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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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COVID-19: China's support to Pakistan continues: Yaho Jing
Turkish envoy distributes ration among the poor

EU delegation for ceasefire in Afghanistan


PM Imran hints at easing of lockdown

Says Federal and provincial governments are working in cohesion to cope with the situation arising out of Covid-19; hospitals will face immense pressure due to likely surge in Coronac cases



BUERAU REPORT

QUETTA: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said decision about easing the countrywide lockdown will

be taken after seeking inputs from all the provinces on 14th of this month. Talking to members of Balochistan's Provincial Cabinet and Parliaments in Quetta on Thursday afternoon, he said federal and provincial governments are working in cohesion to cope with the situation arising out of Covid-19. The Prime Minister said that National Command and Control Center is minutely observing the Coronavirus situation across the country.

Imran Khan expressed fear that hospitals will face immense pressure due to likely surge in Corona cases by the end of this month. He urged the nation to demonstrate unity to mitigate adverse impacts of Coronavirus. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited corona quarantine center at Bolan Medical College Hospital Quetta. He was accompanied by Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal, Deputy

Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri and Yar Muhammad Rind. The Chief Secretary Balochistan briefed the Prime Minister about the isolation ward and quarantine center. Prime Minister Imran Khan also chaired a meeting in Quetta today to review the coronavirus situation in Balochistan. On the occasion, the Prime Minister was briefed about the steps taken to contain the spread of the virus in the province.

DNA

CHINESE SUPPORT



BEIJING: Pakistan ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi accepted donation of 100,000 disposable masks from SQ Group for the people. – DNA

USC starts mobile service from Friday

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Utility Stores Corporation (USC) Managing Director (MD) Umer Lodhi Thursday said the corporation was launching its well-equipped mobile van service on April 10 (Friday) in a bid to facilitate people with daily use commodities at their door steps. Addressing a news conference here along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, he said initially the service would be launched in federal capital and then it would be expanded the radius of its services to other cities of the country. Providing details about the relief package during lockdown due to coronavirus and the upcoming holy month of Ramadan, the USC MD said the prime minister had announced special package to provide subsidy on five essential items, however, during Ramadan, the subsidy would be given on more items.

Ban on OPDs lifted

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district magistrate has lifted the ban on people visiting hospitals' outpatient departments. The ban was imposed on March 24 to curb the spread of the coronavirus. According to an April 9 notification, the ban has been lifted but hospitals have to adhere to a set of SOPs given to them. They also have to make sure people are practicing social distancing. – APP

Afghanistan asked to hand over Farooqi

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday demanded of the Afghan govt to hand over Aslam Farooqi who has recently been arrested in Afghanistan. The Foreign Office called the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan and conveyed Pakistan's views with regard to the arrest of ISIS-K leader, Aslam Farooqi, by the Afghan authorities on 5 April 2020. It was emphasized that Pakistan had been expressing its concerns over the activities of this

group, which were clearly detrimental to Pakistan. Pakistan's position in this regard was being regularly shared with the Government of Afghanistan and others concerned. It was underscored to the Ambassador that since Aslam Farooqi was involved in anti-Pakistan activities in Afghanistan, he should be handed-over to Pakistan for further investigations. It was further underlined that the two sides should coordinate actions against the menace of terrorism, including through established mechanisms.

Armenia continues dirty political games

DNA

BAKU: The so-called "election", which has been recently held in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, has been strongly condemned and categorically rejected by the international community, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmet Hajiyev said. Hajiyev made the remark in Baku at the briefing of the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers. "That is, 120 states unanimously supported the position of Azerbaijan, its territorial integrity, sovereignty. The insidious essence of the illegal regime created by Armenia in the



occupied territories of Azerbaijan is manifested in the fact that while the whole world is suffering from coronavirus, they continue their dirty political games," said Hajiyev. The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

COVID-19 causes losses in employment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The COVID-19 crisis is expected to wipe out 6.7 per cent of working hours globally in the second quarter of 2020 - equivalent to 195 million full-time workers. Large reductions are foreseen in the Arab States, (8.1 per cent, equivalent to 5 million full-time workers), Europe, (7.8 per cent, or 12 million full-time workers) and Asia and the Pacific (7.2 per cent, 125 million full-time workers). Huge losses are expected across different income groups but especially in upper-middle income countries (7.0 per cent, 100 million full-time workers). This far exceeds the effects of the 2008-9 financial crisis, the UN Information Center said here Thursday. The sectors most at risk include accommodation and food services, manufacturing, retail, and business and administrative activities. The eventual increase in global unemployment during 2020 will depend substantially on future developments and policy measures.

PTCL group posts Rs 32 billion revenue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2020 at its Board of Directors' meeting held in Islamabad Thursday. COVID-19 pandemic has created global shockwaves and its effects have changed the landscape of every perceptible area of ordinary life. PTCL stands with the nation in this tough time and continues to provide seamless connectivity across Pakistan. Our frontline teams, equipped with all protective gears, are at the forefront to serve our customers nationwide.

Briefs

CAA sets up ATC radar services room

RAJA FURQAT

ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as a proactive measure in the wake of coronavirus has established a contingency ATC radar services room at Jinnah International Airport away from the main / existing area control center to ensure swift change over and continuity of provisioning of much needed air traffic services for the movement of aircraft from/to Pakistan.

METRO stands with Govt

KARACHI: With a high sense of corporate social responsibility, METRO Pakistan under its program "Care & Share" is supporting Government of Pakistan in the fight against Covid-19 by donating 2,500 high quality full body protective suits. METRO Pakistan was the first one who responded to the need. – DNA

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China emerges as front-runner in eradicating virus world over

Turkish Ambassador distributes ration among poor people

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Pakistan terms elections in occupied Nagorno Karabakh illegal

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has termed elections in occupied Nagorno Karabakh illegal. Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aisha Farooqi expressed these views during a press briefing on Thursday. The Presidential and Parliamentary elections held on 31 March 2020



in Nagorno-Karabakh, occupied territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is a clear violation of international norms. The election constitutes a clear breach of interna-

tional law and UN Security Council resolutions. It is taken as an attempt by Armenia to hamper the ongoing negotiation process for finding lasting solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through peaceful means. Pakistan reaffirms its principled position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reiterates its support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

ADB \$50 mln for COVID-19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has repurposed \$50 million from Pakistan's National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) to support the Government of Pakistan's preventive and response efforts to fight the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country. The funds, which form part of ADB's series of support for Pakistan's fight against COVID-19, will help to procure medical equipment and supplies to strengthen hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, isolation units, and other medical facilities in the country, said a press release issued by the ADB.

Pakistan pledges \$ 3 mln towards SAARC fund

Pakistan's perspective in this regard was also conveyed during a telephone conversation between Foreign Secy and Secy Gen SAARC

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has pledged US \$ 3 million towards the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support regional efforts in the fight against Coronavirus. While communicating Pakistan's decision to the SAARC Secretariat, it has been conveyed that all proceeds of the Fund should be administered by the SAARC Secretariat and that the modalities for the Fund's utilization should be finalized through con-

sultations with the Member States as per the SAARC Charter. Pakistan's perspective in this regard was also conveyed during a telephone conversation between Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and Secretary General SAARC Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, today. Being a founding member, Pakistan considers SAARC an important platform for regional cooperation. Pakistan remains committed to the SAARC process and will continue working with the Member States to strengthen regional cooperation.

COVID-19 : China's support to Pakistan continues

It is Pakistan that China has launched most aids to control the deadly virus." China made a huge contribution in medical relief assistance to Pakistan amid the pandemic outbreak and China made 80% of the total aid Pakistan has received so far: Yaho Jing

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: China reassured that its huge support to Pakistan will continue and there will be no shortage of medical equipment to combat COVID-19, reports Gwadar Pro App on Thursday. Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said that "it is Pakistan that China has launched most aids to control the deadly virus." Likewise, the National

Disaster Management Authority informed that China made a huge contribution in medical relief assistance to Pakistan amid the pandemic outbreak and China made 80% of the total aid Pakistan has received so far. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, all sectors of China have been continuously supporting Pakistan. On Mar 31st, Beijing Lianxin Charity Foundation donated a batch of medical supplies to the Pakistani

embassy in Beijing. Those supplies were purchased with funds which were voluntarily donated by Chinese citizens. The youngest donors are only 13 years old. Amidst those supplies, the TCM oral liquid which belongs to traditional Chinese medicine with the effect of eliminating phlegm and relieving cough, attracted ambassador's attention. Hair Group (Pakistan) donated 50,000 medical masks to local government. Prime Minister

Imran Khan received them. Hair Pakistan also come to help Pakistan to prevent the loss of precious human lives. It is reported that the company is urgently arranging procurement and transport of the second batch of supplies. within the next few days to distribute to frontline hospitals and medical workers. Basha project launched by Zhong Mei Engineering Group donated a batch of medical supplies to Chilas city and Water

& Power Development Authority (WAPDA). The aids including 14,000 medical masks, 240 N95 masks, 300 pairs of medical gloves, as well as anti-epidemic medical devices such as protective clothing, medical infrared thermometers, mercury thermometers and alcohol pads. Meanwhile, Guizhou University (GZU) donated a batch of supplies such as medical masks, gloves, infrared thermometers and medicines.

Briefs

Payments started: Dr. Nishtar



DNA

ISLAMABAD: PM Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Thursday said payments had been started under the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program. In a tweet, Dr. Nishtar said as many as 17,000 payment points were being established countrywide with special protective measures for COVID-19 to facilitate Ehsaas Emergency Cash payment of Rs.12,000 per family. “We will ensure Corona preventive measures through Ehsaas Emergency Cash payments, including handwashing, cleaning and maintaining social distance”, she added. For queries, the citizens can call on the toll free number 0800-26477, the special assistant said. She said special measures had been taken to protect the payment centers from the effects of Coronavirus. The number of biometric payment centers and counters has been alarmingly increased to prevent crowding of beneficiaries, ensuring their health and safety.

NDMA provides safety equipment

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Thursday provided safety equipment for doctors and medical staff of 100 hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The NDMA Spokesperson said, “The equipment delivered today includes 74,000 surgical and 4,652 N-95 masks.” He added that around 8,759 protective suits and more than 65,000 gloves were also provided in the consignment that included 3,000 sterilized gowns and 4,180 shoe covers. – APP

PTA extending support to BISP

ISLAMABAD: In view of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is extending full support to Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) without any financial benefit in its efforts to reach out people waiting for help through mobile technology. Responding to misleading information being spread on social media about charging on SMSs on BISP code, the PTA said, short messaging service (SMS) under the BISP - Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme - for each SMS sent on 8171 only charged Rs1+tax to meet the operational cost, a PTA press release Thursday said. – APP

Next wave of pandemic would be rural areas, experts warn

Government is not effectively utilizing the potential of Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and constitutional forum of Council of Common Interest (CCI) in this time of crisis and hence failing in effective coordination and collaboration

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Owing to lack of functional and effective local body infrastructure, particularly in Punjab province, it seems that the government is failing to reach out and providing relief to poor and marginalized communities in the rural areas amidst COVID-19 crisis. The next wave of the pandemic in Pakistan would be our rural areas and to protect the agri-worker and rural economy, the federal government must ensure effective coordination through Council of Common Interest (CCI) and ensure preparedness

at tehsil and union council levels. This was the crux of the online policy dialogue titled “Rethinking Development amidst COVID-19 Crisis” organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here at Islamabad. Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri said that the government is not effectively utilizing the potential of Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and constitutional forum of Council of Common Interest (CCI) in this time of crisis and hence failing in effective coordination and collaboration. He said that our National Command and Control

Authority may help overcome the national level operational challenges but may not be able to resolve the political differences among center and provinces, which can only be resolved through CCI. Dr Abid stressed the need for protecting the agriculture workers and rural economy through effective preparedness at the union council level to prevent spread of COVID-19 and ensuring the protection of whole food supply chain. He said all federal and provincial government must collaborate and must be on the same page to fight COVID-19. Dr Daanish Mustafa, Faculty Member at De-

partment of Geography, King’s College London while stressing the need for efficient public administration said that the government should involve the local people in policy making as local knowledge is essential to bring effectiveness in policy response for longer time. He urged the government to adopt problem solving approach to deal with disaster management by taking local government and people in to the loop. Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Vaqar Ahmed said that it was our collective failure, because we all fail to assess the COVID-19 crisis and unable to prepare ourselves to cope

with in advance. He said a large part of solution lies in developing our understanding around local body system to work. Dr Vaqar said COVID-19 pandemic is also seen an opportunity at huge scale for research community to witness how challenges are evolving and researchers are being forced out of their own comfort zone to think how to help policy makers in responding those challenges. In the context of rethinking development, Dr Vaqar stressed the need for rethinking through the channel determined by SDGs, and National development plans should reflect these goals.

Dr Nousheen anwar, Head of Karachi Urban Lab said that in response to COVID-19 pandemic the world has diverted it focus on environment from mega development. She said, previously, issue of health wasn’t priority at all which now comes in a bigger way and raise concern on how will this pandemic can affect the broader context of climate change agenda. Dr Imran Khalid, Head Climate Change Departments at SDPI while moderating the session said that COVID-19 is a window of opportunity for the world to really rethink the approach to development and research agenda.

DC de-seals Bhara kahu, Shahzad Town

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ISLAMABAD: On the recommendations of the District Health Officer, the District Magistrate has ordered to de-seal the Bharakahu and Shahzad Town with immediate effect. According to notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner /District Magistrate the decision was taken after detailed survey, contact tracing, ground surveillance and testing of suspected individuals. The Bilal Masjid, Maki Masjid and adjoining areas in Kot Hatheyaal, Bharakahu and street 6 in Shahzad Town will continue to be locked down, notification said.

Chinese LED street lamps to light up economic zone

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Recently, LED street lamps produced by Sichuan Sunfor Light Co., Ltd., a leading Chinese enterprise in the lighting industry, were officially delivered to the customer in Pakistan. According to Gwadar Pro App, these products will light up the economic development zone in Islamabad. Prior to the formal signing of the contract, the company and its Pakistani customer had many in-depth exchanged on the production site. After thorough inspection of material suppliers and the following product testing, the LED street lamps have been highly recognized for its excellent quality and cost-effectiveness. In addition, the company, considering the climate

conditions of project site, has also specially customized LED street lamps that meet the IP66 standard to ensure the stable use of lamps in the harsh environment. Due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, the resumption of street lamp factory was seriously affected. However, the company made full efforts to step up production on the premise of ensuring the safety, and completed product delivery within due time. The LED street lamps delivered this time are the products for the first phase of the economic development zone construction project in Islamabad. The Pakistani customer said future orders would be placed according to the construction progress of the project, expecting closer cooperation between the two sides.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people busy in purchasing fruits and vegetable at I-11, Subzi Mandi. – APP

FPCCI hails Dawood views about SMEs

FIAZ CHAUDRHY

ISLAMABAD: Vice President FPCCI, QAISAR KHAN DAUDZAI has said that business community of Pakistan appreciate the statement of Mr. Abdul RazzaqDawood, Minister for Commerce & Textile to give supportive edge to SME’s sector. He further said that, government has to initiate proper mechanism to give relief to SME’s to safeguard their business interest in terms of necessary payments to their concerned Venders, Utilities, Rental and Wages.

AIOU’s skill-development program in Computer Sciences

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has invited applications for admission in post-graduate diploma-program in Computer Sciences. According to Director Admissions, learning management system in this program will be Online. The interested people could enroll themselves online or through post offices for semester spring 2020 by April 15. This program is especial-

ly designed as per market-needs for those who may like to upgrade their professional skill or develop career in the field of Computer Science. Duration of the program is one year, spreading over two semesters (six months each). The University’s department of Sciences is well-equipped with latest computers and services including a digital classroom and a multimedia lab. Meanwhile, it has also launched post-diploma programs in some dis-

ciplines including Educational Planning and Management, Educational Leadership and Management, Supply Chain Management, Entrepreneurship, Population and Development, Criminology, Human Resource Management and TEFL. While launching these programs, the University has given special importance to quality-assurance both in the context of contents’ development and teaching practices, in accordance with the instructions of the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zia-UI-Qayyum.

Plastic imports dip

ISLAMABAD: The imports of plastic materials into the country witnessed declined of 7.94 percent during the first eight months of current financial year (2019-20) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan imported plastic worth \$1326.052 million during July-February (2019-20) compared to the imports of \$1440.492 million during July-February (2018-19), showing negative growth of 7.94 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). – APP

Slums need extra steps

ISLAMABAD: Slums - Katchi Abadis - require extra precautionary measures due to peculiar conditions and specific steps for the dwellers with high exposure to unhygienic and untidy places. Generally, the dwellers, engaged as sanitary workers or janitors at homes, have high exposure due to ‘infected’ places, so specific steps are required to ensure their overall safety. “Most of people of our community lift garbage and work in hospitals or homes which makes us vulnerable,” said Ilyas Maseeh at G-7 ‘Katchi Abadi’ which houses more than 200 under-privileged people. – APP

Realtors thank PM for providing relief package

FARUKH SHAHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Tahir Abbasi, Senior Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has met a longstanding demand of realtors by announcing a relief package for construction sector besides giving it industry status for which the community of realtors was thankful to him. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation that called on him led by Khalid Mehmood-Chaudhry, Secretary, Traders Action Committee. Muhammad Aslam Khokhar, YasirJameel, IkramAbbasi and others were in

the delegation. Tahir Abbasi said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, business activities of almost all sectors have come to a halt due to which large number of daily wagers and other workers have become unemployed. He said that at these difficult times, announcing a relief package for construction industry was a highly welcome decision as it would provide jobs to lot of jobless workers, boost business activities and yield beneficial results for the dwindling economy. ICCI Senior Vice President said that attractive incentives have been given to investors for investing in construction projects under Naya Pakistan Housing



Authority that would accelerate the pace of construction works under this program. He said that steel and cement were integral part of construction industry and urged that government should also lift withholding taxes from these two

sectors as has been lifted for other sectors of this industry. It would bring down the cost of construction projects and ease the difficulties of people in building their own houses. Tahir Abbasi said that business of over 40 allied industries was

linked with construction industry and providing tax relief to it would give boost to all its related industries. He said that setting up Construction Industry Development Board would pave way for better growth of construction industry. He said that construction industry was playing key role in the economic development of country, but for the last few years, heavy taxes were imposed on real estate and construction sector in Pakistan that badly affected its business activities. He hoped that PM’s relief package for construction industry would revive the stalled business activities in the country and reduce povertyas well.

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FATF extension

AN unexpected development has given Pakistan an additional two months in which to complete the action plan steps that were going to be reviewed in June. The Financial Action Task Force told the government of Pakistan that the June meeting will not be held due to the ongoing coronavirus situation and Pakistan's progress on its action plan will be evaluated in August instead.

No doubt this comes as a relief to some in the government, since much work remained to be done by June. But it would be a grave mistake to treat the additional time that has unexpectedly been granted as some sort of 'relief'. Sitting this time out would be in keeping with the reflexes that usually guide work in the government, but those reflexes would be a disservice.

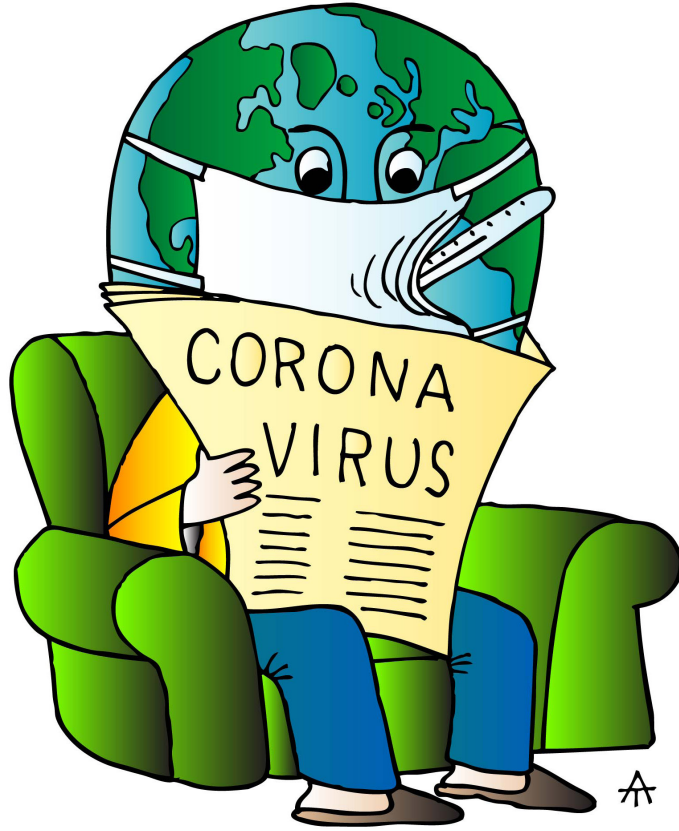
Pakistan was already working under an extension, and in the last February meeting, was allowed six more months to complete 13 of the 27 items in its action plan that had been missed for the February review. Some action had indeed been taken in February, specifically the conviction of Hafiz Saeed in a terror-financing case, which was one of the biggest sticking points in the implementation of the action plan.

But this was not the first time that we saw a spurt of action right when the taskforce was either meeting or getting ready to meet, creating the impression that all measures were simply being taken to have something to show for at the meeting.

The extended time that has been granted can be used to help dispel this impression by advancing more terror-financing inquiries and tightening up the country's prosecution and conviction rate further in this crucial area.

The clear priority is to get off the grey list altogether. No matter how well the stars are aligned for us on the geopolitical table where Pakistan is seeking to draw linkages from, there is no better reason to aim for an expeditious end to the grey listing status than the country's own economic interests.

In the perception of outside observers, a pattern has emerged of Pakistan taking cosmetic action and asking for extensions. This is a good moment to lay this view to rest. – *Courtesy DAWN*



Covid-19 pandemic and dentists

AS Covid-19 is rapidly spreading worldwide and the number of cases in Pakistan is also rising with each passing day in several affected areas, there is a need for immediate targeted actions.

Despite the lockdown, private dental treatment is open in many cities and providing emergency dental facilities. Dental care faculty should initiate training for all staff and those who may be required for dental care provision because the dental staff is more prone to this pandemic virus if they are treating coronavirus patients.

A large number of cases in China and Italy, especially from the initial period of the outbreak, have been among the health workers. Such cases have important consequences in addition to the health of individuals, as quarantine measures may need to be put in place for close contact among staff and the exposure may be life-threatening for exposed patients in dental care facilities.

Therefore, infection prevention and control practices are of great importance in controlling Covid-19, protecting the functioning of dental care services and mitigating the impact on vulnerable population. Dental procedures such as root canal treatment, extractions, scaling, fillings, and implants are dangerous as blood and saliva droplets come out from the mouth and often splash into the dentist's face. If these droplets contain coronavirus they might go to nasal or oral tract and affect the dentist too if they do not take any precautionary measures for treating coronavirus patients. General precautionary measures are not enough to build barriers from this virus.

The minimal personal protective equipment should include respiratory protection, FFP2 or FFP3 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face shield), long-sleeved water-resistant gown and gloves. In the current situation, it is crucial to investigate the availability and impact of countermeasures for public health actions and clinical management.

It is important to understand the relative efficiency and relevance of different modes of transmission such as droplet versus airborne, blood, surfaces or oral.

Broadening split in India's Federation: in-depth study

Sajjad Shaukat



Besides Pakistan, China also rejected the Indian map. In this regard, China objected to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories as "unlawful and void", saying that India's decision to "include" some of China's territory into its administrative jurisdiction "challenged" Beijing's sovereignty. Border dispute between New Delhi and China, which remains unsettled, has increased tension between the two countries

SINCE Narendra Modi, the leader of the ruling party BJP became the Indian Prime Minister in 2014, he started implementing ideology of Hindutva ((Hindu Nationalism). Under his regime, persecution of religious minorities such as Dalits, Sikhs, Christians and particularly Muslims, including even of lower cast-Hindus might be cited as instance.

In this regard, the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA), passed by the Indian Parliament further exposed the discriminatory policies of the Modi government. The CAA coupled with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is mainly against the Muslim immigrants especially from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Since December 15, 2019, daily mass protests, even by the moderate Hindus have been taking place across every state in India against the CAA and the NRC, which resulted into killing of more than 100 persons and injuring 800-mostly Muslims by the police and fanatic Hindus. But, Modi-led regime has not withdrawn the CAA/NRC. It is mentionable that more than seven months have been passed. But, Indian extremist government led by the extremist Prime Minister Modi continued lockdown in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). While, Indian fanatic rulers are also escalating tensions with Pakistan to divert attention from the drastic situation of the (IOK), and have continued shelling inside Pakistani side of Kashmir by violating the ceasefire agreement in relation to the Line of Control (LoC).

Indian forces have broken all previous records of gross human rights abuses since August 5, 2019 when Indian Prime Minister Modi's government ended special status of the Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution to turn Muslim majority into minority in the Indian Held Kashmir. Implementing the August 5 announcement, Indian central government issued a notorious map on October 31, 2019. In accordance with it, Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Besides Pakistan, China also rejected the Indian map. In this regard, China objected to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories as "unlawful

and void", saying that India's decision to "include" some of China's territory into its administrative jurisdiction "challenged" Beijing's sovereignty. Border dispute between New Delhi and China, which remains unsettled, has increased tension between the two countries.

It is noteworthy that former Soviet Union which had subjugated the minorities and ethnic groups in various provinces and regions through its military, disintegrated in 1991. Learning no lesson from its previous close friend, New Delhi has been acting upon the similar policies in some way or the other. However, India, dominated by politicians from the Hindi heartland—Hindutva have been using brutal force ruthlessly against any move to free Assam, Kashmir, Khalistan, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu and Tripura where wars of liberation continue in one form or the other. Due to the discrimination against the Sikh community, Sikhs have been fighting for Khalistan as an independent state.

In the recent years, Maoist intensified their struggle by attacking official installments. In this context, Indian media admitted that Maoists have entered the cities, expanding their activities against the Indian union. On 22-23 April 2018, at least 39 Maoists were killed in an alleged encounter with Indian security forces in district Gadchiroli. Maoist uprising is second major freedom movement after that of the Occupied Kashmir. Indian former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had called Maoist insurrection, "the single biggest internal-security challenge", whereas, Home Secretary G.K Pillai had reiterated the magnitude of this threat by saying that the Maoists want to completely overthrow the Indian state by 2050. The Naxalite-Maoists, as they call themselves, are the liberators, representing landless farmers and the downtrodden masses who have been entangled into vicious circle of poverty, misery and deprivation.

Tamil Nadu is another area where separatist movements are haunting federation of India.

And, the seven states of Northeastern India, which are called the 'Seven Sisters' are ethnically and linguistically different from rest of the country. These states are rocked by a large number of armed and violent rebellions, some

seeking separate states, some fighting for autonomy and others demanding complete independence. These states which include Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, accuse New Delhi of apathy towards their issues. Illiteracy, poverty and lack of economic opportunities have fueled the natives' demand for autonomy and independence.

As regards the state of Assam, the BJP-led alliance has been targeting the 4 million Assamese Muslims who are being denied Indian citizenship under the NRC. On August 31, 2019, nearly two million people have been excluded from a list of citizens in India's Assam, raising fears they could be rendered stateless.

Undoubtedly, these states have witnessed various sorts of India's state terrorism, but, did not stop their struggle. Instead of redressing the grievances of the people by eliminating injustices against them, Modi-led Indian regime is depending upon ruthless force to crush these extremist and secessionist movements. Therefore, India's unrealistic counterinsurgency strategy has badly failed.

It is of particular attention that Indian Minister of External affairs Jaswant Singh who served the BJP for 30 years was expelled from the party for praising Mohammad Ali Jinnah [Founder of Pakistan] and echoing the pain of the Indian Muslims in his book, "Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence." Pointing out the BJP's attitude towards the minorities, Singh wrote: "Every Muslim that lives in India is a loyal Indian...look into the eyes of Indian Muslims and see the pain." He warned in his book, if such a policy continued, "India could have third partition."

We can conclude that Modi's "New India", which is "Meta Nationalism", is transforming the country into a "fascist and extremist India", as Modi is intolerant and inflexible to any kind of opposition. So, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extremist policies have broadened the split of India's federation which will disintegrate like the former Soviet Union. Sajjad Shaukat writes on international affairs and is author of the book: US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations

Email: sajjad_logic@yahoo.com

Will there be a lasting peace in Afghanistan?

Khalid Mahmood Faisal



It is considered that future of South Asia is bright in all respects and Afghan people can only cash in on this opportunity only when they are united. One belt one road vision introduced by China is also knocking at the door of Afghanistan therefore it is up to the Afghan government and people of Afghanistan to try to seize this moment before it gets too late. Stability in Afghanistan is a must for stability in the region. Let us hope peace shall soon return of Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN is a land of holly warriors; it is situated at the crossroads of South and Central states. It has history of wars and peace. The landlocked state has to depend on its neighbor; Pakistan is a country which has been providing facility to public as well as government for trade and other social activities.

Recently, Islamabad played a vital role to facilitate the parties sit on the table for dialogue in Doha. Taliban leadership and United States officials carried out dialogue, a successful accord will bring hope to establish peace in the region. Astonishingly, the sitting Afghan government had been ignored during the dialogue process. President Ghani showed his reaction for not giving seat in Doha meeting, why he had been neglected? Reason was not given by the relevant authority who managed the meeting of Taliban with US officials.

It is feared that Client government in Afghanistan would create hurdles to release the Taliban prisoners as per terms and conditions of accord settled among parties. It's assumed among masses of Afghan society that again civil war would erupt between among groups. The public of Afghan had paid high price of civil war in the past. The fabrics of society based on ethnic, tribal lines, they prefer the order of tribal chief instead of rule of law. Unfortunately, son of soil in security forces has been targeted by Taliban forces after the said agreement of peace on soil. The situation may accelerate the enmity among tribes, which would be an obstacle to restore peace in the state.

In the past the fighting between Durrani and Glazai tribes paved way for Taliban to come into power in Afghanistan. Deadly, tenure of

Taliban having negative impact on society, which has been divided more in sectarian and ethnic lines. Iran, who had been supporting mujahideen without any discrimination in cold war which was fought on Afghan land, millions of migrants were rendered refugees in Iran.

No one can deny of civilian casualties during drive of captured cities by Northern alliance, and Taliban forces in various cities of Afghanistan. Furthermore, Islamic laws imposed by Taliban through Kabil radio in 1996 created suffocation for public who was not ready for such orders. Majority of public who is living under the poverty line was not able to mould itself just on announcement on radio.

It is claimed that peace had been established in entire state by Taliban, instead of remarkable development only three sovereign states had government of Taliban. The head of party Mullah Umer neither conducted press conference nor issued a single press release during his tenure. The tragic incident of 9/11 brought a horrible situation for poor masses. The lack of job opportunities disappointed youths. All inhuman methods of war were applied on innocent citizens.

The infrastructure of state was destroyed by big powers during wars. However, it's a blessing for the public that during previous planted government the foreign investment poured in. China made huge investments in mines industry, like this other neighbor countries also built roads, hospitals, schools, lot of international non-government organizations are serving here, but unless the government does not recognize its responsibilities, the dream of social, economic development could not be come true across the country.

The jirga approved the new Constitution of Afghanistan, which is really a binding force for all clans. It is headway for social and economic development. Now is time for intelligentsia to come forward for dialogue among educated class, to build the state institutions as earlier as possible. Luckily, few models for socio-economic development are present in neighboring countries which would be help full for society in this respect.

History speaks that Afghan nation always stood on victory stand and three super powers have been defeated by this nation. But if your women, girls, or old citizen are found begging in anywhere, how you will feel? State has lot of natural, manpower resources; it can be multiplied with joint efforts.

For a moment dialogue between Kabul and Taliban was suspended, however some saner voices intervened and now the Afghan government has agreed to released 100 Taliban prisoners.

In current scenario all Afghan factions need to sit on the table for resolving all issues, amicably; otherwise train will be missed. The entire world is suffering from epidemic virus; Not even a single state is in a position to help you out, especially pouring dollars on your land.

It is considered that future of South Asia is bright in all respects and Afghan people can only cash in on this opportunity only when they are united.

One belt one road vision introduced by China is also knocking at the door of Afghanistan therefore it is up to the Afghan government and people of Afghanistan to try to seize this moment before it gets too late. Stability in Afghanistan is a must for stability in the region. Let us hope peace shall soon return of Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan and MD Utility Stores Corporation Briefing the media through video conferencing.

Briefs

30,000
Afghan
return home

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least 30,000 Afghan nationals returned to their homes during the four days the Chaman border was opened by Pakistan. The Pakistan government opened the border from April 6 to April 9 on the request of the Afghan government. Thousands of Afghan nationals crossed the Chaman border where the home department screened them. It was previously sealed completely to curb the spread of the coronavirus. A quarantine centre has also been set up at border that can house 900 persons.

Death toll
in Spain
surpasses
15,000

MADRID: The death toll from COVID-19 in Spain has surpassed 15,000, the Spanish government said Thursday, adding it expects a decline in the country's epidemic. As of Wednesday night, the number of deaths from the virus had risen by 683 to 15,238, the Spanish Ministry for Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Services said. — APP

UNHCR's skills
project empowered
refugee woman

RAJA FURQAN AHMED

QUETTA: Saleema Habibullah, an Afghan refugee, has faced enormous struggles in her lifetime. Despite the tragic losses that she experienced, she leads a life free from fear and full of hope for the future, even in the most difficult of times. "I was only twenty when all the men in my family were killed in a bombing incident in Quetta," Saleema

lamented. She described how her paternal uncle was so heart-broken that he died from a heart attack. At the time, she fought for her family – a paralyzed aunt and cousin, who were her only remaining relatives – by taking a bold step to leave her home and seek opportunities. Thanks to UNHCR's Safe from the Start (SFS) program, she learned new skills, such as embroidery, tailoring, and kilim-making, and applies them daily.

The new skills enabled Saleema to become a master trainer at UNHCR's program being run by its partner. She has also established a center at her house to provide skills to girls and run a small business. Saleema earns from the job and home-based business. "Even at this challenging time, when the coronavirus outbreak has affected the country, I'm able to earn a decent living while staying at home," she said.

PIA expedites its relief
flight operations

KARACHI: PIA administration has decided to increase the number of destinations for its ongoing relief flight operation aimed at bringing back Pakistanis stuck in different countries following the almost global lockdown situation consequent to Covid - 19

pandemic. A spokesman of the national flag carrier here on Thursday said a PIA plane would be leaving for Denmark on Friday to carry back Pakistanis visiting the country and were stranded due to discontinuation of the flight service.

These passengers were said to be not necessarily those who may have availed of the services of PIA yet realizing its obligation towards the country men and women in distress has initiated the facility as per directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan. — APP

ECC approves four
technical grants

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet approved four technical supplementary grants worth Rs13,811.212 million during the current fiscal year (2019-20), the Ministry of Finance said here Thursday. The committee approve an amount of Rs160 million for the Federal Public Service Commission and Rs 1700.00 million for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Program, said a press state-

ment issued by the ministry. In addition, the ECC also approved Rs.11483 million for Special Security Division(SSD) (South) Phase-I whereas an amount of Rs.468.212 million was approved for or Special Communication Organization (SCO). The cabinet committee also approved the deferment of monthly and quarterly fuel adjustments in the electricity bills of the consumers till June 2020. — APP

China emerges as front-
runner in eradicating
virus world over

If we see the history, China has never waged war on anyone. Rather than wars, China focused on technological advancement which is productive for long term

STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: China has emerged as front-runner in eradicating COVID-19, as the deadly virus has spread all over the world with Europe and America as its epicenters. According to a report published by China Economic Net on Thursday, with every global crisis, come different theories. Many say to stop the rapid growth of China and their influence around the globe, this virus was made in a laboratory and spread in Wuhan. According to scientists there is a difference between a natural and

a man-made virus. With increasing temperature, the effect of virus minimizes and eventually dies but a virus which is purposely made, is difficult to eradicate. The way this deadly virus spread in China suspects that it was purposely made to hinder China's progress. But the way China tackled this deadly virus is commendable. To overcome such pandemic in mere 3 months is no less than a miracle. Wuhan, where no one could have thought to even step out of their houses, is now going towards a normal life. The lockdown is softened; people are going towards there every day routine. There comes a time in every nation's

history which makes them stronger than ever. This crisis proved that Chinese people are the bravest. They fought this war courageously and emerged victorious. They have fully eradicated the virus from their country, in addition, they even offer their support and cooperation to other countries when required. If we see the history, China has never waged war on anyone. Rather than wars, China focused on technological advancement which is productive for long term. In such testing times instead of playing blame games, world should unite against the common enemy (Corona Virus).

Govt
committed
to provide
relief to
public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Thursday said focus of government policies was to provide relief to general public, especially poor and deserving segments of the society. Addressing joint press conference along with Managing Director Utility Stores Corporation Umar Lodhi, she said present government would stand by the masses during this difficult juncture. She said the government was taking maximum steps to control spread of coronavirus in the country with the assistance of provincial governments and other stakeholders.

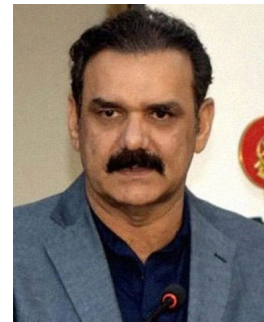
Taliban
protest

KABUL: The Afghan government said it would release another 100 Taliban inmates Thursday, even though the insurgents have walked out of talks over a comprehensive prisoner swap and dismissed Kabul's piecemeal freeing of captives as "unacceptable". The administration of President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday released 100 low-risk Taliban prisoners who had vowed never to return to the battlefield, and officials said. — APP

Scope of CPEC
to be enhanced in
2nd phase: Bajwa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is making a steady progress, and its scope will be further enhanced in the second phase, the chairman of the CPEC Authority in Pakistan has said. The industrial development, agriculture, food security, science and technology, and tourism will be the major sectors in the second phase of the multi-billion-dollar project, Chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa said in a tweet on Wednesday.



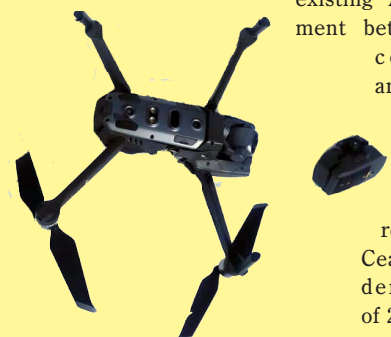
Many projects focusing on infrastructure and energy sectors in the first phase of CPEC have been completed and are already operational, and work on the second phase is underway. Talking to Xinhua, Vaqar Ahmed, joint executive

director at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, said that the foreign direct investment by Chinese companies in the special economic zones under CPEC, is expected to be the major contributor to the uplift of Pakistan's economy in the post COVID-19 scenario. The process of formation of joint ventures between the private sectors of the both countries has already been initiated, and will get a further boost when things got back to normal after the disease is defeated.

Pak Army downs
Indian spy drone

DNA

Rawalpindi Indian Quadcopter Airspace Violation in Sankh Sector along LOC today. In this provocative act, Indian quadcopter intruded 600 meters inside Pakistan's territory for conducting surveillance. This blatant act was aggressively responded to by Pakistan Army troops shooting down Indian quadcopter. Such unwarranted acts by Indian Army are clear violation of established norms, existing Air Agreement between two countries and reflect Indian Army's consistent disregard to Ceasefire Understanding of 2003.

Rupee
gains 58
paisas

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee against US dollar witnessed an increase of 58 paisas in interbank on Thursday and traded at Rs 167.18 against Rs 167.76 on last trading day, State Bank of Pakistan reported. However, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of Dollar in open market were recorded at Rs 164 and Rs 166.5 respectively. The SBP further reported that in interbank, the price of Euro depreciated by 65 paisas and traded at Rs 181.70 against the last closing of Rs 181.05 on last trading day. — APP

Turkish Ambassador distributes
ration among poor people

Pakistan and Turkey are two brotherly countries and their relationship is centuries old. Turkish people had a great love with the Pakistani brethren: Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Keeping in view the problems of poor masses facing shortage of food amid lockdown due to Corona virus outbreak

Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has finalized its arrangements for distributing ration bags among impoverished masses in the city here today. In this regard, Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurda-

kul, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Cap (R) Anwarul Haq, Chairman RDA Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, Director Admin and Finance RDA Khalid Javed Goraya, Secretary Turkish NGO IHH-NL Ikhlauq Rahman and others attended it. It started with the recitation of The Holy Quran. Turkish Ambassador while addressing on the occasion expressed that the Corona is worldwide pandemic and there is a grave situation and difficult time. He said Pakistan and Turkey are two brotherly countries and their relationship is centuries old. Turkish people had a great love with the Pakistani brethren. We will not leave alone Pakistan in this critical period of time. We will extend our moral and financial support to the needy people in Pakistan. He added that Turkish NGO IHH-NL would continue to help and facilitate poor people in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion Dy Commissioner Rawalpindi said that all

out efforts are being made to control Corona virus. He said that nothing to be worry and the situation will be better soon. He thanked Turkish Ambassador for extending his support to help the deserving people in this critical and alarming situation. Earlier in his welcome address Chairman RDA also thanked Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan. He said this is a good gesture and noble cause as Turkish Government is helping poor community of Pakistan. He said that Turkey and Pakistan working together for the welfare of the poor people in Pakistan. He said that main agenda of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is to improve the living standard of the people. Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks. At the end Ration Bags have been distributed among poor people in RDA Office, Pirwadi, Dhok Hasso, Bhakra Bazar, Chittian Hattian, Landa Bazar and Naya Mohalla Rawalpindi.

