



**United Nations chief  
calls for unity among  
all human beings**

**China supports  
UN role on  
Afghan issue**



**Firdous lauds  
role of President  
and Ulema**



# US may withdraw CIA agents from Afghanistan

The Taliban has long demanded reductions in the CIA presence in Afghanistan alongside US troops, a request that American negotiators have so far resisted

NEW YORK: The United States is considering the withdrawal of frontline CIA personnel from bases in Afghanistan, as part of an effort to further reduce violence in the war-ravaged country in line with the historic peace deal with the Taliban, according to The New York Times. The newspaper said the deliberations over the C.I.A. presence in Afghanistan are part of larger discussions about pulling back international forces to push forward the peace plan that shows signs of

floundering amid continuing violence. Under the deal which was signed in the Qatari capital, Doha, on February 29, Washington undertook to begin phased pull out of American forces and foreign troops from Afghanistan, provided that the militant group start talks with the Afghan government and adhere to other security guarantees. The Taliban has long demanded reductions in the CIA presence in Afghanistan alongside US troops, a request that American negotiators have so far

resisted. The Times put their number at "several hundred C.I.A. officers and contractors", calling it one of the agency's largest presences outside of the Washington area. US officials say any withdrawal of CIA personnel will be done alongside the broader withdrawal of American military advisers not in isolation from the broader peace plan, the paper said. Yet one plan, lobbied by Trump administration officials in September, actually included increasing the C.I.A. presence in the

country as American forces pulled out, it was pointed out. "Including the C.I.A. presence in negotiations with the Taliban is Washington's latest effort to use what bargaining chips it has left with the insurgent group," Times' correspondents Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Julian Barnes, wrote in the joint report. American forces already are drawing down to 8,600 troops from roughly 12,000 with an aspirational timeline of leaving the country altogether in just over a year. — APP



**LAHORE: An aerial view of provincial city amid lockdown. — DNA**

**ML-1 talks  
at final  
stage, says  
Bajwa**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that the financing matters with the Chinese government for the mega railway project, Main Line (ML-1) were at advanced stage and the project would soon be on ground. Dispelling rumours and misgivings being spread about ML-1 that the project was halted or slowed down, the Chairman said the rumours were baseless as "ML-1 is our high priority mega railway project, being pursued on fast track basis". In his tweet on Sunday, Bajwa said all feasibility and evaluations of the project had already been done and stakeholders and experts were being consulted for the purpose.

**Japanese  
envoy  
condoles  
death**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of Ali Suleman Habib, on April 17, 2020, who had contributed significantly to enhancing and strengthening economic partnership between Japan and Pakistan especially on automobile industry.

**Firdous lauds role  
of President, Ulema**

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has hailed the issuance of a joint declaration by the President Dr Arif Alvi and the Ulema regarding holding the prayers in the mosques during Ramadan. Dr Firdous while talking to the newsmen here on Sunday said that the President Dr Arif Alvi and the Ulema were playing laudable role in combating coronavirus pandemic. She said that government would ensure the early implementation on joint declaration between government and the Ulema regarding prayers during Ramadan. SAPM Dr Firdous urged the Ulema to continue playing their role in promoting

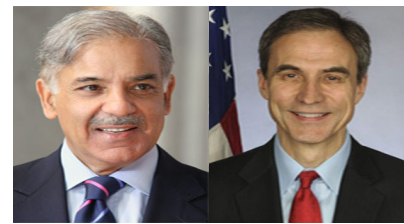
anti coronavirus awareness among the people besides performing their religious obligations and duties in the motherland. Prime Minister Imran Khan was successfully fighting against the coronavirus pandemic and the whole of the nation was standing with him, SAPM said, adding that "Nation must be united to battle against coronavirus". She said that the COVID-19 testing capacity would be increased up to 20,000 tests on daily basis by the end of this month. SAPM said that the government was providing financial assistance through 'Ehsaas Cash Emergency Programme' saying that and the programme reflected Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision toward poor and deprived segment of the society. She said that "Prime Min-

ister Imran Khan proved that he feels the pain of masses and takes keen interest in providing relief to them." She said that the smooth, easy and transparent distribution of money to the deserving people was the important part of the 'Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme', as the government was giving this emergency financial assistance to all the deserving people purely on merit. Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the government would announce maximum financial relief for the small shopkeepers and businessmen, adding that "Stern legal action against all the profiteers and hoarders who are trying to get advantage of the prevailing hard time and situation in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic will be taken."

**COVID-19: US assures  
Shehbaz of support**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Paul W Jones has assured that the United States stands with Pakistan in its fight against the novel coronavirus. In a letter addressed to Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, Jones said that the American government will be sending aid of \$8.4 million to Pakistan for emergency coronavirus assistance. "The US will provide three new mobile labs so that Pakistanis living in virus



hotspots can be tested, treated and monitored to stop the spread," the letter read. The US had previously contributed \$2.4 million for Afghan refugees and host communities living here. Jones reiterated that they will provide emergency assistance at hospitals in all provinces including the capital.

## Briefs

### CAA issues new health policy

ISLAMABAD: A new health policy was issued Sunday by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) for passengers travelling April 18-30, as the coronavirus crisis in the country worsens. According to the PCAA, all standard operating procedures (SOPs) mentioned in the health forms are to be strictly implemented. All passengers travelling by air are obligated to submit their health forms, which include information on flu, cold, cough, and sore throat. The form also states that passengers should enter quarantine if the relevant health officer deemed it necessary. Passengers are also bound to oblige if the quarantine period was extended and pay for food that officials advised. They are liable to penalties for providing wrong or false information. The government, on the other hand, is required to provide accommodation according to the passengers' preferences.

## UK extends support for poorest: Turner

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: UK announced the first in a series of measures to give wide-ranging support to help the poorest and the most vulnerable people in Pakistan during the Coronavirus outbreak. Today's announcement will: Ensure £2.67 million funds for vital health support to help Pakistan give medical assistance to the seriously ill; build stronger systems to detect and test for COVID-19; and support communities to have the right information to protect themselves and others; and Provide £1 million for the rapid response of controlling locusts in affected areas in Pakistan, which are having a devastating impact on crops



and livelihoods. The wider package of support which the UK will roll out over the coming weeks will repurpose DFID's programme of assistance to ensure it helps those at risk and the most vulnerable, during the Coronavirus response. The £2.67 million funds announced by the UK today will help people in 27 districts across all five provinces of Pakistan. It comes alongside the Prime Minister Imran

Khan's appeal to overseas diaspora to help fund-raise for the COVID-19 response, and the UK's support for Pakistan's debt relief and loan postponements from the G20 group of countries. The British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Christian Turner CMG said, "These are extraordinary times. Across the world millions of people are being affected by COVID-19. I am confident in Pakistan's resilience and capability to defeat this pandemic. "UK health support of £2.67 million will help the Government of Pakistan detect COVID-19, protect communities and help those most affected. "We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends in Pakistan at this difficult time."

## Gwadar port to see Afghan bulk-cargo

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The import of Afghan bulk-cargo of wheat, sugar and fertilizers at the Gwadar Port and onward transit to Afghanistan shall be permitted in

bonded carrier. It will be insured and sealable trucks with a tracking device, reports Gwadar Pro App on Saturday. According to a memorandum of the ministry of commerce, the policy aims at the efficient and cost-effective operation-

alization of Gwadar Port and the Western-corridor of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Customers Authorities will take necessary and cost efficient measures to ensure the en route security of the cargo, the report added.

# China to support UN's role on Afghan issue: envoy

We call for efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and connectivity, and to increase investment in Afghanistan's infrastructure construction; Afghan government and the Taliban have made efforts in creating conditions for the start of intra-Afghan negotiations by releasing prisoners to each other

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: A Chinese envoy said that China supports the United Nations (UN) in playing a greater role in the Afghan issue, and welcomes the new progress in Afghanistan's integration into the regional economy. "The Afghan peace process is facing a historic opportunity, and China firmly supports an inclusive peace process that is 'Afghan-led and Afghan-owned,'" Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said during the "6+2" Format Video Conference on Afghanistan, Reports Gwadar Pro App. Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia

Federation, and the United States and incoming Special Representative of the Secretary-General Deborah Lyons also participated in the meeting. Recently, the Afghan government and the Taliban have made efforts in creating conditions for the start of intra-Afghan negotiations by releasing prisoners to each other, Zhang said, adding that China appreciates this and calls for the early launch of the negotiations. China respects the choice of the Afghan people for the country's future and supports Afghanistan in safeguarding national unity and political stability, said Zhang. "China calls on all parties in Afghanistan to put the national interests first and form an inclusive government," the envoy said.



Zhang pointed out that China is concerned about the recent resurgence of violence in Afghanistan, and urges the international community and all parties in Afghanistan to strengthen the country's security capability. "China welcomes the agreement signed by the United States and the Taliban. We call on the parties concerned to ensure, in implementing the agreement, that the withdrawal of

foreign troops in Afghanistan is conducted in an orderly and responsible manner to avoid the rise of terrorist activities," said the ambassador. He added that achieving lasting and sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan requires a solid economic and social foundation, and all efforts should be made to help Afghanistan reintegrate into regional cooperation based on its own advantages to meet the expectation of its people. Noting that Afghanistan and Pakistan recently started transporting goods through Gwadar Port in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Zhang said China welcomes this new progress in Afghanistan's integration into the regional economy. "We call for efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and connectivity, and to

increase investment in Afghanistan's infrastructure construction," he said. China recently held a video conference to share its experience on the prevention and control of COVID-19 with Afghanistan, and handed over the first batch of anti-epidemic supplies to Afghanistan. "China calls on all parties in Afghanistan to respond to the UN secretary-general's call for a global ceasefire and calls on the international community to do its best to support Afghanistan's fight against the outbreak," said the ambassador. "China hopes the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan will strengthen its own anti-pandemic effort while helping the Afghans and is ready to maintain communications with the UN and provide necessary assistance," he added.

## Inside...

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## Briefs

### “Tele Education” step lauded

ISLAMABAD: Distance learning in the days of social distancing was not less than a blessing for the students forced to remain in their houses amid coronavirus pandemic. During, this crisis the incumbent government has brought a hope among the children who were staying indoor and were unable to continue their studies due lockdown as well as those who couldn’t bear school expenses. Similarly, the initiative to educate everyone through Tele Education stands impressive and unique in its own way as senior citizen could even learn from it. Moreover, previous governments did not pay heed to take such a progressive step, Syeda Izza Batool Sherazi a student of 9th grade said. I have learnt concepts of science subjects and have found the teaching style very effective,” she further commented. Hania Sajid a student of same class expressed that animated style of teaching turned the dry topics very interesting, the language is very simple and fathomable. – APP

### Govt alive to issues: Gill

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Dr Shahbaz Gill said on Sunday that a reasonable chunk of population was living below the poverty line, lockdown was eased only for some industries to function on the condition of practising all Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s). “Prime minister praises the China’s strict lock down to contain the contagion but Pakistan’s economic resources do not match with China and other developed countries,so the government has permitted a few industries to function by following safety measures,” he said while talking to a private news channel. Physical and social distance must be maintained by masses while performing daily duties as it was the only solution of this global crisis,he stated. – APP

### Green Enclave prices increased

ISLAMABAD: The price of the Green Enclave-I Housing scheme of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has been increased due to delay of years in the execution of the project. The project was initiated in 2009, which was delayed due to a suo-moto notice taken by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the apex court disposed off the case in 2013, sources in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. They said the cost of the project has been increased from around Rs2,980 billion to Rs5,558 billion and eventually the allottees would have to bear the extra burden in case of escalation in the price of the plot. – APP

## Governor Punjab lauds RCCI relief activities

Although in the present case, the traders are suffering from severe economic misery, but nevertheless, the businessman is on the side of the government and the administration to deal with the challenge posed by the Corona virus and relief activities

**SAIFULLAH ANSAR**

RAWALPINDI: Governor Punjab Muhammad Sarwar Chaudhry has said that the business community has always participated in relief work in every difficult period. Their role is very important. Rescue 1122 is playing their role as frontline soldiers in the current situation of Corona virus. Rescue 1122 has trained one million volunteers. Addressing the ceremony of distributing ration bags among the deserving persons in Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) he said that several concession packages have been brought for the business community. While all possible steps are being taken by the government to prevent the Corona virus, Prime Minister Imran Khan himself is monitoring the situation. We have to fight against Corona on the one hand and on the other side save people from poverty. There is no guarantee as to when it will be



controlled. We have to correct our behavior and not always take this situation for granted. People must strictly follow the precautionary measures. Governor Punjab said the construction sector was opened on appeal to the people. Although in the present case, the traders are suffering from severe economic misery, but nevertheless, the businessman is on the side of the government and the administration to deal with the challenge posed by the Corona virus and

relief activities. Under Prime Minister Imran Khan’s economic sponsorship package and Ehsas program till now billions of rupees have been distributed to the poor people. He lauded RCCI relief activities and appreciated their efforts to provide ration bags at door step via 1122. Earlier, President RCCI Sabor Malik said that the concession package from the State Bank was welcome but the markup must be dropped to zero. We demand interest free loans for the industry.

## Timesaco launches e-Commerce platform

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese digital company Timesaco has launched e-commerce platform ‘Dazaran’ for introducing the online retail business to provide facility to the people in current challenging situation of COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, Pakistan-based Chinese company Timesa-

co has decided to launch e-commerce Dazaran App in advance to support all merchants in Pakistan to open online stores through support in two hour instant delivery system in the same city to maintain retail business and reform the retail methods in Pakistan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chinese online Services company Timesaco,

### Mobilink presents cheque

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Amir Hafeez Ibrahim, CEO Mobilink called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and presented a cheque of 50 million as donation towards Prime Minister’s Corona Relief Fund. SAPM for Overseas Syed Zulfikar Abbass Bokhari and Senator Faisal Javed were also present. Jazz has announced they will match the contributions made on the PM relief short code of 6677. They believe it will be another 5cr so they will match that by giving another 5cr Jazz employers have decided to donate one month salary towards the PM fund and the Jazz CEO has decided to match that amount also which is 2cr so the will match it and give an additional 2 crore.

## AIOU to provide education to Afghan refugees

**SHAHEEN QURESHI**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has recently enrolled a number of Afghan refugees in Matric and FA programs, so as to help them improving their education while living in Pakistan. According to Educational Rehabilitation Institute for Afghan Refugees in Baluchistan, the AIOU is considered as a best option that can meet the educational needs of Afghan brothers and sisters in a accessible way. As per the academic plan, the AIOU will provide them learning facilities in their refugee camps, books will be sent by post and tutors will visit them and guide them in the

camp. The university will also conduct examination in the premises of camps. Currently, the Afghan refugees are living all over the country and the government of Pakistan along with the international organizations have been trying to rehabilitate them in health, vocational training and education sectors through their financial and infrastructural support. In order to implement this task, the AIOU also tried to be a helping hand as a part of its national duty. During the admissions, Spring 2020, efforts were made particularly in Baluchistan to enroll the refugees as per their desire and convenience. In this process, around 150 Afghans were registered. This was the result of

encouragement and support extended by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, said Qamaruddin, Regional Director, Quetta. The Vice Chancellor has been visiting the province off and on for upgrading of the educational facilities, particularly in the country’s far-flung and neglected regions. He added, the Vice Chancellor wished that the AIOU should have an active role in uplifting the educational facilities in Balochistan and for this purpose two new regional offices will be established soon one in Kalat and other in Ziarat. While, the University has recently established one Study Center in Kharan, a far-flung area of Balochistan.

## Serena hotels to hold online sufi night

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under it’s Sarangi Music initiative is launching Virtual Sufi Nights to unite audiences all over the world through messages of peace and unity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tune in as we present the mesmerizing mystic Arieab Azhar to soothe audience soul from the comfort of your home. The show will be live on Wednesday, 22nd April at 10:00 pm (Pakistan Time) | 5:00 pm (GMT) on <https://www.serena.com.pk/live> or Facebook/YouTube/Instagram @SerenaHotelsOfficial.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Mobilink presenting five million cheque to PM Imran Khan for Corona fund. – DNA

## Park Enclave to have all amenities

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Now that the development is near completion where as construction of several houses is near completion and people have even started to occupy a few houses, Chairman CDA has issued directions to focus on provision of civic amenities for Park Enclave-I. Now that construction activity is resuming, development works at Park Enclave-I will pick up. Security guards will be deployed and horticulture works shall commence from Monday. Further security camera installation will also be started. It has also been approved that a facilitation centre be

established on pattern of one established at sector G-7. This will house police, utility services, and CDA inquiry. Further laying of cable lines has also been principally approved. Furthermore, Sanitation services shall be mobilized from next week at park enclave as well.As the development of Park Enclave-II is also on cards the civic amenities shall start for the completed project. The Rawal Dam Chowk interchange will serve traffic moving towards Taramari as well as park enclave. Similarly, instructions have been issued to design an access road thru underpass for park enclave connecting the same with park road.

### Sanitiser walkthrough gates installed at HFH

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), in continuation of precautionary measures taken to prevent and control the spread of coronavirus, have installed sanitiser walkthrough gates at Holy Family Hospital (HFH). According to a spokesman, RDA Chairman Tariq Mehmood Murtaza visited the site after complete installation and handed over the control of the walkthrough gates to hospital’s administration. The spokesman said that comprehensive arrangements had been made to prevent coronavirus in the precincts of RDA keeping in view the ground facts. All the available resources were being utilized to deal with the coronavirus. The chairman said that timely disinfection spray was also being carried out to protect the residents from COVID-19. – APP

### ‘Panahgahs’ at govt schools

ISLAMABAD: The government was firming up a plan to set up emergency shelter homes at public sector schools of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to deal with the anticipated surge in number of daily wage earners due to reopening of the construction sector. – APP

## Rs150 mln disbursed among needy families

25 confirmed cases of Coronavirus had been reported in the district. COVID-19 Two patients had died, says Deputy Commissione Ali Anan

**MUNIR FAISAL**

ATTOCK: An amount of over Rs150 Million under Prime Minister Ehsaas programme was distributed among 12,000 needy families in the district so far. Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan said the amount disbursement under Ehsaas Kafalat programme was continued successfully. The DC expressed these views during a media brief-

ing on Ehsaas Kafalat programme and steps taken against Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Deputy Director Public Relations (DDPR) Shehzad Niaz Khokhar was also present on the occasion. The Deputy Commissione said that 21 centres across the district Ehsaas Kafalat campuses for payments of financial assistance. He said that the district administration had distributed Ration among more than 10,000 families. The

local administration in collaboration with food department and established 16 sale points in the city where Roti would be available at Rs5. He added that the sale points would be established in all Tehsils of district Attock. All these steps had been taken to provide relief to the people hit by the lockdown. The Deputy Commissione said 25 confirmed cases of Coronavirus had been reported in the district. COVID-19 Two patients

had died. He said 14 Quarantine centres were set up in all Tehsils of the district. He added that the district administration has established a field hospital for novel Coronavirus COVID-19 patients. The field hospital can accommodate 100 patients in a safe and secure environment. Meanwhile The district Police held a flag march in the city to make awareness among citizens on rising numbers of Coronavirus suspects and send a

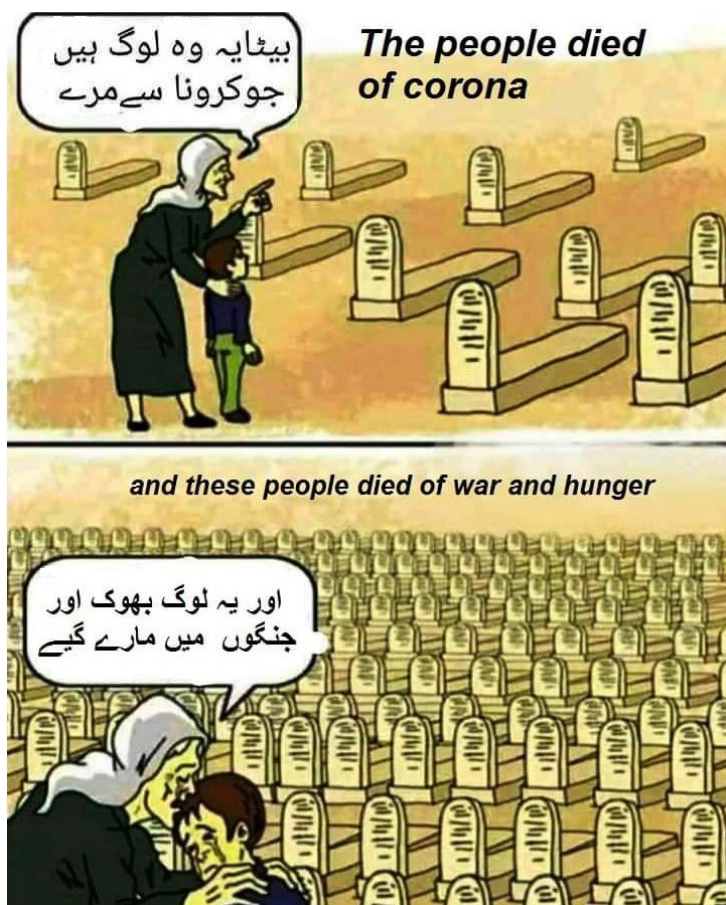
message for implementing the Government’s directions for lockdown amid the novel COVID-19 pandemic. A police spokesman said the flag March was held on the directives of District police Officer Khalid Hamdani and led by DSP Headquarters Azhar Shabir along with Assistant Commissioner Jannat Hussain. Officials of district Police, Army, Rangers, Traffic Police and other Law en-

forcement agencies participated in the police flag March. Starting from Assistant Commissioner Office, the flag-March passed from Fawara Chowk, Fruit market, Madani chowk, Kachari Chowk, Peoples colony and ended at AC office. During the flag March, the citizens were appealed to stay inside homes and restrict unnecessary movement and observe preventive measures against Corona Virus pandemic.



## Construction package

Nobody doubts that the construction sector is a job-creating part of the economy and hires more unskilled daily wagers than perhaps any other sector. Equally, nobody doubts that these unskilled daily wagers are the worst hit under the present-day lockdowns. However, the continued focus, via the government's public pronouncements, on the sector at a time when the country is facing a public health emergency has been called into question. Indeed, it is baffling to note the speed at which the government as a whole, in the recent cabinet meeting, moved to pass a far-reaching set of proposals for the construction sector that contain within them an amnesty scheme for whitening black money, as well as key tax incentives that end up promoting speculative activity in the property market. Whatever arguments one musters in favour of incentives for construction magnates, the discussion could have been left for another time. The scheme, which is being justified by the authorities in the name of helping the poor, may appear to be a positive move to boost the construction sector, but a closer look at the details shows very little effort at targeting the incentives to only benefit low-income housing. Other than a few initiatives, the benefits as a whole will be available to all builders and the construction sector has historically always worked to service elite demand first and foremost. But even more important than the targeting is the loosening of the lockdown terms that is inherent in these incentives. A string of decisions will now need to be made to support the resumption of construction activity, and along with this will come a series of demands from other industries that will claim to be allied to construction beyond cement, steel and fixtures. More than a revival of the economy, this package is likely to lead to a progressive loosening of the strictures around social distancing, since enforcing these on the sites will be difficult, if not impossible. The confusion that this package has created, about what exactly are the state's priorities in the midst of a public health emergency, as well as the perception that has developed around it that this is a clandestine effort to benefit property developers, is likely to do more harm than good in the days to come. It would be better to postpone the decision for reopening of construction sites for now, and concentrate on measures to contain the virus.



## Issue of Kashmir highlighted in novel way

Reviewed Prof Dr Maqsood Jafr

*The soldier was asked to move to a city, which was captured by the terrorist and were inflicting intense brutalities on the peaceful citizens. The soldier used to present red roses to his fiancée as a gift. Now defending his people, he was martyred. He was buried with military protocol, wrapped in national flag and red roses were Strawn on his grave*

A Lone Long Walk is a collection of the tales told by a creative and fertile mind Tahir Mehmood. He is Chief Editor monthly Hilal magazine. I feel honoured and humbled to have received his rare literary gift for me. These are short stories comprising of a candid message for the promotion of truth, beauty, love, life and patriotism. As a soldier his passion for motherland exhibits gallantry, and as a writer his intense feelings for love, justice and peace are exuberantly meritorious. The twenty-eight tales are actually the saga of life. The book is so interesting, awe-inspiring and insightful that I intuitively felt to extensively comment on it. I would very briefly like to comment on these tales depicting the moral of each tale. In the first tale The Choice, the author introduces a soldier who is brave, patriotic and full of fortitude depicting zeal and zest with vehemence for his motherland. The wandering man is a great adorer of his country and is ever ready to sacrifice for his sacred land. In Candy, he describes love of a lady for a soldier who presents her a candy. It is just a short meeting that develops an understanding and love for each other. Unfortunately, she becomes the victim of tuberculosis, and dies. The writer quotes a melancholic poem of Lord Byron that is full of agony and anguish. The end of their meeting is deplorable and heartbreaking. It has a moral of "Unconditional Love", whether it's the love of a lady or love of motherland. In a tale Love Across High Mountains, the author describes the feeling of a tourist who visits Hunza Valley. Sitting all alone on the peak of a mountain like a hypersensitive poet and a meditative philosopher, he observes: Beside gallantry, the second topic of all tales is unconditional love that is the union of souls. On the border between China and Pakistan, at Khunjerab Post, there is a Chinese group of tourists. The tourists meet a Chinese lady there and they become just friends and express love and reverence through their eyes to each other as according to the writer love does not need words, it is a spiritual experience. In another tale The Remains, also ends with tragic phenomenon. It is a momentarily expression of love between two travelers. They per chance meet and then part away. They sail a boat for short time and expressed love to each other. She asks him whenever he would see the Great Bear in the constellation, he should remember her. She says our gazes will always meet at Great Bear and our souls will feel union and contentment. This tale is based like some of other tales on Platonic concept of love. The tale Christmas in Waziristan is a marvelous message of interfaith harmony. David is a Christian and Gul Bub is a Muslim, both are like chums. David celebrates Christmas while Gul Bub joins him in his religious festivity. David feels elevated when officers also cut a cake of Christmas with him. This tale rejects religious extremism and promotes moderation, tolerance and harmonious relations between the people of different faiths. It is a great message for the whole world. In a tale Lion, he narrates the story of Shardi and Nardi, two mountain peaks and the river Neelum. It's an allegorical fable that narrates the hostility of an alien captor who captivated the young painter girl, molested her and ravished her chastity. Her lover is a poet, whose hyper sensitive heart is broken on this horrendous plight. One day, she is found dead and drowned in the Neelum River. This tale marks the unprecedented Indian atrocities being perpetrated on docile and

defenceless Kashmiris. This tale is like a similitude based on Greek Mythological tradition but it also infers the hard realities of life. This tale stands for the accentuation of platonic concept of love: the vigorous love between two souls and rejects the Byronic concept of love that is the union of two bodies. The author seems to imbibe and incorporate two major missions in this tale. The unconditional love for motherland and beloved.

A Long Long Walk is the title of the book as well. It is the tale of a soldier deployed far from his house in the East Wing of his country. He uses to occasionally have a cup of coffee in a village café. The soldier meets an educated breath breaking damsel and they become friends and get bounded in the chain of love. It is the tale of an East Pakistani girl and a West Pakistani soldier. Another tale From Piccadilly to Gatwick narrates a meeting between a lady doctor surnamed Life with the soldier. Both discussed the metaphysical and social subjects like two intellectual stalwarts and savants. Peace, humanity, time, space and love are the topics of their interaction. She was also a tourist and shortly had to fly back to her homeland, leaving behind an aura of sadness and separation. In a tale titled At Crossroads, the writer describes the mindset of a common busy man who is devoid of knowledge and wisdom. The writer is of the opinion that the circular motion is a hindrance in the way of revolution as it is a routine lifestyle. Across the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan, the divided families bear the brunt of agonies and Indian brutalities. It is the story of freedom fighters and their unprecedented sacrifices. The writer displays how two ladies in Teetwale sector becomes the prey of the shelling of the Indian Forces. The whole story is heart rending.

The Man Who Lived Hundredth Cut is a tale that portrays the meeting of a young girl with an old scholar but their union is the union of the souls as is the theme of the most of the tales of the book. The girl asks him: "So when we will find justice and peace". The man says: "Nature adores power". The quest of the writer is to see a world in which justice and peace prevails but he is dissipated and dismayed to see the harsh reality of life and that is might is right. Pride in Anguish is a tale of a martyr who valiantly laid down his life for homeland.

The writer observes: "The soldiers would always go on to the battle zones. Life will go on: so, would the pride and anguish". A tale He Chose to Die is the story of death of a revolutionary. He is a freedom fighter who pledges to free his nation from the alien oppressors and eventually is martyred. The tale "She Lives in the Garden" is a tale of soldier who was betrothed with girl who was his university fellow. Mostly they use to meet and interact. She is a great stalwart of

peace and abhors war. The soldier tells her that peace is welcomed, but when war becomes incumbent then to defend the motherland becomes a sacred duty. Their discussions are very rational and inspirational. She believes in dialogue to resolve all issues and abstain from bloodshed and war. The soldier responds to her concerns that when one's enemy is greedy, ambitious, arrogant, and aggressor can your quest for dialogue and peace save you. He tells his fiancée about the border skirmish in which a bomb splinter had hit the head of one soldier of his battalion who died there and then. He also sobbingly tells her how a young officer was also martyred by the heavy shelling of the enemy forces on that day. The soldier was asked to move to a city, which was captured by the terrorist and were inflicting intense brutalities on the peaceful citizens. The soldier used to present red roses to his fiancée as a gift. Now defending his people, he was martyred. He was buried with military protocol, wrapped in national flag and red roses were Strawn on his grave.

A Cloud Above the Land is a symbolic, allegoric and a philosophical tale. There is a dialogue between Land and Cloud. Spring, Autumn, and Time are allegorically presented. It reminds me of the poem by Edmond Spencer Fairy Queen that is also an allegorical poem. Land represents numbness, solidarity, and stability while Cloud represents restlessness, and mobility. Time represents change and movement like a nomad. The love bond between Land and Cloud is a fascinating idea. The rain pour is the tears of Cloud that enlivens the Land and makes it fertile. In spring, the Land looks beautiful, nourishing and productive. In autumn, it is arid, barren, non-productive and dry. The Cloud feels sorry on the plight of the poor, the oppressed and the downtrodden. It floats and watches over the activities of the people while Land awaits for a Messiah to release its inhabitants from the transgressors and oppressors. In this allegory, the writer infers the intricate and mysterious plan of Nature. Time changes and alters the course of history.

A Town Beyond Sorrows is also an allegorical and mystifying tale. The Finger Puppet and Sock Puppet are two symbols of different shades of life. It is the tale of a puppeteer. It is a vicarious sarcasm on the persons who act like puppets on the stage of life. They are flatters and blabbers. They are adept in the art of wheedling and coaxing. They are conscious less mummies, dummies, and ninnies. These dandies and dullards know the art of charming and dulcifying their masters. Where Cherries Grow is a tale of a newly wedded young soldier of Gilgit-Baltistan. He and his wife enjoyed the natural and simple mountainous life but their short-lived companionship ended soon. The young soldier got martyred on border skirmish by the Indian Army. She lived with her father-in-law

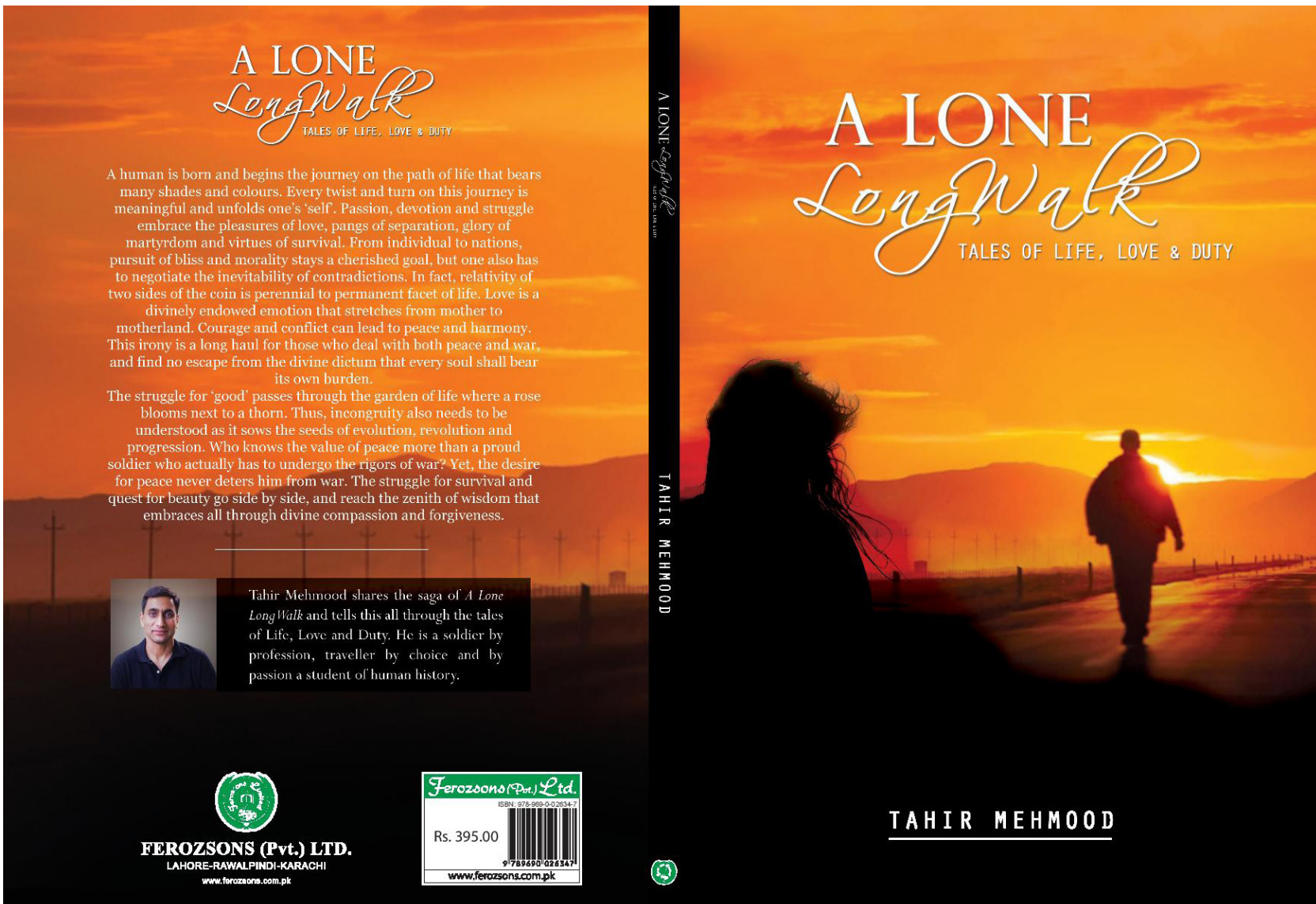
and bore a child but lost her life also in the birth travail. The saddened old man takes his grandson to the Pakistan Flag hoisted on their on the roof top and salutes the flag. The Next Day is the story of a family of owls who broods over the importance of peace and harmony in jungle and condemn the animals who prey the weaker species to feed them. But for their own survival fly to fetch insects to satiate their hunger. Preaching peace like sages and saints does not correlate and corroborate the needs of survival.

The reformer is a great patriot and he says: "Martyrdom is nothing less than a victory". They occasionally meet in a café. The man talks about the revolution of the downtrodden and supports the cause of have-nots. He also rejects totalitarianism and envisages to establish a welfare state through Continuous Evolution. She honours and values his ideas but being a woman naturally desires to get married with him. Once she asks him to knot the perfection of love in a "Perfect Union" but she means the bond of wedding. The reformer tells her that "change shall come in our lives but it can be smoothened and harnessed through the magical power of love. It is love for his beloved, his people and his motherland". In this story, we find the writer as a romanticist and a reformer.

The traveler portrays his sagacious inferences in the form of didactic dictums, such as: "Love and freedom are not always absolute or perfect", "Does freedom absolve one from responsibility?", "Absolute freedom is like absolute power both corrupting". It is noteworthy that William Shakespeare also stated that absolute power corrupts absolutely. The traveler meets her after some time. He had gone to climb a peak, in a snow storm he had to hide in a niche. Though he survived but due to frostbite, his foot was amputated. He walked with the support of crutches. Both conversed for a long time. She was deeply grieved on this tragedy but expressed her firm resolve to stand by him. This tale shows that when there's no gap of communication and people think alike with deep soul chanting connectivity, they have happy life. The writer concludes this tale with optimistic promise and pledge in these golden and glorious words: "They shared firm resolve to master the art of living together".

All these tales preach the message that love is the love of souls and is unconditional, and the love of homeland is the real love. Change is the natural course of history whether it occurs by revolution or evolution. Justice, peace, equality, humanity, and love are the pillars of the edifice of a rational, civilized and humanistic mansion. We need to subdue and subjugate our false pride and prejudices and tame our unharnessed steed of egotism to develop Positive Self.

(The writer is a veteran academic and PhD in English Literature)





## Briefs

## UK Diaspora launches 'Justice for Kashmir' drive

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK President, Sardar Masood Khan has regretted the complete silent of the United Nations over the happenings in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and has warned that if notice is not taken immediately, a big human disaster can occur which may engulf the whole world particularly South Asia.

He was addressing as guest of the hour the "Kashmir Video Conference" organized by Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK. Chaired by President Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK Fahim Kayani, the conference was attended by more than 50 office bearers of TeK from 20 different cities of the United Kingdom through video link.

The AJK President said that occupied Kashmir was under a double lockdown - a punitive, crushing siege since August 5 last year, and now the coronavirus lockdown. "While the world is fighting coronavirus, the occupation troops are killing the Kashmiri youth in the so-called cordon and search operations and then posthumously and falsely accuse them of militancy," he added.

## Expats donate over Rs 100 mln

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari has said that over Rs 100 million had been donated to the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund by the Pakistani expatriates in response to the website launched by his ministry. "Over 646,580 dollars (Rs 100 million) has been donated by the Overseas Pakistanis so far," said Zulfikar Bukhari, while addressing to the Virtual Town Hall Meeting arranged by the American Pakistanis to discuss the issues faced by their compatriots in the United States (US) amid the coronavirus crisis. — APP

## Tender for Under Pass, issued

ISLAMABAD: Due to the rush hours, the difficulties faced by those coming from Murree Bara Kahu, Taramri Chowk and adjoining areas will be resolved by construction of underpass and fly over at Rawal Dam Chowk, SAPM on CDA, Ali Nawaz Awan on Sunday said. He said the tender for Rawal Dam Chowk Under Pass and Flyover has been issued. Work on traffic management solution for Rawal Chowk and Park Road will commence soon as Capital Development Authority (CDA) is inviting bids for the project, he added. Under this project, one over pass and two underpasses would be constructed at Rawal Dam Chowk. — APP

## Embassy thanks IIU for taking care of Indonesian students

On this occasion, the Provost Men's Hostels Dr. Ibrar Anver, CSO Col (R) Abdul Hakeem, RHTs Mr. Imran, Mr. Fida, Mr. Ali Asghar, Indonesian IIUI Students Union President, and office bearers were also present; On behalf of the Ambassador of Indonesia, the delegation extended profound gratitude to the President, IIUI for taking good care of Indonesian students in IIUI hostels

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of Embassy of Indonesia called on Provost Men's Hostels at new campus.

The delegation was headed by Colonel Dody Mukhtar Taufik, Defence Attache of the Indonesian Embassy / Embassy's Covid-19 Task Force Commander.

Other members of the del-

egation were Denny Tri Basuki, Counsellor, Head of Chancery / Socio-cultural Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy, Sulaiman, First Secretary of Political Affairs of the Embassy. On behalf of the Ambassador of Indonesia, the delegation extended profound gratitude to the President, IIUI for taking good care of Indonesian students in IIUI hostels. They appreciated the role of university man-



agement in providing the utmost facilities and comfort.

They also assured that the Indonesian Embassy shall provide crockery, groceries and monetary support to Indonesian students during the month of Ramadan Kareem.

They also informed that every Saturday after Asar prayers they will arrange online Islamic programs directly from Embassy

on Zoom.

Provost Hostels thanked the delegation for their visit and kind words.

On this occasion, the Provost Men's Hostels Dr. Ibrar Anver, CSO Col (R) Abdul Hakeem, RHTs Mr. Imran, Mr. Fida, Mr. Ali Asghar, Indonesian IIUI Students Union President, and office bearers were also present.

Later, a souvenir was presented by Col Dody to Provost Hostels.

## Sindh govt bans pillion riding

ISLAMABAD: The Sindh home department has imposed a blanket ban on pillion riding in Karachi.

It has withdrawn all exemptions previously given, according to a notification it issued late Saturday, a private news channel reported.

Journalists, policemen, women, children and elderly citizens were previously exempted from the ban.

Karachi police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon directed the police ensure strict imposition of the ban. He warned of action against the ones violating it. — APP

## Iranian diplomats in Lahore donate blood

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The staff of the Iranian Consulate General in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore on Saturday donated blood to treat thalassaemia patients in the testing times of coronavirus outbreak. The blood donation is a selfless and humanitarian act which is not

confined to geographical boundaries.

The gesture of the Iranian diplomats once again proved the existence of strong bond between the brotherly countries of Iran and Pakistan especially in health sector. The problems for patients suffering from thalassaemia have become manifolds due to the coronavirus crisis as blood banks and

hospitals had been facing an extreme shortage of blood.

According to reports every month, some 150,000 bags to 200,000 bags of blood are required in Pakistan, which are mostly used for thalassaemia patients and victims of emergencies. Currently there are 100,000 patients of thalassaemia in Pakistan out of which 23,000 are children.



## Taiwan's vessels adds 21 patients

DNA

BEIJING: Twenty-one more people tested positive of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the outbreak involving three naval vessels, Taiwan's epidemic monitoring agency said Sunday. The new patients, including service personnel and cadets, are 19 men and two women who developed symptoms of COVID-19 from April 14 to 18, the agency said in a press release.

## Flight information website launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has set up a web portal for Pakistanis stranded abroad. They will now be able to access flight information on covid.gov.pk by going to the air travel section. The website was initially set up by the government to inform people about the coronavirus and keep them updated on the number of cases and deaths around the country. The website has a counter that is updated periodically

throughout the day. Dr Moeed, the special assistant to the prime minister on national security and strategic policy planning, said the portal explains the current policies, quarantine mechanisms, stranded passengers criteria, guidelines and planned flights. He said the government hopes to bring back Pakistanis stranded abroad soon. Thousands of Pakistanis were stranded abroad when Pakistan shut down its flight operations in a bid to control the spread of the novel coronavirus.

## CDA completes four inquiries

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Sunday completed four different inquiries related to multiple issues as it has received 11 complaints in violation of master plan of the federal capital. According to CDA spokesperson, the CDA authorities conducted eleven inquiries primarily into master plan violation and related matters, a few months back. The first set of four inquiries have been completed by the respective committees as no action has been taken on certain reports in these matters which were lying for several years in some cases. — APP

## Rs 132m distributed

SWABE: (Raja Furqan Ahmed) Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser Saturday said that Rs 132 million is being distributed among as many as 11,000 deserving families of the district under Ehsas program of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Talking to media here after visiting Ehsas Kifalat Centre, he said Rs 12000 would be given to each destitute family under the Ehsas program initiative that is being appreciated and acknowledged by the world communities. He said that in a very short span of time the federal government successfully launched and started implementing the Ehsas Kifalat program in a very transparent manner.

## Legislative body to undertake Pak-China Treaty on criminals

BEIJING: The Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, will convene here its 17th session from April 26 to 29.

During the session, bilateral treaty between China and Pakistan on repatriation of convicted criminals will be deliberated, Gwadar Pro App reported it on Saturday.

In August 2014, regarding treaty on repatriation of convicted criminals, delegations from China and Pakistan held a negotiation in Islamabad.

Both sides reached bilat-

eral agreement on a series of provisions and initialled the text of the treaty.

In November 2018, under the witnessing of both Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, China's justice Minister Fu Zhenghua and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi officially signed the treaty in Beijing.

The treaty is considered as an important legal document on judicial assistance, which has laid a legal foundation for China and Pakistan to strengthen cooperation on the

transfer of sentenced persons.

Once the treaty comes into force, cooperation between two countries that each side is able to transfer sentenced persons back to their own country, will set up in accordance to the treaty.

The bilateral treaty between China and Pakistan on repatriation of convicted criminals will come into force after being endorsed by top legislature of China and Pakistan.

On NPC's 17th session held this month, this treaty will be officially scrutinized.

## UN chief calls for unity among all human beings

DNA

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for unity among all human beings to effectively combat the coronavirus pandemic. In a video message, he

noted that the world is passing through one of worst crisis ever and it can be overcome by keeping unity. He appreciated the role of WHO, humanitarian organizations, and other health workers for their services in fight against coronavirus.

## Construction package will help in economic revival: FPCCI

DNA

KARACHI: The bailout package for the construction industry would bring revival to it and it's allied sector, the relief package through ordinance by the government of Pakistan is widely welcomed by the business Community all over the country. This was stated by Qaisar Kahan Daudzai, Vice President & In charge

FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. He further said that construction industry will be florished and it's relevant activities particularly the low cost housing projects will be boosted in the entire country. This will create employment opportunities both for the skilled and non skilled labor. It looks that ten million jobs creation is now not a big deal for the government, he added.

## Wuhan football team make emotional return

SHANGHAI: Wuhan Zall, the Chinese Super League team from the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic, made an emotional return to the city after more than three months torn from their families. Zall endured a turbulent 104 days on the road, including being stranded in Spain, because Wuhan was sealed off in January when the virus killed and infected thousands there.

The city is now emerging from its weeks-long lockdown and hundreds of chanting fans met the Zall players when they arrived at Wuhan's train station late Saturday, state media said. Wearing masks, the players had bouquets of flowers thrust into their hands while supporters clad in the team's orange colours held banners and sang. "After more than three months of wandering, the home-sick Wuhan Zall team members finally set foot in their hometown." — APP

## Hungry, jobless Americans turning to food banks

NEW YORK: American families slammed by the coronavirus pandemic are turning more and more to stresses religious scholars to get by, waiting hours for donations in lines of cars stretching as far as the eye can see. And with 22 million people out of work seemingly overnight as business after business closes under the Great Lockdown,

these charities feeding hungry and scared people fear the day will come when they cannot cope with the tsunami of demand. On Tuesday, for instance, some 1,000 cars lined up at a distribution center set up in Pennsylvania by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Demand for its bags of food soared nearly 40 percent in

March. At eight centers like that one, some 227 tonnes of food were placed in the trunks of cars of families suddenly unable to put meals on the table, said the organization's vice president Brian Gulish. "A lot of people are utilizing our service for the first time. They've never turned to a food bank before," said Gulish. — APP

## G-14 illegal settlers given 15 days to pack up

The notice further said that the Foundation had surveyed 406 built up properties in Sector G 14-1,2 and 3 and paid to the occupants. "It has been observed that despite receiving amounts the occupants have failed to vacate land. After 15 days if these settlements are not removed, the administration shall launch operation. The administration shall not be responsible for any loss whatsoever as a result of this operation", the notice further reads

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Govt Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF) has given 15 days to all illegal settlers in Sector G 14 to pack up and vacate the place. The final notice was given through an advertisement published in all leading newspapers of Pakistan a few days ago asking all illegal occupants to vacate land as the Foundation has already paid to them for their built up properties.

The notice further says that if occu-

pants will not remove their settlements or debris, after 15 days the district administration shall then do so through a full scale operation. The notice further said that the Foundation had surveyed 406 built up properties in Sector G 14-1,2 and 3 and paid to the occupants. "It has been observed that despite receiving amounts the occupants have failed to vacate land. After 15 days if these settlements are not removed, the administration shall launch operation. The administration shall not be responsible for any loss whatsoever as a result of this operation", the notice

further reads.

It may be mentioned here that the Federal Govt Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF) had announced that 15 year old issue of development of Sector G 14 shall be resolved by end of April 2020. The FGEHF further said that measurement target in Sector G 14/1 had also been set and responsibilities assigned in this regard. The housing foundation had made this announcement in response to a number of queries emanating from Prime Minister's Citizen Portal regarding development of Sector G 14 and its sub sectors.

The G 14 sector was announced in 2004 but due to illegal Built Up Properties (BUP) it could not be developed. The foundation further said land for Sector G 14/1,2,3 was acquired by the DC office Islamabad vide an award under Section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 in January 2005. The award for Built up Property in G 14/3 could only be announced in 2014 and supplementary award in 2017. Almost 70 per cent of the area of Sector G 14/3 has been got vacated and development work is being executed on the site. It further stated, the measurements

for BUP are being conducted in Sector G 14/2 and award of BUPs in G 14/2 was done in February 2020. Similarly measurements for BUP have already started in G 14/1 and award of BUPs is expected by 31 March 2020. Earlier, FGEHF had decided to accommodate settlers of G 14/1 to G 15 and a summary in this connection was forwarded to the concerned authorities for approval. Many people who were allotted plots in this particular sector have died while majority of the allottees has sold out plots because they had lost hopes of early development of this sector.