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# Islamabad POST

**How South Korean  
dealt with COVID-19  
issue: Kyung-wha**
**Qureshi invites  
SCO Secy Gen  
to Pakistan**
**Japan ready to  
provide help  
to Pakistan**


## Briefs

**Chinese  
company  
donates  
medicines**

DNA

KARACHI: A Chinese pharmaceutical company has donated Traditional Chinese Medicines to a mobile cabin hospital in Karachi for prevention and control on Covid-19 pandemic. According to a report of China Economic Net, Hunan Anbang Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd (Anbang) delivered 600 boxes of medicine to the hospital in Karachi.

**Pakistani  
students  
in Turkey**

DNA

ANKARA: The Embassy of Pakistan Ankara as well as the Consulate General Istanbul are in close contact with the local Pakistani community members as well as Pakistani students in Turkey to ensure their safety and welfare in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are fully cognizant of the concerns being raised by some Pakistani students in Turkey, in particular with regard to the suspension of flight operations. We will once again urge patience and understanding of the entire Pakistani student community in Turkey in view of the unprecedented global challenge that has impacted all countries.

**FPCCI  
hails PM's  
package**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Businessmen Panel SVP, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said business community fully supports to package for construction sector.

## Inside...

**Pakistani doctors  
laud China's help  
in battle against  
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**South Korea's FM  
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country contained  
COVID-19: Kang  
Kyung-wha**

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## 22 Uzbek nationals repatriate

Uzbek embassy indebted to Pakistan authorities for help; goodwill gesture to further cement Uzbek-Pak ties: ambassador

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan with help of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan and PIA, successfully repatriated 22 Uzbek citizens from Pakistan to Tashkent through a special flight of Pakistan International Airlines. This flight also brought back 128 stranded Pakistani nationals from Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan. Taking this opportunity, Embassy of Uzbekistan and Ambassador of

Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furqat Sikikov emphasized that significant and friendly gesture made by Pakistani partners once again demonstrated bright example of brotherly and close relationships between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

"We express our gratefulness to all relevant Authorities of Government of Pakistan and Uzbekistan for their support and cooperation to ensure smooth repatriation of citizens of two brotherly nations", the ambassador added. Earlier One hundred and

twenty-eight stranded Pakistanis in Uzbekistan were brought back to the country through a special flight of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). These stranded Pakistani nationals included tourists who came to Republic of Uzbekistan on short-term visa and could not return to Pakistan due to suspension of international flights following COVID-19 outbreak. During their stay in Uzbekistan, the Embassy of Pakistan, Tashkent took all necessary steps to ensure complete wellbeing of these Pakistanis.



Uzbek citizens leaving for Tashkent via PIA special flight. – DNA

**Asian Bank  
promotes  
innovation**

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is promoting innovation and efficiency to enhance its anticorruption efforts by streamlining case management and expediting the assessment of complaints and completion of investigations, according to the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) 2019 Annual Report released on Monday. "We reassessed and re-balanced our resources to align with ADB's long-term strategy, Strategy 2030," said OAI Head John Versantvoort. "These measures have allowed us to provide better value to our stakeholders and achieve significant improvements in the number of completed investigations and complaints that we assessed and closed." – APP

## Reshuffle in cabinet

Babar Awan was appointed Adviser for Parliamentary Affairs while Mohammad Shahzad Arbab was removed as Adviser

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday reshuffled his cabinet with addition of new members including ministers and advisers, besides changing the portfolios of a few. The portfolio of Federal Minister for National Food Security was given to Syed Fakhar Imam, while Makhdoom Khusru Bakhtiyar was appointed as Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Hamad Azhar as Federal Minister for Industries,

Azam Sawati as Federal Minister for Narcotics Control and Amin-ul Haq as Federal Minister for Telecom. Babar Awan was appointed Adviser for Parliamentary Affairs while Mohammad Shahzad Arbab was removed as Adviser. The prime minister also accepted the resignation of Khalid Maqbool Siddique as federal minister. Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research Hashim Popalzai was removed from his post and replaced by Omar Hameed.



A PAF C-130 aircraft carrying medical equipment for the people of Baluchistan lands at PAF Base Samungli, Quetta. – DNA

**PAF  
aircraft  
carries  
medical  
supplies  
to Quetta**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A PAF C-130 aircraft carrying medical equipment and relief goods for the people of Baluchistan landed at PAF Base, Samungli (Quetta) today. The No6 Squadron C-130 took off from PAF Base Nur Khan early in the morning for the relief mission. The aircraft airlifted approximately 11000 pounds of medical equipment including N95 masks, protective gear, gloves, face masks, testing kits and medicines in the sortie. PAF is actively taking part in the relief operations in the fight against COVID-19 and its air transport fleet is playing a pivotal role in airlift of medical equipment to every nook and corner of the country.

**Nausheen  
new FBR  
chief**


ISLAMABAD: Nausheen Javed Amjad has appointed as new Federal Board of Revenue chairperson. Her appointment notification was issued on Monday after the federal cabinet approved it. Amjad was serving as the acting FBR chief after Shabbar Zaidi stepped down on February 11. – APP

## SCO Secy Gen to visit Pakistan

FM Qureshi briefs Vladmir Norov about Pak efforts to deal with COVID 19

ASNAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: FM Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Mr. Vladimir Norov today. Both leaders exchanged views on adopting an effective strategy to contain the COVID-19 Pandemic and facing the challenges posed by it. The Foreign Minister

briefed the Secretary General on the measures being taken by Pakistan to contain Covid-19 Pandemic. He said that Pakistan attached high importance to SCO as its member states comprised more than 40% of the world population and accounted for a quarter of global GDP. At a time when the entire World was facing this challenge, coordinated efforts through SCO platform were essential to adopt an effective strategy to control the Pandemic.

The SCO Secretary General thanked the Foreign Minister for the call. He expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's proposal for debt relief and restructuring for developing countries and said that financial support for developing countries was the need of the hour. The Foreign Minister invited the SCO Secretary General to visit Pakistan as soon as the situation permitted. The SCO Secretary General accepted the invitation with gratitude.

## KNB scholarship cancelled for 2020

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, the Government of Indonesia has decided to cancel the KNB Scholarship 2020. According to a communiqué, those who have submitted the application to Embassy would be considered as applicants for KNB Scholarship 2021. The embassy has thanked the applicants for expressing interest in this scholarship programme.

## Confirmed virus cases 3277

FARUKH SHAHZAD

ISLAMABAD: The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country have reached to 3277. These include 1493 cases in Punjab, 881 in Sindh, 405, Balochistan 191, Gilgit-Baltistan 210, Islamabad Capital Territory 82

and Azad Kashmir 15. According to National Command and Operation Centre, 397 new coronavirus cases were detected in last twenty-four hours. Fifty people have died of coronavirus since its outbreak in Pakistan, which include 15 each in Sindh and Punjab, KP 16, Balochistan one, and three in Gilgit-Baltistan.

**Qaisar  
writes  
letter to  
Larijani**


A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaisar has expressed solidarity with Dr. Ali Ardeshir Larjani Speaker of Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran and people of Iran, in a letter written on April 6, 2020. Asad Qaisar said ongoing issue of Coronavirus poses a threat to the well being of the entire humanity, which is all the more reason the world should come together to combat the epidemic disease for safety of our people. It is with this intent that Prime Minister Imran Khan is calling for lifting of sanctions on Iran. He assured his Iranian counterpart of Pakistani nation's complete support in this difficult situation and prayed that brave people of Iran will soon overcome this problem.

**Tareen  
removed**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Jahangir Khan Tareen has been removed as the chairman of Agriculture Task Force after the emergence of a probe report. – DNA

## Japan offers assistance, expertise to Pakistan

Japanese Government supports the people of Pakistan in these trying times and is ready to offer its expertise and any sort of assistance to the government of Pakistan if the situation so requires

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori Matsuda said that the Japanese government was ready to provide its expertise and any sort of assistance to the government of Pakistan if required in the current hard times. "Japanese Government

supports the people of Pakistan in these trying times and is ready to offer its expertise and any sort of assistance to the government of Pakistan if the situation so requires," the Ambassador told Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh during a call on meeting. The Ambassador shared with the adviser the



steps being taken by the Japanese government to

contain the Coronavirus pandemic and the impact

they had created so far, according to statement

issued by the Finance Ministry. The Ambassador also discussed certain issues of the Japanese investors in Pakistan arising out of the restrictions on business activities. Hafeez Shaikh appreciated the efforts of the Japanese government to control the Pandemic and thanked it for its support to the people of Pakistan.





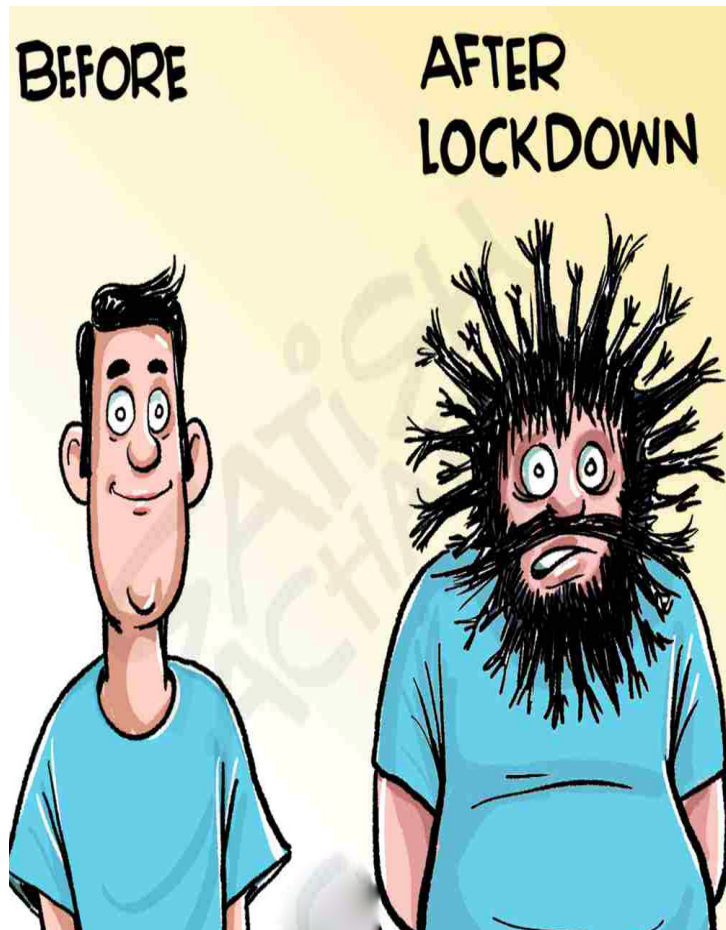


## COVID 19: Japan may declare emergency

THE Japanese government may declare a state of emergency this week to contain the coronavirus outbreak, media reports said. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is reportedly set to make the declaration for parts of Japan including Tokyo, as the number of people infected with the virus continues to increase. The news pushed up Tokyo stocks, with investors seeing the move as positive for containing the outbreak, analysts said.

The city-state has put nearly 20,000 migrant workers under quarantine for two weeks after a growing number of coronavirus infections were detected in their dormitories. Authorities reported 120 new virus cases Sunday, the highest jump for the country in a single day, with many linked to foreign workers' dorms. Many workers from less affluent countries, particularly parts of South Asia, come to Singapore to work in construction and are typically housed in large dormitory complexes. Asian markets rose as some of the world's worst-hit countries reported falling death rates, providing some much-needed hope in the battle against the coronavirus, though oil prices were rocked after a meeting of top producers was delayed. South Korea reported fewer than 50 new coronavirus cases for the first time in more than six weeks, having once been the hardest-hit country outside China, where the virus first emerged. The South confirmed 47 new cases on the previous day, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, taking its total to date to 10,284. It was the lowest increase since late February. Fears are growing that a deadly Pacific cyclone smashing into Vanuatu could trigger a natural disaster which undermines the impoverished nation's battle to remain coronavirus-free. Tropical Cyclone Harold, which claimed 27 lives when it swept through the Solomon Islands last week, strengthened to a scale-topping category five superstorm overnight, Vanuatu's meteorology service said.

Asparagus soup, cheesy profiteroles and fluffy chocolate mousse were on the menu as five Japanese chefs showed culinary gratitude to hospital workers treating coronavirus patients in the French city of Dijon. Sri Lanka carried out a mercy mission to evacuate a sick German woman from a cruise ship that entered the island's territorial waters to take in food, water and other logistics, the navy said. It was not immediately clear if she was infected with the coronavirus, but authorities for the cruise liner had previously maintained there were no cases of COVID-19 onboard the vessel, which was carrying about 1,700 people.



## China's national mourning day and its economic values

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



*Honesty, determination, industriousness, service, submission and of course forwardness are the keys to a stable society and sustainable economic development in the world and China is not any exception. China is the “apex” of human values and always cares about sacrifices of people for “struggling” humanity. China's always respect the “departed souls” who lay down their precious lives for national causes*

HUMAN spirits never die. Most recently, on April 4, 2020 Chinese government observed national day of mourning which was the “vivid reflection” of its holistic policies towards economics of humanity. Economics of humanity has multiplier effects which pay back its unlimited

dividends for centuries to come.

It also upheld the philosophy of “Confucius” which emphasized correlation between dynamic and dynasty and government's moral values/strength, optimal rightness of social relationships, justice, kindness, and sincerity. It was held to honor its doctors, paramedics and citizens who died in the fight against novel coronavirus and the patients who died of COVID-19 on April 4, 2020. It was arranged to salute and honoring the more than 3,300 people killed by deadly COVID-19 in China since it was discovered in December 2019. There have been more than 1.1 million confirmed cases of the virus worldwide; more than 60,000 have so far been died. China's national mourning reflected various holistic human traits of its society and governance. Human traits have direct correlation with pure economic development. Human traits are pro-development attributions.

Honesty, determination, industriousness, service, submission and of course forwardness are the keys to a stable society and sustainable economic development in the world and China is not any exception. China is the “apex” of human values and always cares about sacrifices of people for “struggling” humanity. China's always respect the “departed souls” who lay down their precious lives for national causes. Due to which COVID-19 pandemic has been diminished with superior people's persuasions in China. Throughout China, people of all classes, ranks, affiliations, professions and association observed three minutes national mourning. Chinese people stopped what they had been doing. Everything was standstill. In big cities to rural areas, unlimited ethnic groups and people belonging to different classes together bowed their heads and paid respects to the thousands of neighbors and fellow Chinese nationals friends, family, patients and medical workers who are no longer with them in the fight against COVID-19. There was pin drop silence, air raid sirens and vehicle horns wailed their lament and showed their sign of solidarity and submission towards sacrifices of Chinese people against COVID-19. Virus has been defeated due to spirits of Chinese virtuousness.

President Xi Jinping led the national mourning at a ceremony in Beijing, dressed in black and surrounded by the most prominent members of the Chinese Communist Party like Li Keqiang, Li Zhanhu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng, and Wang Qishan stood in silence for three minutes in the Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Beijing. Flags flew at half-mast and entertainment was also suspended throughout the country.. As they paid a silent tribute in front of the national flag, a white flower in their chests stood

in stark contrast with their black suits. National Mourning Day OF April 4, 2020 was the first time that a major public health emergency had triggered nationwide mourning. Since the implementation of the National Flag Law, China has held three national mourning's to honor the victims of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, the 2010 Yushu earthquake, and the 2010 Gansu mudslide.

Moreover, fourteen people who died fighting the COVID-19 outbreak in central China's Hubei Province have been honored as martyrs, the highest honorary title which the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country awards to citizens who bravely sacrificed their lives for the nation and the people. It was a Chinese national response to all international propaganda tactics, widespread conspiracy theories and dirt politics. Even Chinese mass media (public-private) Xinhua and China Daily, reduced the palettes of their home pages to black and white and showed their solidarity with people of China in their sorrows.

Social media was also active to honor the “departed souls” and did the same with their profiles. Online, celebrities like “X-Men: Days of Future Past” star Fan Bingbing swapped their glamorous social media profile pictures for somber photos in grey or black. Chinese gaming and social media giant Tencent suspended all online games on the Chinese National Day Mourning.

Chinese national flags were flown at half-mast throughout the country as it mourned the thousands of ‘martyrs’ who lost their lives to the COVID-19 epidemic. Cars, trains and ships sounded their horns and air sirens wailed and all forms of entertainment were suspended for the day. The People's Republic has recorded more than 80,000 cases and 3,000 deaths since the outbreak began in December 2019. The majority of cases were in Wuhan, Hubei province, where the SARS-like virus was first detected in December 2019. The Chinese government hailed it as a ‘heroic city’ for the hardships and sacrifices of its 11 million citizens.

According to Chinese and international media in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province and the epicenter of the outbreak, all traffic lights in urban areas turned red at 10 a.m. and all road traffic ceased for three minutes. About 75 percent of the people who are confirmed dead from the virus in China were in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in Central China that is still under quarantine, which is expected to be lifted in the next week.

Since then, the virus has spread to all corners of the globe and has now become a global health threat sickening more than a million, killing over 60,000 people and paralyzing the

## Trump sees ‘light at end of tunnel’

PRESIDENT Donald Trump expressed hope on Sunday that the United States was seeing a “leveling-off” of the coronavirus crisis in parts of the United States, even as some of his top health officials were cautious in their predictions about the raging pandemic. The president and other members of the task force sought to assure the public that the country may be close to getting through the worst of the pandemic.

While Trump spoke of a “light at the end of the tunnel,” Vice President Pence identified “glimmers of hope,” and Coronavirus Response Coordinator Deborah Birx said data from Italy was giving the U.S. “hope for what our future could be.” On Sunday, New York, the epicentre of the US outbreak, reported a drop in the number of new infections and deaths.

Trump described the dip as a “good sign”, but warned of more deaths as the pandemic neared its “peak” in the US. He said more medical personnel and supplies, including masks and ventilators, would be sent to the states that are most in need of assistance. The optimistic outlook at the Sunday evening briefing was in stark contrast to comments made in the morning by Surgeon General Jerome Adams and Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The president offered few specific examples of how the country was moving toward a better outlook with the virus.

He cited data in New York that showed the state had fewer daily deaths from the virus for the first time in days and noted the state was using fewer hospital beds than expected. Birx said health experts are looking toward Italy and seeing the country start to turn a corner. She suggested the U.S. could be facing a similar path, suggesting it would mean social distancing could soon show signs of working. There are more than 337,000 confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. as of late Sunday, with more than 9,600 deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The Trump administration has extended social distancing guidelines through the end of April that urge Americans to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people and maintain a distance of six feet or more from other individuals. The president has vacillated at the daily briefings between giving a somber and realistic accounting of grim projections and offering optimism about the economy being able to reopen in a matter of weeks instead of months.

world economy. The overall number of confirmed cases reported in the United States now exceeds China's official tally by threefold.

To manage the human crisis of COVID-19, the local authorities in Wuhan city and Hubei province in central China, the epicentre of the outbreak did not waste any time in locking down cities. The Chinese leadership also saved time that democracies usually need in building bipartisan or multi-party consensus on potentially consequential decisions.

Due to systematic public awareness program Chinese people did not react to quarantine and lockdown restrictions with resistance or panic. They stayed in their homes and put masks whenever going outside. There was no panic among the general public in buying items of daily use like masks, paper towels or water like what we saw in recent weeks in the US or other affected countries. On March 25, China lifted the lockdown in Hubei with the exception of Wuhan and opened transport services. From April 8, outbound traffic from Wuhan will be available.

### Conclusions :

CONFUCIUS the greatest Chinese ancient philosopher and political thinker spoke highly about humans and human values. He cared about human beings, the human condition of metaphysics. Worry about humans, not gods; worry about life, not death remained crux of his teachings. He emphasized that good government would promote social harmony and the general well-being.

On April 4, 2020 China observed national day of mourning during which heads bowed and hearts filled with spirits of respectfulness and thankfulness to all those martyrs and departed souls alike who fought bravely against COVID-19 and acted like to frontline army to stop its national pervasiveness. Many countries around the globe paid their homage to Chinese national mourning day and showing spirits of respect, humanity and togetherness in their statements and noble acts. The Republic of Azerbaijan paid great respect by placing Chinese flag to its towers of fire and other important national buildings on April 4, 2020.

Being prominent regional expert of China, CPEC & BRI I personally, think that proper CHANNELIZATION OF GRIEF AND OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF SORROW WILL A VALUE ADDITION TO CHINESE SOCIAL HARMONY AND REVIVAL OF NATIONAL ECONOMY IN THE DAYS TO COME. Economics of humanity remained vector against all villain vanguards during the evolution of human civilization in the past and it will be same even in our existence beyond Mars in the future.

## (From solitude) A soldier's lone long walk

F Z Khan

*This book is simply amazing. It is unique and non-traditional. Although the author, Tahir Mahmood, is apparently a latest entry into the English writers' club, yet his short stories have off and on been appearing in newspapers as well as on web portals, which was taken as a happy surprise by many keen readers*

OUTSIDE my self-imposed solitude, the fear of coronavirus has gripped, around the globe, as the demon has started wreaking havoc across continents. Messages on social media and talk shows on TV have added dread and scare to further spread of the virus. I, beside seeking mercy from God, have taken refuge in my books putting in the study room shelves. Here I have “A Lone Long Walk” in my hands that is just a new arrival. This book is simply amazing. It is unique and non-tradi-

tional. Although the author, Tahir Mahmood, is apparently a latest entry into the English writers' club, yet his short stories have off and on been appearing in newspapers as well as on web portals, which was taken as a happy surprise by many keen readers. “A Lone Long Walk” is his first book that has recently hit the bookshelves; the language, style and technique of the book is so attractive that I read it twice during my ongoing corona-quarantine ‘solitude’ at home. One wonders how and why would a man with tactical background write a non-military, non-traditional and pure-literary book, that too in prose, which is a difficult form of expression even for the native English. In Pakistan, English prose and short story writing is very much rare – hardly there are mentionable names in this field; there was a need to fill this gap and Tahir Mahmood seems to have done it well. While going through his various short stories (keep in mind the order) like “Traveller”, “At Crossroads”, “Choice”, “Line”, “Riddle”, “Red Roses in the Courtyard”, “She Lives in the Garden”, “Where Cherries Grow”, “Rise and Fall”, “Mortals Immortals”, “Dust” and “Solitude”, it seems that a title of stories is so carefully chosen that it completes the circle of life of a “Traveller” that he is. During the course of his ‘Lone Long Walk’ and the process of thought, he comes across hardships of life, love and sacrifice, call of duty, parting of ways and loneliness in the end. The same process bears lessons into the philosophy of life from dawn to dusk and birth to dust. It is like the diary of Vagabond, wanderer of Wasteland or the vagrant of Great Expectations. One realizes that a ‘soldier’ too feels, thinks and observes like us. He too is a human. He too has a heart. He too dreams of a life of his choice, though, obviously, he is trained in a manner, as a soldier, that ‘duty’ comes in the way of his choice as first priority. The love of Motherland runs supreme and that is the message of

the 110-page book of only 28 short stories in row. This makes the reader think whether a gun-carrying soldier can really have such a fine-tuned pen in his other hand? Written technically correct, symbolically meaningful and metaphorically evocative, “A Lone Long Walk” is a must read in one go of a 3-4 hour long sitting. It is a precious addition in the latest times with lasting impact. Like Bano Qudsia's Raja Gidh, the reader will need to reread it because it gives an added taste of philosophical soliloquies once you re-intrude in the author's kingdom of ‘solitude’. In first attempt, one gets taste of the sweetness of the language he uses, and in the second read one understands the depth of his message.

The generation of today's soldiers had opened its eyes amidst the dreaded war on terror. There had been no respite, since early 2004, either on frontiers or on inside fronts – they confronted the enemy and the enemy shadows head-on – which on one hand has battle hardened our jawans and officers and on the other hand changed their lives from training drills to real-time operations, mostly at the cost of their lives. The tragic part is that the WOT has cost over 70,000 lives, beside everything relating to social fabric, cultural life and economy, but the most prideful of all is one shining example, which many of us miss to mention while the contemporary world doesn't forget. That shining example is, not a single soldier or officer of Pakistan's armed or civil forces has ever turned his back from the ‘call of duty’ – unlike other nations who have ratio of deaths, suicides, drug uses, desertions and hypertensive browls with fellow soldiers due to pressure of forced operational duties. Tahir Mahmood's narration from “Choice” to “Nomads” throughout the pages revolves around this fact, which he proudly mentions in every story. Sometime, his ‘call of duty’ argument over the ‘call of love’ embarrasses the reader but, given the hard fact of battlefield, where

seeing death eye to eye is not just fiction but real – the author therefore chooses being a soldier, not a lover. His “Lone Long Walk” proves that ours is not a Candy Land, but the most sacred of all Motherland. We have to save it and protect from all evils and odds, and that we will.

Outside my distanced ‘solitude’, the fear of death is dancing in the streets as twenties of suspects and infected people have been picked from my area and shifted to hospitals. Once again, the Pakistan army has been handed the task to come in the aid of civil administration and fight the monster. Equally exposed and vulnerable, as they are human too, the jawans and officers, doctors and paramedics are doing their duties in order to save the lives of the people. The personnel of Rangers and police have cordoned off the entire vicinity where I live, all the exit points towards Murree Road have been sealed fearing further spread of the deadly demon.

The soldier's ‘long walk’ continues; this time he is out to probably brave the biggest of all challenges of life. The task is gigantic. I am sure our jawans and officers will win no matter how grave the challenge is. Look, how Tahir Mahmood sums up his book in these words? It seems as if he is thinking ahead of time; the relevance of his lines with the newborn enormous challenge is amazing: “The struggle for ‘good’ passes through the garden of life where rose blooms next to a thorn. Thus, incongruity also needs to be understood as it sows the seeds of evolution and progression. Who knows the value of peace more than a proud soldier who actually has to undergo the rigors of war? Yet, the desire for peace never deters him from war. The struggle for survival and quest for beauty go side by side, and reach the zenith of wisdom that embraces all through divine compassion and forgiveness”.

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## Briefs

19 pilgrims  
quarantined  
in Attock

DNA

ATTOCK: As many as 19 pilgrims coming back from Iran have been kept in a quarantine center in Attock and will be allowed to go home after 14 days if their Covid-19 results are found negative by NIH. CEO Health Dr Sohail Ejaz said this while talking to journalists. Dr Asif Niazi and Dr Asad were also present on the occasion. CEO health said that these pilgrims which include 2 from Attock, 10 from Jand, 4 from Pindigheb and three from Hasanabdal. He said that these pilgrims were kept in Taftan for 14 days where their results were found negative and were then sent to a quarantine center in Multan where they were again kept for 14 days and were tested again for coronavirus and their results were found negative. Now at third and final stage before going home they have been kept in Quarantine Center in Wapda Colony Attock and their samples have been sent to NIH. CEO health said if their results will be found negative then all will be sent home after 14 days and if any one of them found positive will be sent to an isolation ward in hospital.

US spy  
master  
slams  
Trump

WASHINGTON: The head of the U.S. intelligence watchdog who reported to Congress about a whistle blower complaint, which eventually led to President Donald Trump's impeachment, said Sunday that the president fired him just because he fulfilled his duty "faithfully." "It is hard not to think that the President's loss of confidence in me derives from my having faithfully discharged my legal obligations as an independent and impartial Inspector General, and from my commitment to continue to do so," Michael Atkinson, the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG), said in a statement. — APP

24 patients  
tested  
positive

SARGODHA: Director Health Services Dr. Rana Abdullah said that apart from treating patients of corona and preventing its spread in Sargodha division, the health department was also playing an effective role in raising awareness in all four districts. — APP

IRSA  
releases  
water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 76,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 114,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1471.31 feet, which was 85.31 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 25,800 cusecs and outflow as 5,000 cusecs. — APP

Azerbaijan contributes USD 5 million  
to WHO to fight coronavirus

**BAKU:** Tedros Adhanom Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) has lauded leadership of Azerbaijan for contributing USD five million to WHO to fight COVID 19 pandemic. In a statement the WHO Director General said he was delighted to finalize Azerbaijan's US\$5m contribution to WHO for the COVID19 response. He further said such global solidarity is vital for strengthening healthcare services for people needing treatment for and helping health workers perform their vital duties. — DNA

NAM doesn't recognize "elections"  
in Nagorno-Karabakh

The Non-Aligned Movement, the second largest political platform after the UN and uniting 120 countries, stressed that the acquisition of territories by force is unacceptable and stated that the situation after the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan will not be legally recognized by any country

DNA

BAKU: the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has issued a statement on the so-called "elections" in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told.

The Non-Aligned Movement, the second largest political platform after the UN and uniting 120 countries, stressed that the acquisition of territories by force is unacceptable and stated that the situation after the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan will not be legally recognized by any country.

In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement member states stated that they did not recognize the so-called "elections" held in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 31 this year and considered the so-called "elections" illegal. In conclusion, referring to paragraph 662 of the Final Act of the

Baku Summit, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement reiterated its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on UN Security Council resolutions.

Edhi  
provides  
free  
treatment

LAHORE: The free dispensary of the Edhi Foundation Lahore provided medical treatment facilities and medicines to 7983 patients during March 2020.

A spokesman said here on Monday that the Foundation shifted 174 bodies and 397 injured persons to various hospitals. It also shifted 2,548 and 7,172 injured persons to their houses from hospitals. As many as 224 persons were admitted into Bilquees Edhi Home Gulberg. — APP



**LALAMUSA:** Police cops buying face masks to protect themselves against virus. — Khurshid Nadeem

Virus  
stricken  
cruise ship  
docks

PORT KEMBLA: A cruise ship that has accounted for a quarter of all COVID-19 deaths in Australia was allowed to dock near Sydney on Monday after 200 crew members began exhibiting coronavirus symptoms. The Ruby Princess berthed at Port Kembla, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Sydney, after weeks stranded at sea to allow doctors to assess sick crew members and take the most serious cases ashore for medical treatment. — APP

Pakistan to start  
manufacturing  
ventilators: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry Monday announced that Pakistan within three weeks would start manufacturing of its own Ventilators to increase testing capacity for Coronavirus. Talking to private news channel, Fawad hoped that today after getting the approval of Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Pakistan will start locally its own testing kits and ventilators manufacturing to save the lives of many critically ill coronavirus patients. He said we will successfully made the ventilators

in country, which is the much needed medical equipment for the hospitals amid the coronavirus epidemic. Steps have already been taken to manufacture the test kits and ventilators locally, he added. Fawad Chaudhry added that earlier only test kits were made by China and other countries. High costs, manufacturing countries' inability to fulfill export demands due to their own local demands, among other reasons, have made import of the equipment even more difficult even in America so after the manufacturing of local Ventilators we will get cheap rate testing facilities in our own country, he added.

Punjab announces  
relief in school fee

LAHORE: The Punjab government has reduced the monthly fee of privately managed schools by 20 percent for the months of April and May 2020 (summer vacation). Punjab School Education Minister Murad Raas announced on

Monday that all private schools in the province will charge 20 percent less fee from the routine charges during the two month early summer break for April-May 2020 announced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. — APP

South Korea's FM explains how the country  
contained COVID-19: Kang Kyung-wha

DNA

Despite a sudden spike in infections, South Korea is now winning the fight against the COVID-19 coronavirus. Regions shared doctors and opened their hospitals to each other's patients. Testing is at the heart of the country's coronavirus strategy. "It doesn't matter that my country is stabilizing and coming to grips with this," says South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, explaining the approach her country has taken to the coronavirus outbreak at a virtual World Economic Forum COVID Task Force meeting. "The world must overcome this together." Since its first confirmed case of COVID-19 in late

January, South Korea has shown a determination in the face of the virus that appears to be paying off. From a sudden spike in the number of cases to its decision to implement widespread testing, South Korea has shown itself able to respond quickly and decisively. "We acted early. But much of it surprised us — especially how fast it moves," the Foreign Minister explains. The first 30 cases identified in South Korea were handled in a steady and diligent manner. But that all changed with the appearance of Patient 31. "After that, it just exploded. Containing the spread became difficult. Our sense of crisis at that time was like the sense of crisis in many European countries who are fighting the infection today — a feeling



of being overwhelmed." Between 19 January and 18 February, South Korea had recorded a total of 30 cases and no deaths. That slow increase in infections soon changed — 18 February was the day it recorded its 31st case. Within 10 days, there were more than 2,300 cases. Patient 31 was what is known as a super-spreader — someone who passes the infection on to a larger number of people.

church she had attended and in the surrounding areas tested positive. Super-spreaders like Patient 31 enable a virus to take hold and act as fuel for an outbreak. Although the rapidity with which COVID-19 took hold in South Korea initially surprised authorities, well-established strategies were soon put into place. This joined-up strategy, involving the different regional authorities around the country soon paid off. "When one region ran out of hospital beds we asked other provinces to open up beds in their hospitals. When it ran out of doctors we asked doctors in other regions to help," she continues. Foreign Minister Kang also explains that being open with people and securing their trust is vi-

tally important. "The key to our success has been absolute transparency with the public — sharing every detail of how this virus is evolving, how it is spreading and what the government is doing about it, warts and all." In 2015, the country experienced a sudden and unexpected outbreak of MERS — Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, which is also caused by a coronavirus. It was the largest MERS outbreak outside of the Middle East, and led to 185 confirmed cases in South Korea. It also led to a firm belief that testing should form a central part of any response to a viral epidemic. So when COVID-19 hit South Korea, testing became the course of action that seems to have set the country apart from other

nations. Unlike Italy, China, the UK and parts of the US, there was no lockdown in South Korea. It did, however, close its schools. There have been postponed attempts at reopening them, but reopen they must, according to Foreign Minister Kang. Despite that optimistic and determined message, she also sounds a note of caution. Beating the outbreak does not mean the coronavirus no longer poses a threat, she says. "Even with schools opening, we realize it's not going to be normal like things were before the coronavirus. Normal after the virus is going to look very different. This will be with us for a long time. So we all need to find a way to manage it at a status quo level."