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## **April 12, 2021: National / International [Current Affairs](#)**

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### **1. Buzdar launches food distribution scheme in Lahore, Faisalabad**

- The Punjab government on April 11, 2021 launched a `Mobile Lungar` scheme in two major cities of the province -Lahore and Faisalabad -in line with Prime Minister`s Ehsaas programme`s `Koee Bhooka Na Soy` project.
  - Chief Minister Usman Buzdar inaugurated the scheme and sent `food trucks` on four different routes of Lahore first route is from Thokar Niaz Beg to Data Darbar to cater Multan Chungi, Mandi Stop, Chowk Yateem Khana and Chauburji areas, second includes Circular Road, Railway Station, Do Moria Pul, Badami Bagh Auto Parts Market, Masti Gate, General Bus Stand, Sabzi Mandi and Niazi Chowk, third covering Ghari Shahoo, Co-op Store, Shalamar, Darogay Wala, and Shadipura, whereas the fourth has areas like Lakshmi Chowk, Mayo Hospital Chowk, Shah Aalam Market, Dalgaraan Chowk and Dehli Gate
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### **2. Operational losses brought down to Rs680m in 2020: PIA**

- Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced its financial results for 2020 as it submitted audited accounts with the Stock Exchange of Pakistan, claiming that it had reduced its operational losses from Rs6.130 billion in 2019 to less than Rs680 million in 2020.
- A PIA spokesman said in a press release that what had been termed one of the worst year in decades for the global aviation industry whereby even largest players in the market had obtained huge bailout packages from their respective governments to stay afloat, PIA had come up with a noteworthy performance, nearly breaking even on operational losses and reducing its overall losses by 33.7pc

### **3. FM arrives in Berlin on two-day official visit**

- Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on April 11, 2021 arrived in Berlin, Germany, along with members of his delegation on a two-day official visit.
  - Upon arrival at the airport, the foreign minister was received by Pakistan`s Ambassador to Germany Dr Muhammad Faisal, senior officials of the German Foreign Office, and senior members of Pakistan embassy, a press release said.
  - Talking to media after his arrival, the foreign minister said that during his visit he would also hold meetings with business leaders and members of the Pakistani community, apart from German officials
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### **4. India bans export of Remdesivir as coronavirus rages on**

- India on April 11, 2021 banned the export of antiviral drug Remdesivir and its active pharmaceutical ingredients as demand rocketed due to a record surge in Covid-19 infections, leading to a crippling shortages in many parts.
  - Authorities have blamed the ferocious resurgence of the virus mainly on crowding and a reluctance to wear masks.
  - Still, religious gatherings have continued and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have themselves addressed election campaigns attended by tens of thousands of people, many without masks and hardly any following social distancing
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### **5. Saudi-led coalition claims intercepting Houthi drones**

- The Saudi-led military coalition battling Yemen`s Houthi movement intercepted and destroyed drones launched by the Iran-aligned group towards Khamis Mushait and Jazan in southern Saudi Arabia, state media said on April 11, 2021.
- The coalition said it would take `necessary operational measures` to protect civilians in line with international law.
- Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said on Twitter that two drones were fired at military hangars in Jazan airport and a military air base in Khamis Mushait

## **6. Kyrgyzstan referendum shows support for presidential rule**

- Voters in Kyrgyzstan supported handing greater powers to the presidency in a referendum on April 11, 2021, confirming public trust in the populist head of state Sadyr Japarov, although the turnout was low.
  - The constitutional reform will bring the political system of the Central Asian nation closer to that of its ex-Soviet neighbours, such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, making it easier for Japarov to push through his policies.
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## **7. `Suspicious` blackout strikes Iran`s Natanz nuclear site**

- Iran`s underground Natanz nuclear facility lost power on April 11, 2021 just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges capable of enriching uranium faster, the latest incident to strike the site amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers.
  - As Iranian officials investigated the outage, many Israeli media outlets offered the same assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges. While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country`s military and intelligence agencies.
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## **8. PSL set to resume in Karachi from June 1**

- The remaining 20 matches of this year`s HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 6 will take place in Karachi`s National Stadium with the final on June 20, the country`s cricket board said on April 11, 2021.
  - The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) suspended its flagship tournament after seven people, including six players, tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19) last month.
  - Teams will begin a mandatory seven-day quarantine period in one hotel and following three days of training sessions before Lahore Qalandars take on Islamabad United in the first match on June 1.
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## 9. Recession drama Nomadland wins best film at Bafta awards

- Recession drama Nomadland, about a community of van dwellers, was the big winner at Britain`s Bafta awards on April 11, 2021, scooping best film and prizes for its Chinese-born director Chloe Zhao and leading actress Frances McDormand.
- The British Academy of Film and Television Arts ceremony was held virtually over two nights, with nominees joining in by video, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- However film stars Hugh Grant and Priyanka Chopra Jonas appeared in person at London`s Royal Albert Hall while Renee Zellweger and Anna Kendrick joined from a Los Angeles studio to present the awards

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## 10. GB politician Yahya Shah dies at 93

- Prominent scholar and veteran politician Syed Yahya Shah passed away on April 11, 2021. He was 93.
- He left behind five daughters, a son and a widow to mourn his death. His funeral prayers were held in Markazi Jamia Masjid Gilgit that were attended by a large number of people including Opposition Leader in BG Assembly Advocate Amjad Hussain and former lawmakers Deedar Ali and Javed Hussain besides people from different walks of life.
- He was laid to rest in his native village Minapin in Nagar district.
- Born in Minapin, he got education in Nomal, Gilgit, Astore and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He also studied at Edwardes College Peshawar.

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