

## EU unveils strategy to reform Schengen area

**SCHENGEN** The European Commission has revealed a plan to make the Schengen area, the EU's free-travel zone in the world's largest single market, more secure. The Commission has decided that, despite its regional and Schengen nature, the new plan will mean that the EU will uphold the freedom to move.

**WH science chief wants next pandemic vax ready in 100 days**

**AGENCIES** Washington

The new White House science adviser, Jennifer Federer, has issued a memo to fight the next pandemic in just about 100 days at the earliest by recognising a potential viral outbreak.

In his first interview after being sworn in Wednesday, Dr. Jennifer Federer pointed a ray of hope at where a renewed American emphasis on science can only better prepares the world for the next pandemic with plain-and-simple vaccines. But also changes how scientists

Lander is a mathematician and statistician by training who was part of the human genome mapping project and director of the Broad Institute at MIT and Harvard. He said he is particularly focused on what's next on this pandemic, but the lessons learned from this one are to prepare for the next one.

"It was amazing at one level that we were able to produce highly effective vaccines in record time," Lander said. "But I think it would take three years or four years."

"To really make a difference we want to get this done in 100 days. And so a lot of us have been talking about a 100-day target from the beginning," Lander said.

He added: "I think we're learning from a virus with pandemic potential." It would mean that we would have had a vaccine in early April if that had happened this time, early April of 2020," Lander said.

"It makes you gulp for a second but it's totally feasible to do that." Scientists were working on so-called all-purpose ready-to-go platform technologies for vaccine development before the pandemic. They're considered "plain-and-simple" instead of taking the genome itself to make a vaccine, they are measuring RNA and add the genetic code for the gene. That's what happened with the Pfizer and Moderna shots.

Beyond bringing optimism about future pandemics, Lander wonders about the implications for preventing cancer.

"Maybe this is the same sort of experience about moving so much faster than we thought it is applicable to cancer," said Lander.

## Jailed Belarus journalist: Mass protests have fizzled

**AGENCIES** Kyiv

A dissident journalist who was arrested after his plane was forced to land in Kyiv in a video from prison that demonstrators against the country's authoritarian leader had fizzled and the opposition should wait for a better moment to revive them. It was Roman Protasevich's second such appearance that his allies dismissed as being coerced.

In footage broadcast Wednesday night on Belarus state TV in the hour-long programme, the 35-year-old Protasevich, who had been set up by an unidentified associate,

The presenter of the broadcast on the ONT channel claimed the Belarusian authorities were unaware that Protasevich was aboard a

Ryanair jet flying from Greece to Lithuania when flight controllers diverted it to the Belarusian capital of Minsk on May 23, citing a bomb threat. No bomb was found, but Protasevich was arrested along with his Russian girlfriend.

Outraged European Union leaders called the diversion an act of air piracy and responded by barring the Belarusian flag carrier Belavia from the bloc's airports and airspace, telling European airlines to ban Belarus and drafting new travel sanctions against the country.

President Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet nation of 9.3 million with an iron fist for more than a quarter-century, has accused the West of trying to "strangle" his country with sanctions.

## Bill to remove per country cap on Green Card introduced in US Congress

**WASHINGTON:** A bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to eliminate the per country cap on employment-based Green Card.

The legislation was introduced by Congresswoman ~~John Curtis~~ John Curtis and is likely to benefit Indian IT professionals anguishing over decades of Green Card wait.

The basic framework for allocating immigrant visas dates back to the middle of the 20th century and was last seriously updated in 1990, when the Congress established the worldwide numerical limits on visas and the seven per cent percentage limit still exists today, she said.

Over time, these limitations have led to backlog that were unimaginable in 1990. The effect has been that countries with relatively small populations are allocated the same number of visas as a relatively large population country.

The Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act, 2021 needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the president to sign it into law.

The bill phases out the seven per cent-per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas. The bill also raises the 7

percent per-country limit on family-sponsored visas to 15 per cent.

Its predecessor, the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, was passed in the House in the 116th Congress with a bipartisan vote of 365

to 62. We all know that our immigration system is severely broken and it has been broken for decades," said Lofgren, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

The basic framework for allocating immigrant visas dates back to the middle of the 20th century and was last seriously updated in 1990, when the Congress established the worldwide numerical limits on visas and the seven per cent percentage limit still exists today, she said.

Over time, these limitations have led to backlog that were unimaginable in 1990. The effect has been that countries with relatively small populations are allocated the same number of visas as a relatively large population country.

The Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act, 2021 needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the president to sign it into law.

The bill phases out the seven per cent-per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas. The bill also raises the 7

percent per-country limit on family-sponsored visas. Today we are presenting a bill that will fix that, so that Schengen is back to the top of the list of goals, and makes everyone the same priorities to rebuild our economies and for us to once again travel together," she said.

# WORLD 17

MUMBAI | FRIDAY | JUNE 4, 2021 | www.17times.com

## It's a win for Israel's oppn

Prime Minister Netanyahu's triple backfire, bring strange bedfellows together to form next government

**HARINDER MEHTA** New Delhi

India's Opposition parties on Thursday sat on the streets in protest for a potential national unity government after clinching a last-minute agreement to end Benjamin Netanyahu's longest serving prime minister in the Jewish nation's history.

Yair Lapid (J), leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, announced Monday that his party could then back to form a coalition with the far-left Yesh Atid.

Under a rotation arrangement, he would lead the right-wing Yamina party. Naftali Bennett (C) would serve as the prime minister first before handing over to Lapid.

Lapid, 37, officially became President Reuven Rivlin and Knesset (Parliament) Speaker Yariv Levin about the deal late Wednesday night, barely half an hour before the Wednesday midnight deadline.

The announcement came after a series of back-to-back meetings with the leaders of the anti-Netanyahu camp in the 120-member Knesset.

"In accordance with Clause 13(b) of the Basic Law: The

development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

Naftali Bennett

will serve as foreign

minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a

parliamentary vote before

the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president

thanked Lapid saying, "We

expect the Knesset will con-

clude as soon as possible in

rallying the government as re-

quested."

The development

includes him, an Arab

to be elected

