitable to the local industry as well as international job market

### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABABD: A delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association visited the newly established National Accreditation Council (NAC) in NAVTTC headquarters Islamabad. The delegation met with Executive Director, NAVTTC, Dr. Nasir Khan and Chairman NAC, Mian Wagas Masud and discussed TVET sector related issues. Executive Director NAVT-TC, Dr. Nasir Khan apprised the delegation about NAVT-TC's initiatives which will be helpful to produce skilled work force suitable to the local industry as well as international job market. In this regard, he told the delegation about the Apprenticeship Program, inclusion

of soft skills as a mandatory part of training curriculum, offering 300 Hi-tech trades for 2nd batch of training program and creation of National Employment Exchange Tool (NEXT). Further, the Executive Director highlighted the significance of recently established National Accreditation Council to improve the TVET sector regime in the country.

The members of Islamabad Industrial Association lauded the initiatives of NAVTTC to modernize the technical training system and assured full support to bridge the gap between public and Private sectors to enhance quality of TVET stream in the country. The delegation also appreciated the efforts of NAVTTC in establishing the National Accreditation Council and

agreed to make it an effective and vibrant body.

Chairman National Accreditation Council, Mian Waqas Masud welcomed the valuable suggestions of delegation and agreed to develop close liaison between public and private sectors to achieve the desired objectives.

The delegation included Mr. Tariq Sadiq, President Islamabad Industrial Association, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Skill Development Council, Islamabad and GB, Ms. Fatima Azeem, Acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and a number of renowned indus-

Earlier NAVTTC achieved a milestone by establishing NAC-TVS.

The council will implement

of the training given by the technical and vocational institutes and advise them to bring the standards of technical education at par with the international standards to secure a valuable share in the global job market.

nism to assess the quality

The inaugural meeting of the National Accreditation Council for Technical and Vocational Stream (NAC-TVS) was held in NAVTTC headquarters. Chairman NAVTTC, Syed Javed Hassan, in opening remarks, said that the establishment of NAC-TVS is a landmark event in the history of the TVET sector as it will not only be effective in quality assurance but also act as a platform to develop

## prosperous

## SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qavvum on Monday said let us pledge today to make Pakistan a peaceful and prosperous country by playing our due roles sincerely. In his message on the occasion of Pakistan Day March 23, he said the nation is celebrating Pakistan Day on Tuesday, which reminds us the unwavering resolve of our forefathers which they expressed for a separate independent homeland for the Indian Mus-

The vice chancellor further

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Poet of the East, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all other leaders of the freedom movement of Pakistan.

"This day gives us a great lesson. It very overtly tells us that those who contribute hard and sincere efforts for national cause are always commemorated with great reverence," Prof Dr Zia

He viewed that now this is the responsibility of every Pakistani to play his role in his/ her own capacity for de-

upon the youth to get more and more education and learn various technological skills, which according to him is the need of the day. AIOU is imparting education and skill-based trainings to 1.4 million students of the country, he added.

### Radio Pakistan to air special programmes

### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan will broadcast special programmes on Tuesday to celebrate Pakistan Day with national enthusiasm and fer-

A seminar "Kardad-e-Pakistan say Kaym-e-Pakistan Tak" on national hookup will broadcast from Karachi Station at 04:05 p.m.

Radio Pakistan will also

broadcast another national hookup at 05:10 p.m. to cover live proceedings of "investiture ceremony" from Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad. Radio Pakistan News and Current Affairs Channel will also broadcast Marathan Transmission for comprehensive coverage of Pakistan Day from Parade Ground

Special songs, features, talk

shows and interviews of re-

nowned personalities will be

aired from NCAC and Islam-

Special reports will also be

broadcasted in the bulletins

besides messages of the

President and Prime Minis-

ter. All the events will also

be live streamed on Radio Pakistan official twitter handle and facebook account.

Radio Pakistan FM 101 network and Dhanak Channel

FM-94 will also broadcast special transmission and na-

tional songs in connection

IESCO chief

for adopting

precautionary

measures

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Chief Exec-

utive Officer IESCO Ch.

Abdul Razzaq said that rain

continue in IESCO region

and this leads to electrical

shocks incident which can

be avoided by following pre-

cautionary measures and

Chief requested valued cus-

tomers that during rain keep

proper distance from power

installations like transform-

ers and electricity wires and

in case of wet body don't

touch the electrical applianc-

es and also advised to update

the old existing wiring of

houses by expert electrician

and awareness regarding pre-

cautionary measure should

also be provided to children's.

Chief also advised line staff

to use safety instruments

while working on electricity

lines because accidents can

be avoided by taking precau-

tions Chief said that in case

of any complaint customers

can call on complaint office

numbers, IESCO help line

118 or on Central Complain-

ant Monitoring Cell IESCO.

Islamabad telephone num-

safety SOP's.

and President House.

abad stations.

with the day.

Kashmir praised and acknowledged the resolve, commitment and support of Pakistan Armed Forces to the cause of Kashmiris.

### and improve international a quality assurance mechalinkages. AIOU VC for making Pakistan peaceful,

said great nations never forget the sacrifices of their ancestors and hence today Pakistani nation is paying homage to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Ul-Qayyum added.

velopment of Pakistan.

Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has urged

## bers 051-9252933-6. Islamabad gets first-ever sanctuary for stray dogs

## RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Dr Inam Abdul Ghani, a volunteer from Islamabad, has come forward to provide shelter and medical care to stray dogs as a ban has been imposed on their culling by the city managers, recently.

He has set up the first-ever sanctuary for stray dogs in Chontra village, located in outskirts of the federal capital, to provide them care and shelter. Giving details about the initiative, Dr Ghani told the media on Monday that earlier, such facilities were only existed in Karachi and Lahore, but now Islamabad also had a set-up, which was one of its kind. Explaining his human-canine

bonding, the volunteer said he was providing care to stray dogs for the last 15 years as he had great association with them since his childhood.

He said initially, he used to bring ill stray dogs to his home for providing medical treatment and shelter, but later on, "I felt that there is need to set up a dedicated facility for such animal and then I decided to open a shelter for

them."

Dr Ghani added that he established the first shelter in Rawat some four years ago to rehabilitate the reported stray animals.

adult dogs and 20 puppies were given shelter at the facility, established in Islamabad. Most of the puppies at the shelter were those whose mothers were culled by the local authorities.

To a query, he said so far, 50

## Dar-ul-Afta declares vaccine as permissible

Hafiz Mohammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that Dar-ul-Aftaa Pakistan, also endorse and support the Fatwa of Mufti e Azam Saudi Arabia of vaccination during fasting and according to Islamic law, vaccination does not break the fast

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Dar-ul-Afta Pakistan has declared the vaccination against Coronavirus as legal and permissible in accordance with Shari'ah stating that corona vaccine was needed to prevent the on-going pandemic.

Addressing a joint Press Conference in the office of Muthahida Ulema Board here on Monday, Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said Fatwa is being issued with the consent and consultation of Ulema-Muftis and leading Religious scholars of Dar-ul-Afta Pakistan. The Fatwa asked the philanthropists to help providing the vaccine to the needy from Zakat. The Fatwa stated that it is respon-

sibility of every individual to administer vaccination against Coronavirus. Islamic law commands to protect oneself and others from harm, and it is absolutely not right to spread rumors about the corona vaccine.

ISLAMABAD: Knut Ostby Resident Representative of UNDP had a good discussion with Minister

Fawad Chaudhry. They discussed matters of mutual interest. - DNA

The leading Religious Institutions in the Islamic world, including Darul Iftaa, Saudi Arabia, Majma Al-Fiqh Al-Islami Jeddah, Darul Iftaa Egypt, have declared to administer coronavirus vaccine as Shariah obligation so one can ensure his safety as well as of others. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said the fatwa was issued after a series of meetings chaired by the Imam of the Kaaba, Sheikh Saleh bin Hameed, at the Islamic Jurisprudence Council in Jeddah, which operates under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi also stated

that leading scholars and leaders of Muslim world including Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, Mufti e Azam of Saudi Arabia, the President of Palestine and other important Muslim leaders have been vaccinated. Hafiz Mohammad Tahir Mahmood

Ashrafi said that Dar-ul-Aftaa Pakistan, also endorse and support the Fatwa of Mufti e Azam Saudi Arabia of vaccination during fasting and according to Islamic law, vaccination does not break the fast. He said that precautionary measures should be fully observed to prevent Coronavirus and there is a need to take action and take the

vent Coronavirus. The distance between the worshipers in mosques while saying prayers as described by the medical experts falls under the realm

precautionary measures and SOPs

announced for the mosques to pre-

of compulsion and necessity, so the prayers are permissible with a distance, and there should be no doubt or delusion in this matter. Replying to a question, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that no proposal was under consideration to close mosques during or before Ramadan. The public, scholars and elders should not believe in rumors.

Mosques in Pakistan were open even at that time when mosques were closed all over the world on account of Coronavirus pandemic. Prime Minister of Pakistan has an explicit stance that the only way to our salvation and betterment is to keep continue raising the voice of Allah hu Akbar from the mosques, but it is also necessary to take pre-

Replying to another question, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that the supply of

The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has instructed that all the precautionary measures mentioned by Saudi Arabia for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims should be fully implemented and if arrangements are made for Hajj this year,

government.

vaccines for Hajj and Umrah pil-

grims would be ensured as per the

instructions of the Saudi Arabian

vaccines should be provided to the pilgrims. Responding to another question, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that Coronavirus is a pandemic which can happen to anyone so it is not right to make fun and satire on account of the

disease. Imran Khan is in good health and prayers are being made all over the Islamic world for speedy recovery and health of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

## Delay in projects

THE Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) is facing issues with the grant of construction licenses to two state-owned Sui gas companies, Energas and Tabeer. According to the companies, the delay in the grant of construction licences and finalisation of the Gas Transportation Agreement (GTA) are holding up progress on the development of the two new liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. The issue is that no definite justification behind the delay is being given. Ogra has already issued LNG marketing licences to Energas and Tabeer so it does not make sense to keep further progress on the project at a standstill.

According to the companies, Ogra has asked them to sign the GTAs first with Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd (SSGCL). Yet it is against the interest of these gas pipelines to sign the GTAs since they fear risking their monopoly on the market, and also are afraid of getting penalised by NAB upon audit. Thus, the public sector gas pipelines keep using excuses to delay the moving forward of the GTA, which in turn is keeping at bay the final grant of licenses. All in all, the situation is a mess. The government must observe that some bureaucratic procedures can put the whole project at risk of abandon. These terminals are essential for the provision of gas to the industrial sector and to reduce the pressure on already existing terminals that are working in overdrive. The signing of the GTAs are just the beginning of the government's problems concerning the gas sector-there are a host of problems concerning further development. The government also needs to expand the existing pipeline through completion of the North-South gas pipeline project to transport gas to high demand areas like Punjab, where currently there is a shortage. The new terminals will take two to three years to develop; it would be efficient if the government could resolve this deadlock as soon as possible. The conflict currently between the parties involved is a real one-the government will need to balance and negotiate to its favour between the private and public companies. It needs to do so tactfully and with a deadline in mind.

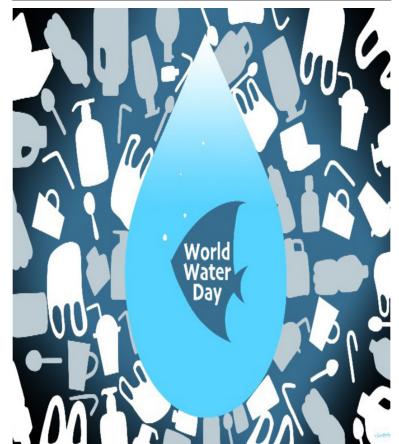


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## Crime spike

INCE the start of this year, Islamabad police has been telling us that making the capital crime-free is the utmost priority. But in reality, it looks like the federal police's efforts in curbing the crime rate in the city are proving to be insufficient. It is not to say that the police department is sitting idle. Indeed the force is carrying out its duty, as is evident from its earlier operations this month against criminal elements. But last Saturday, the crimes reported from eleven different areas in Islamabad must be a point of concern for the department.

Dozens of Islamabad's residents were deprived of their hardearned money and valuables worth millions of rupees in a single day. This shows the police department's failure in performing its primary duty—protecting the lives and properties of the ordinary people. Almost a dozen incidents in a day are a worrying indicator of a newfound security problem in the capital, as crime becomes endemic.

The rise in crime rate has only increased the feeling of insecurity in the residents of the capital. Islamabad police must control the deteriorating law and order situation to restore the city's peace. Such a trend cannot be condoned anywhere, especially in the capital. This rise can be attributed to socio-economic determinants of crime in Pakistan. Crime and unemployment rates are directly related, as a plethora of research shows us. However, that does not exonerate police officials from failing in carrying out their job.

The fact that crimes increase in the last few days of every month necessitates increased surveillance and patrolling of the city. The higher-ups must reassess the department's performance. They must prioritise accountability and ensure strict implementation of law and order. A spike in petty and street crimes in a city are indicative of poor policing. Erecting scores of pickets by capital police in the past has made no difference. Perhaps, the capital police need to focus more on effective response management and good patrolling to cover all bases.

## Kazakh reforms: Implementations & achievements (

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Kazakhstan President Tokayev also introduced a new organ "National Council of Public Trust (NCPT)" which played a deceive role in the further development

CONOMIC sustainability heavily rests on institutionalization of constant structural reforms which paves alization of constant structural reference the way towards immense socio-economic prosperity, poverty eradication, good governance and above all qualitative life. Right from the beginning Kazakhstan President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev introduced comprehensive reforms in all sectors of the economy and civility alike due to which now its economy is flourishing despite ongoing human sage of the COVID-19. Its national politics is stable despite regional political uncertainties. Its society is united despite widespread disunity. Its state is functional despite global dysfunctional parameters. It provided a strategic road map for its successful implementation. It was indeed a gigantic step towards achieving the goals of smarter economy, e-governance, and massive industrialization, widespread of SME, Micro-financing facilities, poverty eradication, immense social development and above all development of social entrepreneurship in the country. It was a strategic orientation for further politicization and democratization in Kazakhstan in which genuine opposition has a greater participation, utility, scope and recognition in the political affairs of the country.

It was a first step in right direction to achieve strategic goals of vision 2050, the achievement of key national indicators of the 2025 Strategic Development Plan which aims to position the country to become one of the 30 most developed countries in the world, and the continued implementation of the "100 Concrete Steps" Plan to implement the Five Institutional Reforms of the Leader of the Nation, further diversity of the macro-economy, green energies, export oriented policies, inflows of FDIs, and last but not least, people and business friendly investment

policies along with attractive tax incentives. Series of structural reforms initiated by Kazakhstan President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev actually consolidated its socio-economic achievements and further enhanced the relationship between the state and society and a resetd the country's political system, leading to implementation of those political, social, and economic transformations necessary to face a new generation of modern challenges. It was indeed a first major policy shift to change the predominance of commodity production, low competitiveness of the manufacturing sector of the economy, lack of access for small and medium-sized enterprises to long-term lending, and disproportionate social and economic development of the country's regions. It actually started the concept of a balanced regional economic development in the country. Thus Kazakhstan's government has shunned the widening distrust among the regions and promoted regional harmony and peace.

In the past, local people and communities of different regions suffered from unequal access to utilities and state services, particularly in the urban-rural areas which have now been ratified and all far-flung areas have been included in the national development programs. Human capital has now become foremost priority of Kazakhstan government. Provisions of primary and higher education have been streamlined. Numerous structural reforms have been initiated to achieve the desired goal of zero-corruption in the state's affairs and society alike. The concepts of public administration have been revolutionized because of set-up of spirits of good governance. Kazakhstan President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev chalked out three pronged policy i.e. continuity, justice, progress for maturing political course, preservation of true and pursuing functional social justice by protecting the basic human rights, equal right, welfare and re-shaping and re-designing of social development in the country. All these principles have been elaborated in the "Well-being for all! Continuity. Justice. Progress" Action Plan for the Implementation of the Election Program of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This document identifies 106 actions to be implemented in 19 thematic areas in the short and medium-term.

Kazakhstan President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev outlined main attributes of the reforms which provided a holistic approach to revolutionize the concept of structural reforms by pragmatism and quality, to advance further development and ensure its continued stability, as a consequence, avoiding unsystematic reforms and the manifestation of populism, which may risk destabilization of the internal political situation or even loss of statehood. It also upheld the concept of modern political philosophy of "universality" protecting the rights of majority by strengthening national unity and social cohesion. It also protected the concept of modern civilization and development based on continuity and gradualism.

The President of Kazakhstan Tokayev announced various political reforms to institutionalize concept of a functional and liberal democracy in the country. He has implemented the concepts of checks & balances and separation of powers by a strong presidency, an influential parliament and an accountable government". It laid the foundation for the transformation of the extensive presidential system in the country. Further diversity, pluralism of opinions and alternative points of view, as well as the formation of a new political culture through constructive dialogue have been introduced which included development of a multi-party system, political competition, and the improvement of legislation on peaceful assemblies. Visionary Kazak President Tokayev reaffirmed the strategic importance

of the "Listening State" which provided an ideal platform to Amendments to the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Kaintroduce people's friendly policies, programs and decrees to achieve optimal level of statehood, transparency, accountability and corruption free public administration and society alike. Somehow, deadly COVID-19 forced the state to bring some changes in the ongoing structural reforms but overall Kazakhstan remained on the track

Kazak President Tokayev focused to connect socio-economic reforms by increasing the well-being of its people and an equitable distribution of national income. The Head of State outlined key principles of the country's new economic course which was based on comprehensive overall hauling of national economy, greater role of private sector and beneficial role of the state by equitable distribution of benefits and responsibilities, the leading role of private enterprise, fair competition, opening up markets for a new generation of entrepreneurs, increased productivity, increased complexity and technological effectiveness of the economy, development of human capital, investment in a new type of education, green economy, protecting the environment and public accountability. Role of state has been announced and consequently implemented too which has now changed its role as an owner and regulator which entaild the creation of favorable conditions for doing business, including the introduction of the principle of "regulation from scratch" and the creation on its basis of a qualitatively new system of "smart regulation" of business, continuation and completion of the privatization program implemented since 2016, revision of the mission, role and the functions of the quasi-public sector.

Sincere efforts are being carried out to change the social dimension of Kazakhstan government through the unification of laws and regulations governing this area and the development and adoption of a Social Code of Kazakhstan. It also included the system of social protection towards promoting work and self-reliance and preventing the manifestations of dependency and paternalism among citizens. It consisted of development of human capital through teaching the values of tireless work, discipline, responsibility, justice, honesty, frugality and solidity. Kazakhstan President Tokayev also introduced a new organ "National Council of Public Trust (NCPT)" which played a deceive role in the further socio-economic development of the country through better execution, cooperation, collaboration and coordination among the different organs and departments of the state. It was established on June 12, 2019.

It was envisaged to develop proposals and recommendations on topical issues of state policy based on a broad discussion with representatives of the public. It was responsible for conducting public expert review of draft concepts, government programs and regulatory legal acts; considering significant strategic issues taking into account the views of civil society; and ensuring a constructive dialogue between representatives of the public, political parties, the non-governmental sector and government agencies. It was the new shape of earlier mechanisms of political dialogue, further democratization and development of civil society (2002-2003), the National Commission on Democracy and Civil Society (2004-2005) and the State Commission for the Development and Specification of the Program of Democratic Reforms (2006-2007).

Moreover, the Law on Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Political Parties dated May 25, 2020, reduced the number of members required for the establishment of political parties from 40,000 to 20,000 people. The Law on

zakhstan on the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Status of its Members dated June 2, 2020 and the Law on Amendments concerning Parliamentary Opposition to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Committees and Commissions of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 2, 2020 further strengthened the role of parliament and opposition alike.

On the contrary, the Law on Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Improving Enforcement Proceedings and Criminal Legislation was incorporated on June 29, 2020 which removed all imperfections in criminal laws of the country. Interesting, death plenty has been abolished on January 2, 2021 through the Law on Ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The second package of political reforms was announced by the President of Kazakhstan on September 2, 2020 which included the designing a new concept for the development of local self-government, gradual differentiation of the powers of local government and local self-government, expansion of roperty rights and increase in the revenues of the budgets of rural districts, strengthening control over the process of approving local budgets, strengthening the audit commissions of maslikhats, raising the status of local community gatherings and assemblies and taking into account by regional maslikhats of their opinions on pressing local issues for making specific decisions, direct elections of akims of rural villages in 2021 In this regard, the authorized government agencies developed a Draft Constitutional Law on Amendments to the Constitutional Law of Kazakhstan on Elections. The development and adoption of the Law on Public Oversight designed to ensure greater openness and accountability of government agencies and quasi-public sector to society paved the way towards greater accountability and transparency.

The 2nd political reforms also cared about basic rights of children from cyberbullying, and joining the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, improving national legislation to combat torture and bring it in line with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Lastly, on January 15, 2021, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced a third package of political reforms which outlined policy changes to reduce the threshold for political parties to enter the Mazhilis of Parliament from 7 percent to 5 percent, introducing the "None of the above" ballot option for elections of all levels, introducing the elections of district akims to build on the elections of rural akims, adoption of a separate law on the Human Rights Ombudsperson, defining their status, powers and streamlining their activities in various areas and sectors; strengthening the office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson, including the establishment of regional offices, further improving the public oversight system, legislating online petitions, introducing the Youth Development Index and expanding measures on encouraging charity, including the provision of tax and other benefits to enterprises and individuals participating in charitable events and volunteer projects. Some menaingul addition measures were also announced and thereafter implemented for the civil society development in the country. Some anti-money laundering laws were also promulgated on May 15, 2020.

## 23rd March: The lasting impact of Pakistan idea

Wajeeha Bilal



Pakistan achieved independence from colonial rule on 14thAugust 1947. After nine years of its independence, first constitution was enforced on 23rd March 1956

HROUGHOUT history, philosophers have debated over the reality of this world. Some have stated that the only things that are real are the ones that we can see, or touch and thus, sensory recognition is the only reality, while others have suggested that nothing is real, everything is a form of deception. Sooner or later, we all accept that every concept like space, time and energy are created by us to define the actions of the things

that exist around us. The great philosopher Plato stated that the concept is important to understand an idea and ideas are the eventual realities. What is the ultimate reality of the world? Rene Descartes, a French philosopher, believed that ideas are the concepts in his philosophy that containedimpartial reality in their nature. Ideas exist prior to things and are independent of them.

Ideas are unity in multiplicity that act as the initial point of knowledge. When ideas are set to be formed, then all they require to come in full existence is the exercise of will and work by those who plan to enforce its existence. Ideas are the realities of the world and this world is a mere reflection of ideas. People and things of the world participate in ideas once they have laid the conceptual image of it. Ideas are forceful in existence to the extent they have been put forth by their creators. An idea is always that it leads to the ultimate truth. A group of men determined to create a separate homeland for their people came up with the idea that was based on the Two-Nation Theory. Quaid-i-AzamMohammad Ali Jinnah who was joined by the leaders of All India Muslim League addressed the gathering on a fresh spring day in 1940, at Minto Park near BadshahiMosque. Acknowledging the idea and laying down the foundation of this idea through a demand for Pakistan, the Lahore Resolution was supported by all major Muslim leaders of the time.

Ideas have the power to change the course of history and those that are raised with strong voices have the power to change the world maps and still those that are strengthened by the sacrifices of its people have the courage to rise as independent states. Strong empires have been broken due to the lack of belief yet small ideas have lived on to stand on the map as independent nations because they were believed by strong men of history. An idea survives once it is believed, and once we accept the idea, we become the means of their promulgation.

The idea of Lahore Resolution, signed on 23rdMarch, became the basis on which the endeavour for Pakistan was built. The place where the believers of the nation once stood, created a platform representing the idea and concept that Muslims are a separate nation, emphasizing that a nation is distinguished from the other, based on religionand traditions. The idea for the establishment of a separate nation faced criticism and resistance from other parties but the determined political struggle for this idea continued by strong willed people, which led to the establishment of a separate state."With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve.'

The idea of including Muslim majority states into an identity of unity came to be implemented, through the turbulence of a bloody partition and the pressures of mass migration, eventually laying down the first steps of its existence that experienced great resistance from every side. Pakistan was created as a witness to the idea of the Two-Nation Theory and exactly 81 years after the Pakistan Resolution was passed, it still stands bearing witness to that idea. "Pakistan...was the only just, honourable, and practical solution of the most complex constitutional problem of this great subcontinent. Let us now plan to build and reconstruct and regenerate our great nation...", said the Quaid.

But what comes after birth, achievement and existence? Plato's follower Aristotle contradicted the idealized essence of an object, saving that ideas are posterior, not prior to things. According to him ideas are false beliefs that do not define the life of this physical world. What decides an object, or a being is its experience with the passage of time. The essence of an object is not separate but a part of its identity and existence. Understanding that one's identity shines through experience and the life that is lived. paves the way for a hopeful desire to survive against all odds. These ideas that are developed through experience shape the fate of entire civilizations, to challenge these is to challenge the foundation of these civilizations and how their lives are shaped.

Pakistan achieved independence from colonial rule on 14thAugust 1947. After nine years of its independence, first constitution was enforced on 23rdMarch 1956. This day also signifies the endorsement of the country's first constitution and its revolution as a democratic state. However, the goals of its idea soon met with the realities that

challenged its existence. The story of Pakistan and its experience is interwoven with the story of its founders' struggle against the resistance towards achieving freedom. The Pakistan Movement is engravednot only in its foundation but daily struggles as well. Pakistan's life has been defined by policies that aim to capture the ideals of an Islamic state. Since its birth, it has been struggling for prosperity and fighting the wars that challenge its vision

Like a strong survivor and warrior, as Pakistan swayed from one crisis to the next, its image and experience matured into a strong purpose to prove its identity. Throughout its experience, Pakistan remained an enduring image of an independent idea. No matter the troubles whether big or small, from within or outside, our country stands as a true experience of independent ideas. The beauty of all this is that we all get the chance to play some part to some extent in defining the idea of our own country. No matter where we go or where we are, our own existence represents the idea of the country we belong to. The human imagination and actions can play a tremendous role in laying the foundations of an idea or holding the idea of existence through an experience. When we imagine the impossible, philosophies seem useless, and nature is unable to deal with it. For a country that was impossible to be imagined at one time, the idea of Pakistan to exist against all odds is an extraordinary story that deserves to be told. Pakistan's daily struggles reflect on the repressed opportunities available to itsgeostrategic position for fighting against terrorism and uprisings. Pakistan has been there for decades and it is there to stay.

Whether the ideas have been defined before its creation or the idea of its existence yet stands to be proven, these ideas are a witness to its existence that is there to stay. Its existence and survival rests above all other ideas and limitations, for to deny the idea of its existence would mean a war against all those who had and still do what they can to stand with Pakistan."There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan.

- Wajeeha is author of two books

## World / Sports



## **Briefs**

## **NCOC** unfurls **strict SOPs** to curb...

From Page 01

nonpharmaceutical ventions (NPIs) which are already in place will continue to be enforced based on risk assessment and disease prevalence. According to a notification issued in this regard, the following measures will be taken:

Implementation of broader lockdowns with stringent enforcement protocols based on risk assessment. No mobility will be allowed except for emergencies.

Closure of all type of indoor dining. However, outdoor dining will be permitted till 10:00pm. Takeaways will be allowed. Closure of all commercial activities (less essential services) by 8:00pm. Two safe days per week will be observed. Choice of days will be at the discretion of the federating units. Gatherings with an upper limit of 300 persons will be allowed with strict adherence to COVID-19 SOPs. However, all types of indoor gatherings involving cultural, musical/religious or miscellaneous events will be banned. Complete closure of cinemas and shrines will continue to be enforced. Complete ban on contact sports, festivals, cultural and other events. Outdoor wedding functions till 10:00pm with an upper limit of 300 guests will be allowed with strict adherence to COV-ID-19 SOPs (event duration two hours only).

## Australian HC extends greetings

From Page 01

Pakistan Resolution - the proposal inked in Lahore in 1940, which envisioned and created Pakistan. Since its independence, Pakistan has made great strides in building its democracy and economic development and Australia has been a steadfast friend throughout. We will continue to stand with Pakistan as it strives to achieve its aspirations for economic security and longterm prosperity.

in common. Our common love of cricket and Commonwealth ties continue to colour and underpin our warm and longstanding bilateral relations. I look forward to the continued strengthening of our two nations' cooperation on defence, trade. education and development - including our assistance to support Pakistan's response to the COVID19 pandemic. As friends we are there for each other in the tough times as well as the good. Globally, our work together in the United Nations, as well as regional and international institutions, sup-

ports our mutual interest in ensuring comprehensive peace and prosperity in our shared region. On this day I also congratuin Australia. I salute the

late the Pakistani diaspora contribution this vibrant community makes, in so many ways, to a strong, prosperous and inclusive multicultural Australia. On behalf of Australia, I wish our good friend Pakistan Yaum-e-Pakistan Mubarak!"

## Japan envoy greets...

From Page 01

March 23rd is a landmark day in the history of Pakistan and holds a very significant importance for its people. "On this important occasion on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to the leadership and the people of Pakistan and offer our best wishes for their prosperity and well-being," said the Ambassador. The Ambassador further said that Japan attaches great importance to its ties with Pakistan and the relations between the two countries have witnessed steady progress in diverse fields over the decades and Japan remains committed to further strengthening cooperation with Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest. MATSUDA. Ambassador

while reiterating his resolve to further deepen Japan-Pakistan bilateral relations said, "On the momentous occasion of Pakistan Day, let's renew our resolute commitment to stay together and work together towards our shared goal of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Pakistan."



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber calls on, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ. - DNA

## Kabul eyes US troops until Taliban fully observes truce

"Responsible pullout has been our demand and that of all of our international allies," Dawa Khan Menapal, a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, told media on Monday

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan's government on Monday demanded a complete withdrawal of US-led foreign troops from the country but only after the Taliban "cut ties with terrorists" and announced a ceasefire. "Responsible pullout has been our demand and that of all of our international allies," Dawa Khan Menapal, a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, told media on Monday.

"It means that all the threats have finished, the Taliban has cut ties with all terrorists, the violence has been halted and a ceasefire has been announced. This is responsible withdrawal," he added. Menapal's remarks follow a surprise visit by US Defense Secre-

Mauritania, Qatar

re-establishes

diplomatic ties

NOUAKCHOTT: Mauritania has re-established diplomatic

relations with Qatar, according to its foreign ministry, al-

most four years after breaking them off in the midst of a

Saudi-led freeze on ties with Doha. Nouakchott had followed

Riyadh and its allies in cutting ties and transport links with

Qatar in June 2017, imposing a land, sea and air blockade

on the Gulf country. The quartet accused Doha of, among

other things, supporting "terrorist" groups and being too

However, in January, following a flurry of diplomatic activ-

ity by former Unites States President Donald Trump's ad-

ministration, the boycott was lifted and Qatar was brought

back into the regional fold. "After intensive contacts over

the past week and with much appreciated support from

the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Mauri-

tania and Qatar decided to resume diplomatic ties," the

ministry said in a statement released to the Mauritanian

News Agency on Sunday. The announcement came after

a meeting in Doha between the foreign minister and his

Qatari counterpart, at which "the longstanding brotherly

Overseas Pakistanis in

canada facing hardships

in Calgary for almost 8 years

also contacted Pakistan Can-

ada Association President in

Calgary and PCA president

also confirmed that numerous

efforts were made to bring the

services to Calgary with offi-

cial and they were all turned

down by Govt of Pakistan. In

addition Syed spoke with Con-

sul General of Vancouver and

he also acknowledge the hard-

ships that overseas Pakistanis

need to face for getting these

services from surrounding

areas and confirmed that mul-

tiple requests were submitted

to Foreign Ministry and DG

They said that even sub-

mitting complaints on PM

Citizen Portal did not solve

their problems which result-

ed bearing them financial as

well as time losses. - APP

Immigration Passport.

relations between the two countries" was discussed.

ATTOCK: Overseas Paki-

stanis residing in Calgary,-

Canada were facing severe

hardships in obtaining var-

ious services from Consu-

late General of Pakistan in

Vancouver and demanding

setting up of a Council Gen-

While talking to newsman,-

several Pakistanis said that

thousands of Pakistanis living

in Calgary and adjoining areas

in Alberta.Saskatchewan and

Yukon Territories were com-

pelled to travel several hun-

dred miles to Vancouver for

getting various services spe-

cially to obtain machine read-

able passports (MRP) or to

get other minor facilities like

name changes etc. from Con-

sulate General in Vancouver.

One resident Syed Hasan

Raza Naqvi, who was residing

eral Office in Calgary.

close to Iran, allegations Qatar has consistently denied.

tary Lloyd Austin to Afghanistan on Sunday, in which the Pentagon chief met with Ghani and pushed for a "responsible end" to Washington's longest war in history. Austin said that the level of violence must decrease for "fruitful" diplomacy to succeed.

Menapal agreed, adding that the

world and Kabul "faced a joint threat" and needed "a joint assessment" because the Taliban - contrary to a controversial deal signed with Washington - "had not severed ties with terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda." "Our campaign is aimed at addressing this joint threat," he told media. The developments come ahead of a May 1 deadline for the complete pullout of US-led foreign troops from Afghanistan based on a controversial accord signed between former US President Donald Trump's administration and the Taliban more than a year ago. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban, reiterated that Washington needed to honor the deadline. "They have signed an agreement with us, and the date there is clear," Mujahid told media by phone. "We are not giving people any further extension. This issue is finalized, and it is very crucial that it be implemented. If someone wants to deliberate on it, it will not be acceptable for us. Our expectation is that they pull out the troops from Afghanistan based on the deal and that this war comes to an end," he added.

Since assuming office, US President Joe Biden has pledged to review the deal and hinted at retaining the troops beyond the

deadline so that Kabul and the Taliban could agree on the formation of an interim government before Washington ends its engagement in Afghanistan, which began with the Taliban's ouster in late 2001. Austin said Biden would decide on the date for the withdrawal of troops and that the aim of his trip to Afghanistan was to "listen and learn" for a review of the future of American forces. His visit came weeks after the leak of a letter from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Ghani, which included an urgent proposal to help restart discussions between the Afghan government and the Taliban, which began in Doha, Qatar, in September last year but failed to make any headway.

Blinken's letter also pressed upon the urgency for a new government in Afghanistan to break a stalemate in the Doha talks, which have been riddled with disputes. The US secretary of state had been pushing for an UN-facilitated conference in Turkey next month, with international stakeholders, including proposals to arrange a discussion between the Taliban and Kabul to form a negotiated settlement and enforce a ceasefire. Blinken's letter was delivered by

US Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, who shared the proposals with Ghani and other Afghan leaders, including the Taliban, and pressed upon the idea to form an interim government that would include the Taliban too.

Ghani, who began his second term for another five years in March of 2020, has repeatedly said that he would transfer power only after

## Venezuela announces 'radical quarantine' DNA

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced two weeks of what he referred to as "radical quarantine", leaving Holy Week celebrations suspended.

"I announce that Holy Week this year will be again in radical quarantine. So we are going to have fourteen days, two weeks of radical quarantine," he said on Sunday, referring to a period that will encompass the Christian holiday of Easter. About 88 percent of Venezuela's 28.5 million people are Christian, the vast majority of whom are Catholic.

Maduro had previously announced that the Holy Week would be flexible this year, but took the stricter approach as COVID cases in the country rise and amid threats from the variant of the virus detected in Brazil. Venezuela, which was already struggling with inadequate healthcare infrastructure as well as shortages of medicines and food before the pandemic, has reported a relatively light toll from the coronavirus, with 151,123 cases and 1,493 deaths confirmed to date. Maduro has long blamed the country's dire situation on

US sanctions. Washington has maintained the sanctions do not affect the supply of medicines and food.

## Saudi Arabia announces...

From Page 01

Mr. Timothy Lenderking, along with the positive role of the Sultanate of Oman, and the push to reach a political resolution to the crisis under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Kingdom calls on the Yemeni government and the Houthis to accept the initiative, which gives the Houthis the opportunity to stop the bloodshed in Yemen, address the humanitarian and economic conditions that the brotherly Yemeni people are suffering from, and gives them the opportunity to become partners in achieving peace.

The initiative gives the Houthis an opportunity to uphold the interests of the brotherly Yemeni people first, and the Yemeni people's right to their sovereignty and the independence of their homeland over the Iranian regime's expansionary ambitions in Yemen and the region. The Kingdom calls on the Houthis to declare their acceptance of the initiative, which is to be implemented under the supervision and monitoring of the United Nations.

The Kingdom also affirms its full right to defend its land, citizens and residents from the systematic attacks carried out by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia against civilian areas and vital installations that not only target the Kingdom's national interests, but also target the core of the global economy and its supplies, as well as global energy security.

## Trump lashes out at Biden's immigration policies Calling Homeland Security Secreing information Border Patrol agents can share with media.

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump slammed incumbent Ioe Biden's administration over its immigration policies amid the ongoing crisis on the southern border.

"All they had to do was keep this smooth-running system on autopilot," Trump said Sunday in a statement. "Instead, in the span of a just few weeks, the Biden Administration has turned a national triumph into a national disaster.'

"They are in way over their heads and taking on water fast," he continued.

tary Alejandro Mayorkas "pathet-"clueless," and "self-satisfied," Trump claimed that he is "incapable of leading" the Department of Homeland Security.

He added that Mayorkas' Sunday appearance, in which he rejected the "gag order" in the border, was a "national disgrace." The former president called for "an immediate congressional investigation" into the issue.

Last week, several news outlets reported that Biden is allegedly restrictCiting officials who spoke anonymous-

ly, NBC said the new restrictions have been passed down verbally, not through an official memo, what the border patrol agents reportedly call an unofficial "gag order". "The only way to end the Biden Border Crisis is for them to admit their total failure and adopt the profoundly effective, proven Trump policies," Trump said, urging the new administration to complete his signature border wall. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Afghan ambassador to Pakistan Najibullah Alikhil delivered a lecture on Afg-Pak relations: future prospects to former parliamentarians and generals, civil & military representatives, organized by the National Defense University of Islamabad. - DNA

## N. Korea closes embassy in Malaysia as ties severed

Malaysia later expelled the North Korean ambassador from the country and effectively closed its own embassy in Pyongyang. Malaysia has not dispatched any diplomats to the North Korean capital since

FOREIGN DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: North Korea closed its embassy in Kuala Lumpur and its diplomats left Malaysia on Sunday after Pyongyang announced it was cutting diplomatic ties with the Southeast Asian country over the extradition of one of its citizens to the United States. The North Korean announcement on Friday over the extradition of Mun Chol Myong, who is wanted by U.S. authorities on money laundering charges, prompted the Malaysian government to give North Korean Embassy staff and their dependents 48 hours to leave the country. The two countries had established diplomatic ties in 1973.

Before leaving the embassy on the fringes of the city center, Charge d'Affaires Kim Yu Song read out a statement in which he slammed Malaysia for being "subservient" to the United States and laid all responsibility at Malaysia's feet. "Not content with the putting of our innocent citizen in the dock by blindly favoring the U.S., the principal enemy of our state, the Malaysian authority delivered our citizen to the U.S. in the end, thus destroying the foundation of the bilateral relations based on the respect of sovereignty," Kim said.

The Malaysian Foreign Ministry has said the North Korean man was only extradited after due legal process had been exhausted. În 2019, a Malaysian court or-

dered Mun to be extradited to the United States following his arrest earlier in the year. But he fought to remain in Malaysia, saying he had done nothing wrong.

Earlier this month, he lost his final appeal to Malaysia's top court. Mun is accused of purchasing luxury goods like liquor and cigarettes with illicit funds and having them shipped to Pyongyang via China. On Sunday, a group of about 30 North Korean diplomats and family members were driven to Kuala Lumpur International Airport in two buses. A diplomatic source said they were bound for Shanghai, China.

Announcing that it had expelled all North Korean diplomats, the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said Sunday its action was in response to North Korea's "utterly irresponsible decision" to sever diplomatic ties. "The action by the Gov-

ernment of Malaysia has become a necessity in order to protect Malaysia's sovereignty and safeguard our national interest," it added. Ties between North Korea and Malaysia have deteriorated since the murder of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at the airport in February 2017.

Malaysia later expelled the North Korean ambassador from the country and effectively closed its own embassy in Pyongyang. Malaysia has not dispatched any diplomats to the North Korean capital since.

## Saudi King, Crown Prince...

From Page 01 'The Custodian of the

Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has sent a cable to Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, after his infection with the novel coronavirus," reported the SPA. A similar cable was sent by Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

The SPA stated that the Saudi King and the crown prince wished PM Imran Khan "permanent health and wellness, and a speedy recovery".

PM Imran had tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday, following which he was quarantined at home. Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Faisal Sultan announced the news on Twitter.

Following the PM's test. First Lady Bushra Bibi also tested positive for COVID-19.

As per an update issued by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill on Sunday, the couple was feeling "comfortable with mild symptoms".

## Business / World



Saudi

satellite 'Shaheen Sat'

launches

FOREIGN DESK RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's

locally made satellites "Sha-

heen Sat" was launched on Monday along with several

others from 18 different countries aboard the Russian

Shaheen Sat – one of the two

satellites designed and made

in Saudi Arabia - will be used

for photography and mari-

Among the 38 foreign sat-

ellites in total, the Soyuz

rocket is carrying Dubai's

environment nanosatand the

"Challenge One", the first

satellite fully-made in Tuni-

The Challenge One - origi-

nally scheduled to launch on

the Tunisia's Independence

Day on March 20 - will focus

on the "Internet of Things'

and is a precursor to a con-

stellation of 30 other satel-

The rocket, which included

satellites of Germany, South

Korea, Japan, Canada, Italy

and Brazil, lifted off from

the Baikonur Cosmosdrome

in Kazakhstan at 6:07 a.m.

The initial launch was origi-

nally scheduled for Saturday

but was later postponed to

Monday after a surge in volt-

time tracking purposes.

Sovuz rocket

## **Briefs**

## **Massive fire** breaks out at Rohingya camp

Foreign Desk

DHAKA: Hundreds of shanties were gutted after a massive fire broke out at Rohingya refugee camp in southern Bangladesh on Monday, according to eyewitnesses and authorities. "We have got the report of fire and we responded to the incident. We are trying to control the blaze," Mohammad Shamsud Douza, additional commissioner of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission. told Anadolu Agency.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses at the camp in Cox's Bazar said the fire started at around 3.30 p.m. local time (1030GMT) and it is still burning.

"More than 700 tents have been gutted while the fire has gone almost out of control," Mayyu Khan, Rohingya youth leader, told Anadolu Agency.

Muhammad Ayyub, another Rohingya representative, told Anadolu Agency over phone that at least one woman, 19, and two children aged six and nine years old were reportedly killed and several others are still missing.

The fire department has reportedly dispatched a team to the scene, he also said, while the fire brigade trucks are yet to arrive.

## 4 dead, 9 injured in Syria blast

WEB DESK

RAS AL-AYN: At least four civilians, including two children, were killed in an explosion in northern Syria, local medical sources said on Monday.

An explosion hit the Ras al-Ayn district, near the Turkey-Syria border, injuring nine others, health officials said.

The injured were taken to a hospital, while the blast caused serious material damage in a house hit by the explosion.

The exact cause of the blast is not yet known. Security forces launched an investigation into the explosion.

Ras al-Ayn was liberated from YPG/PKK terrorists on Oct. 12, 2019 as part of Turkey's Operation Peace Spring. It was launched to secure Turkey's borders by eliminating the terror group from northern Syria, east of the Euphrates River, aid in the safe return of Syrian refugees, and ensure Syria's territorial integrity. The terrorists, however, continue attacks in Ras al-Ayn, and the nearby city of Tal Abyad, despite their withdrawal from the border area following negotiations between the US and Turkey on Oct. 17, 2019.

In its more than 30-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the US, and the EU - has been responsible for the deaths of nearly 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants. The YPG is PKK's Syrian offshoot.

## Ethiopia keen to strengthen relations with Pakistan

**DNA** 

ADDIS ABABA: Deputy Speaker of the House of Federation, Etsegenet Mengistu, has conferred with Pakistani Ambassador to Ethiopia, Shozab Abbas. Etsegenet briefed the ambassador about the current situation in Ethiopia besides exchanging views on the bilateral relations between the two countries, which was established more than 60 years ago.

She said Ethiopia is keen to strengthen its socio-economic, political business, investment and tourism ties with Pakistan, according to the House of Federation.

Ambassador Abbas commended the ongoing reforms in Ethiopia and reiterated his country's interest to scale up political, economic and people-to-people ties with Ethiopia.

## Pak, China and Afghanistan exhibition for youth kicks off

Award ceremony of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan art exhibition for young people was held at China Soong Ching Ling Youth Science & culture exchange center

**DNA** 

BEIJING: "Pakistan and China's friendship was built on mutual trust, respect and support and over the past 70 years, the friendship between the two sides was tested and deepened. Such an iron brotherhood

is like an asset, which we

hoped can be passed to the younger generation." daid Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of Pakistan on the opening and award ceremony of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan art exhibition for young people. According to Gwadar Pro, sponsored by China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the opening and award ceremony of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan art exhibition for young people was held at China Soong Ching Ling Youth Science & culture exchange center.

Hang Yuanxiang, Executive vice chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Chen Feng, counselor of Department of Asian Affairs from Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Farooq, Amb. Javid Ahmed Qaem, Ambassador of Afghanistan to China along with students from Pakistan International School and representatives of



award-winning students in Beijing, attended the cer-

Echoing the Belt and Road Initiative, the event is aimed at promoting international friendship and mutual learning among the youngsters of China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. "I loved drawings which are among the most naturalistic, and I was deeply impressed by how the Pakistani and Afghan con-

New Chinese SUV to be

introduced in Pakistan

**DNA** 

the world and more than 5 million people in the world

own HAVAL SUVs. SEWL is initially planning to launch the latest generation of two HAVAL SUVs, namely HAVAL

H6 and HAVAL Jolion, in the Pakistani market. Sazgar

is known for its 3-wheelers in Pakistan. However, the

company has been granted a greenfield status under the

Auto Development Policy (ADP 2016-21), prompting it to

partner with several car manufacturers. HAVAL H6, be-

ing one of the highest selling SUVs in the world, features

a 2.0-liter Turbo All-Wheel Drive (AWD) with a 7-speed

called HAVAL, said a news release.

dual-clutch transmission (DCT).

testants are able to exquisitely capture the beauty of their motherland.

Through their paintings, I sensed their love for nature and peace, which resonate with traditional Chinese culture.

I wish that I could visit Pakistan and Afghanistan someday." Chinese contestant Ma Xuange told Gwadar Pro. "My paintings were inspired by football, since I love the

sport so much."14-year-old Chinese contestant Lu Zening told Gwadar Pro with

His painting adopted Chinese traditional painting methods, depicted a scene of children from Pakistan and China playing football together.

"I am in the same league with a group of Pakistani students in an online game, that's how the concept of 'Iron brotherhood'

gets real for me. My Pakistani buddies

were all excited to learn that I come from China and we have made a deal of playing football together in real life in the near future." Lu said.

11-year-old Pakistani contestant Mustafa Afridi printed the smiling faces of children in the 3 countries in their traditional clothes, with 3 flags of the countries connected

He wishes that friendship between the 3 countries could flourish and prosper. Ahmed Farooq told Gwadar Pro that the three countries have a long history of culture and economic exchanges, and

share a bright future. The three sides should strengthen exchanges and cooperation to jointly promote development and regional peace.

based in the Sulu province

and has also been involved

in bomb attacks and piracy

for decades. "We are happy

that all the hostages are

safe now and we are also

able to neutralize the noto-

rious Apo Mike and two of

The Foreign Ministry said

it will coordinate with the

Philippine government for

"Furthermore, the hostage

es who had been rescued

earlier will be taken to Zam-

"On the online side, mo-

their repatriation process.

his comrades," he added.

Over 3 mln Saudis receive vaccine

age was detected.

Foreign Desk RIYADH: More than 3 mil-

lion people are vaccinated against the coronavirus in Saudi Arabia, making up about 70 percent of citizens and residents who registered to receive the dose, the Ministry of Health announced on Sunday.

Over 500 inoculation centers are open around the Kingdom, including in pharmacies, to make sure that everyone has access to them, according to the ministry.

No serious side effects of the vaccines have been recorded in the country, health ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Abd al-Ali said, denying claims that a man had died after experiencing complica-

tions caused by a dose. Vaccinated people have only reported expected minor side effects, such as a fever, headache, or nausea, he added. When asked about whether the vaccine could affect women who want to conceive, al-Abd al-Ali said that there are no indications that the dose has any effect

on plans to get pregnant. Nursing mothers are also eligible to receive the vaccine, he said, adding that research is ongoing to determine whether the vaccine is safe for pregnant women and young children.

There are no links between blood clots and any of the approved vaccines in Saudi Arabia, the spokesman also said. Several European countries temporarily halted the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine after reports linking it to blood clots in several people who received it.

The World Health Organization's vaccine safety panel said on Friday that available data from AstraZeneca's COVID-19 shot do not point to any overall increase in blood clots, but it would continue to monitor for any ad-

### Taiwan loses 2 fighter jets in collision

WEB DESK

TAIPEI: A Taiwanese air force pilot has been killed and another is missing after their fighter jets disappeared in a suspected midair collision off the island's southern coast, officials said.

The crash on Monday was the third such incident in the past half-year, at a time when the island's armed forces are having to intercept Chinese aircraft on an almost daily

The two F-5E jets disappeared from radar at about 3pm (07:00 GMT) some 2.6km (1.6 miles) off the coast of rural southern Pingtung County, the National Rescue Command Centre

It added that the fighters. each with one pilot on board, crashed into the sea off the island's southeastern coast after they apparently collided in midair during a training mission.

unconscious in the sea but could not be resuscitated and was pronounced dead at

## Philippine troops rescue 4 Indonesians from militants

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Sazgar Engineering Works Lim-FOREIGN DESK ited (SEWL) is set to introduce a new Chinese SUV brand

to Pakistan named HAVAL, Gwadar Pro reported on Mon-JAKARTA: he Philippine day. SEWL is already in partnership with the Chinese military has rescued four company BAIC. SEWL will now partner with the Great Indonesian nationals in-Wall Motors (GWM) of China, which owns an SUV brand cluding a 15-year-old boy, who were anducted by Abu HAVAL is famous for its professional SUVs and crosso-Sayyaf militant group in the vers. According to reports by Pakwheels.com, the brand country's south, according currently exports its SUVs to more than 60 countries in

to official statements. In a statement on late Sunday, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said the Philippine military rescued three hostages on Thursday and the boy, Khairuldin, on Sunday, Abu Sayyaf militant group leader Majan Sahidjuan, also known as Apo Mike, and two others were also killed in Tawi-Tawi province,

the Philippines' southernmost province.

The ministry said Khairuldin was examined by the armies of both countries at the Indonesian border crossing station near Bongao city. The statement said all four rescued people are in good health. The four hostages were

among five Indonesians kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf group on Jan. 17 last year off the coast of Tambisan in Malaysia. One of them died while trying to escape. Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan,

commander of the Philippines Western Mindanao Command, in a statement said that a boat belonging

to Abu Sayyaf capsized after being hit by a big wave and it gave security forces the opportunity to rescue three of the four hostages on Thursday. "We are pleased to inform everyone that Mohd Khairuldin, a 15-yearold Indonesian National, was rescued in Kalupag Island, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi at 6:30 [2230GMT Satruday] in the morning today,

Sunday," Vinluan said. Apo Mike succumbed to his injuries after a clash with marine troops on Saturday evening, he added.

the mastermind behind

Vinluan said Sahidjuan was

several kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf group, which is

boanga before being flown to Manila," it added.

### The ministry also expressed gratitude to the Philippine government and military for their cooperation.

Domestic mobile

payment users increased

## **DNA**

BEIJING: Affected by the epidemic, the number of domestic mobile payment users in Pakistan has increased rapidly, says a report published by Gwadar

Quoting Wang Yu, Senior Director of Risk Control Department of a Chinese financial services giant UnionPay, the report stayed that it is not taking place at a large scale, but Pakistan has a huge population of youth who can learn this system very fast and use it very well,

Digital finance not only changes the means of payment, but also subverts the lifestyle of the whole

bile payment is frequently used for credit card repayment, online shopping, virtual goods, takeaway and other related scenarios. Offline, it's mainly used by small and micro businesses. People over 50 use mobile payments offline, mainly in vegetable markets, supermarkets and brick-and-mortar retail stores", said Wang. As early as 2018, China's Ant Financial Services Group entered the Pakistani digital finance field through TMB. As its parent company Alibaba is headquartered in Zhejiang, this province has become one of the centers of cross-border e-commerce with the help of powerful

ISLAMABAD: Col. Murat içli, Head of Department of Culture and Art of the Ministry of National Defence of Turkey and Col. Aydin Erdem, Head of Mehteran Unit (Military Band) visited Turkish embassy Islamabad. Military unit of the Ministry of National Defence of Turkey will attend the 23 March Pakistan Day ceremonies which will be held on 25th March. - DNA

## **EU imposes China sanctions over HR abuses**

Foreign Desk

BRUSSELS: EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels have approved sanctions over abuses in China, Myanmar and Russia, as the bloc expands measures targeting global rights breaches. The highly symbolic move on Monday is the first time Brussels has hit Beijing over human rights abuses since it imposed an arms embargo in 1989 after Tiananmen Square.

The 27 nations imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials accused of responsibility for abuses against Uyghur Muslims in a raft of measures targeting alleged human rights offenders around the world, despite warnings that Beijing could retaliate. The sanctions involve a freeze on their assets in the EU and a ban on them traveling in the bloc. European citizens and companies are not permitted to provide them with financial as-

sistance. China's foreign ministry has warned that Beijing will "react

### China hits back at EU with sanctions The other individuals sanctioned by China were Dutch politician Sjoerd Wiemer Sjoerdsma, Belgian

Foreign Desk

BEIJING: China on Monday blacklisted 10 EU individuals and four entities in response to Brussels' sanctions against Chinese officials over alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region.

The Chinese foreign ministry said members of the European Parliament Reinhard Butikofer, Michael Gahler, Raphael Glucksmann, Ilhan Kyuchyuk and Miriam Lexmann were among those who "severely harm China's sovereignty and interests and maliciously spread lies and disinformation."

The EU had earlier accused Chinese officials of mass detentions of Muslim Uighurs and human rights abuses in Xinjiang and imposed its first sanctions against Beijing since an arms embargo in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

with a firm hand" against any

punishment over its actions in

The measures are part of a pack-

age of human rights sanctions

targeting a dozen people that

also includes individuals in Rus-

sia, North Korea, Eritrea, South

"This is a very important step

Sudan and Libva, diplomats said.

the western Xinjiang region.

which shows how committed we are," Slovak Foreign Minister Ivan Korcok said. The mechanism designed to make it easier for the bloc to target rights abusers - was launched this month with sanctions on four Russian officials over the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny.

Diplomats said the fresh sanc-

cies Foundation in Denmark. tions on Russia will target individuals behind abuses in the country's Chechnya region, which is ruled with an iron-fist by Kremlin loyalist Ramzan

parliamentarian Samuel Cogolati, Lithuanian mem-

ber of parliament Dovile Sakaliene and two schol-

ars - Adrian Zenz of Germany and Bjorn Jerden of

"The individuals concerned and their families are

prohibited from entering the mainland, Hong Kong

and Macao of China," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

said. "They and companies and institutions associat-

ed with them are also restricted from doing business

The entities sanctioned are the Political and Securi-

the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the Euro-

Studies in Germany, and the Alliance of Democra-

The bloc placed Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing on an assets freeze and visa ban blacklist over the military coup last

ty Committee of the Council of the European Union; pean Parliament; the Mercator Institute for China

journal said. 'Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing has been directly involved in and responsible for decision making concerning state functions and is therefore responsible for undermining de-

month and crackdown on dem-

onstrators, the bloc's official

digital finance.

mocracy and the rule of law in Myanmar," the listing said The EU also slapped asset freezes and visa bans on 11 officials of Myanmar's junta. "What we see there in terms of excesses of violence is absolutely unacceptable," German

to avoid imposing sanctions." Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kvi on February 1, triggering a mass uprising that security forces have sought to crush with a campaign of violence and fear. Diplomats have said businesses tied to the military will likely be placed under sanctions in the coming

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas "That is why we will not be able

> One of the pilots was found the hospital.



## Islamahar POST



UK mulls

reducing army

personnel

Foreign Desk

LONDON: The size of the

Army is expected to be

reduced by about 10,000

soldiers as part of a move

towards robots, drones, and

The defence review is like-

ly to see the loss of some

tanks and aircraft - but the

government said there

would be "more ships, sub-

marines and sailors". Num-

bers in the regular Army

cyber warfare.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

## **Briefs**

## **NAB** seeks assistance

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore has sought the help of law enforcement agencies, police and rangers on media reports that the workers of opposition parties and some accused of bureau allegedly were planning the vandalising, stone throwing of NAB Lahore building and obstructing in the performance of the official work during the hearing of Maryam Nawaz in connection with two inquiries on March 26, 2021,

NAB has decided to explore all legal option for protecting of building of NAB Lahore from stone attack and to provide fool proof security to building.

NAB has also sought permission to declare NAB building surroundings as 'Red Zone' from concerned quarters as per law.

NAB has reiterated its firm resolve to play its due role for recovery of looted amount from corrupt elements caring about browbeating, intimidation or duress. NAB is an anti corruption institution having no affiliation with any political party, group or individual - it has affiliation with only state of Pakistan.

## PDM to boycott SPC meeting

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has decided to boycott all sessions with government including a meeting of Senior Parliamentarians Council meet-

According to sources, PDM has decided to not participate or engage with 'incompetent' government at any The maiden meeting of the Council will be held under the convenorship of Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam. The Senior Parliamentarians Council will consider the incident of alleged misbehavior with members of the National Assembly in front of the Parliament House on March 6.

## ECP seeks reply from scrutiny committee

## **Z**UBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The hearing of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) foreign funding case at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has been adjourned till

The election commission conducted the hearing of the PTI foreign funding case today. The lawyer of Akbar S Babar said that he will not advertise the material if the verified documents were provided to him. He complained about not getting the verified documents from the scrutiny committee.

ECP member Irshad Qaiser sought a response from the scrutiny committee regarding the submission of documents after being granted six weeks. ECP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) member said that there is no reason to interfere in the matter if the committee is working appropriately.

The ECP KP member said that the committee was asked to present its report. The lawyer of Akbar S Babar argued that PTI is using tactics to delay the proceed ings. The lawyer continued that he has no suspicions over the eligibility of the scrutiny committee. ECP KP member said that it

will take another 10 years if the details were sought. The original petition was about to inquire about the transaction of money and what was the reason behind it, said ECP member.

DG Law said that the report will be given to the commission and later it would be handed over to them. The PTI lawyer said that all records were presented to the scrutiny committee.

## Anomalies reported in DG Sports Board's appointment

At a later stage name of Asif Zaman was included in the panel. Asif Zaman did appear in the interview but he didn't quality to be placed in the panel of three. The original panel reportedly comprised of the following: 1. Abdul Ghaffar Khan 2. M Tauseef 3.Dr Ejaz

ISLAMABAD: Some serious anomalies have been reported in the process of appointment of Director General of Pakistan Sports Board. Reportedly, the man who was nowhere in the list has been put at the top, which is in complete disregard of merit.

According to details, Ministry IPC advertised the post of DG PSB (M-2). Around candidates including

plied. Out of which 26 were short listed for interview. Interview panel comprised Minister Inter Provincial Coordination IPC, Secretary IPC, Add. Secy IPC

, JS IPC and Add. Secy Establishment Division. Interviews were held in two batches: one on 15th Februray and the other one on 17th February.

After interview, Ghaffar Khan was recalled on 18th February by the Minister and informed that

he had been selected and a summary containing a panel of three while placing him at Serial No.1 is being sent to the Prime Minister for approval. The Secretary IPC also joined this meeting and a detailed Plan of Action about reviewing the legal framework, reformulation of National Sports Policy and Restructuring of Pakistan Sports Board

(PSB) were discussed. Reportedly this summary was sent to Establishment Division for its onward sub-

At a later stage name of Col Asif Zaman was included in the panel. Col Asif Zaman did appear in the interview but he didn't quality to be placed in the panel of three, sources said. The original panel reportedly comprised of the following:1. Abdul Ghaffar Khan 2. M Tauseef 3.Dr Ejaz.

While the amended panel, now sent to the PM is as under:1. Col. M. Asif Zaman 2. Abdul Ghaffar Khan

mission to the Prime Min- 3. M Tauseef. It's pertinent to mention that Col Asif Zaman is younger brother of Qamar Zaman, Squash champion.

> Amazingly, the Ministry IPC, while submitting the amended summary to Establishment Division, forgot to change the minute sheet and Estt Div had to send the summary back to Ministry IPC observing that the summary is not in consonance with the minutes sheet. Thus the Ministry IPC changed the min-

is part of record/ file lying in Ministry IPC. It's unfortunate that this

action has been leaked out and everyone in the Ministry IPC, in the Estt Div, the media and the Sports fraternity in Pakistan is now aware of it.

Sources say, situation is damaging the image for the PTI govt that is making struggle against corrupt practices and trying to bringing about meritocracy in the governance.

## SCO states to participate in Pakistan drills

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: As part of measures to counter terrorism and extremism, India will participate in joint exercise being held in Pakistan under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India Today reported on Monday.

Russia will also send their contingents to take part in the drills.

The joint exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, interoperability and enable sharing of best practices among armed forces of the SCO nations. "Decisions have been made to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the SCO member states in identifying and suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities," China's staterun Xinhua news agency reported, quoting a RATS statement.

As part of the SCO initiatives, the SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conduct-

leaders Maleeka Bukhari

and Farrukh Habib said

today the party had raised

the issue of public interest

in the election commission.

Maleeka said mockery of

law and the constitution was

She called upon the party

made on March 3.

### will be reduced to about 70,000 soldiers, having already fallen in recent years. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace will make a statement in the Commons later.

On Sunday, he told BBC One's Andrew Marr Show he was making decisions in the context of an increased defence budget.

But Labour said the number of soldiers was being cut despite an increase in threats facing the UK.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said overhauling the armed forces would make them "more valuable" to the UK's allies and act as a deterrent to the nation's "foes".

There were 80,010 soldiers in the UK's regular Army in January 2021, latest figures showed, down from 86,080 in October 2015.

The latest reduction in the number of soldiers could be made through "natural" movement, with those who leave the service not replaced by new recruits. As part of the military restructure, the Royal Marines will be transformed into a new Future Commando Force, taking on many of the traditional tasks of the special forces - the SAS and SBS.

## Incoming air chief calls on COAS

**DNA** 

RAWALPINDI: Incoming Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Monday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and paid his maiden visit at the General Headquarters. The COAS congratulated Air Chief Zaheer on assumption of command of one of the most decorated and battle hardened air force in the

He expressed best wishes and hoped that Pakistan Air Force would achieve new heights under his capable command.

## COVID-19 claims 20 more lives

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases were recorded 33,070 with 3,669 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,686 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours.

Twenty corona patients have

died during past 24 hours, who were under treatment in hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in the Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the total 20 deaths occured during last 24 hours, three of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment. Some 43,498 tests were conducted across the country on Sunday, including 8,975 in Sindh, 17,298 in Punjab, 8,152 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 7,308 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 505 in Balochistan, 324 in GB, and 936 in AJK. Around 583,538 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic out-

break, a total of 630,471 cases were detected that also included the perished. recovered and under treatment COVID-19 patients so far, including AJK 11,704, Balochistan 19,342, GB 4,972, ICT 52,086, KP 80,037, Punjab 199,040 and Sindh 263,290.

### As per details, the drills will be held in Pabbi and the decision to hold the joint exercise "Pabbi-Anti-terror-2021" was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on March 18. RAWALPINDI: General Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Commander of the National Besides India, other SCO ed biennially for the SCO Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of states including China and member states. Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters. - DNA

## Senate chairman election: PPP challenges RO's ruling

ISLAMABAD: The PPP challenged on Monday the returning officer's (RO) decision on the Senate chairman election in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The plea was filed by Faroog H Naek on behalf of Senator Yousaf Raza Gillani. He appealed to the court to declare the seven votes cast in favour of the PPP candidate legal and approve him as the Senate chairman.

In the petition, Gillani told the court that seven votes cast in his favour were rejected by the RO during the

**DNA** 

Dahroug called on Minis-

ter for Defence Production

Ms. Zobaida Jalal on Mon-

day and discussed bilateral

relations of both the coun-

The minister said Pakistan

considers Egypt as a friend

and an important country.

The minister identified the

need to further extend the

cooperation beyond the

economic domain to de-

fence and industrial collab-

orations and joint ventures.

The ambassador acknowl-

edged the importance of

said a press release.

ISLAMABAD:

tian Ambassador

election for the Senate chairman. The petition reads that the RO's order to declare the votes illegal should be over-

turned. Earlier this month, Sadiq Sanirani, the PTI-led government's candidate, won a knife-edge Senate chairman election over Gillani, fielded by the Opposition parties' anti-government coalition under the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) banner.

Sanirani received 48 votes. while Gillani bagged 42. Eight of the 98 votes in total were rejected, including those that had a stamp on both names

## PTI submits fresh petitions to EC the PTI MNAs has commitoutside the ECP office, PTI

**DNA** 

Pakistan ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Monday submitted fresh applications to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) candidate for the seat of Senate chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani's disqualification case.

A four-member bench of the ECP, headed by Member Punjab Altaf İbrahim Qureshi, is hearing the PTI's petitions, seeking Gilani's disqualification on the

Egypt a true friend of

Pakistan: Zubaida

basis of the video in which his son Ali Haider Gilani was seen telling two PTIA MNAs the way to waste votes. PTI has named two of its MNAs, Faheem Khan and Jamil Ahmed, who were seen in the controversial video, as "In our view, Faheem Khan and Jamil Ahmed are both witnesses in the case," said

respondents in the case. PTI's Maleeka Bukhari, and added, "It was on ECP's directives that the witnesses have been made the respondents." She further said. if the election commission was of the view that any of

take action against it. Irshad Qaiser, Member of the ECP from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), said on the occasion that directives of the election commission had not been implemented in letter and spirit. When the ECP inquired from Maleeka Bukhari as to which PTI's petition should be heard: the first one or the new one, Maleeka replied that it was incumbent upon

ted a wrongdoing, it should

the election commission to ensure transparency. Later, talking to the media

workers and supporters to always stand by truth. "If you show perseverance, then none could defeat you," she said, and added that if the ECP did not announce verdict in the case soon, then eyebrows would be raised.

## Hamza to make Maryam's NAB appearance successful

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly and PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz has taken the responsibility to make PML-N power show on the appearance of Maryam Nawaz before the NAB as successful.

According to sources, Shahbaz today Hamza chaired a meeting of PML-N lawmakers from Lahore which was also attended by Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, and others. During the meeting, the lawmakers and other party leaders were tasked to bring a large number of people with them for the rally

"Maryam Nawaz will lead a rally from Jati Umrah to NAB office in Lahore," they said adding that she would be accompanied by Hamza Shahbaz and PDM leadership.

It is pertinent to mention here that yesterday it emerged that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz will lead a rally of the party activists to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office on March 26. According to sources within PML-N, the party has directed the lawmakers, and activists to prepare for

## **Record of \$1.5mn payment to Broadsheet missing**

and brotherly relations with continue with a same pace

Pakistan and would like to

The report said the payment related files have been stolen from the Ministries of Finance and the Law along with the attorney general's office while the concerned portion is also missing from the file of the High Commission of Pakistan in London

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Office has on Monday received the Broadsheet inquiry commission report in which it has been revealed that the record of \$ 1.5 million payment made to the Broadsheet Company is missing.

The report said the payment related files have been stolen from the Ministries of Finance and the Law along with the attorney gen-

eral's office while the concerned portion is also missing from the file of the High Commission of Pakistan in London. The wrong payment cannot be

Pak-Egypt relations and

said that Egypt enjoys good

considered as negligence, the report stressed. Let it be known that Joint Sec-

retary Zahid Magsood collected the document at the PM Office. The report and relevant record comprise 500 pages. The commission recorded statements of 26 witnesses while one female legal consultant did not appear It is pertinent here to mention that the commission - headed by Justice (retd) Azmat Saeed - had started investigation on Febru-The former Supreme Court of

despite summoning.

Pakistan judge was appointed under Section 3 of the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017, subject to the following Terms of Reference: a) To examine the process of selection and appointment of Trou-

International Asset Recovery Limited ('IAR') and execution of Agreements in the year 2000. b) To examine the circumstances, reasons and effect of cancel-

lation of Agreements with Broadsheet LLC and IAR in 2003. c) To identify and determine the reasons and effect of settlement and payments made on behalf of Pakistan to IAR and Broadsheet LLC in 2008, and whether the payments made were justified. d) To identify the persons

making wrong payment of USD 1.5 million to the wrong person in the year 2008 which was not entitled to receive such paye) To identify as to whether the

or officials responsible for

arbitration proceedings before the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and subsequent appeal before the High Court of Justice in London regarding Broadsheet LLC were conducted diligently and effi-

### vons LLC, Broadsheet LLC, and Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad: Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com