



Islamabad POST

Monday, April 27, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

COVID-19: Azerbaijan is a success story, says Hikmat Hajiye

COVID-19: Firdous urges Ulema to play role



More Canadians fly back this week: Envoy



Briefs

US envoy calls for ceasefire

KABUL: The US special envoy who brokered a deal with the Taliban called Sunday for the insurgents to implement a humanitarian ceasefire while Afghanistan tries to tackle its worsening coronavirus crisis. In a series of tweets marking the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Zalmay Khalilzad said all sides should focus on fighting a "shared enemy". "The well-being of the Afghan people and the country itself depend on all parties devoting their full energies to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," the Afghanistan-born US negotiator said. "Ramadan offers the Taliban an opportunity to embrace a humanitarian ceasefire to reduce violence and suspend offensive military operations until the health crisis is over." - APP

Pak corona confirmed cases surge 12,700

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Pakistan has jumped to 12,723 after the emergence of new infections with 269 deaths reported so far, according to National Command and Operation Center's statistics. Of the total confirmed cases, Punjab has reported 5,378 cases, followed by Sindh where the tally of such cases stands at 4,232. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded 1,793 cases, Balochistan 722, Islamabad 235, Gilgit Baltistan 308, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 55. The death toll has risen to 269, including 15 fatalities reported across the country over the past 24 hours.

9 outlaws killed in Waziristan

Two brave soldiers Lance Naik Abdul Waheed and Sepoy Sakum Dad embraced Shahadat and five got injured in the exchange of fire with the terrorists during sanitization of the area

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least nine terrorists were killed and one apprehended in an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Khaisura and Dossali areas of North Waziristan District late Saturday night. According to Inter Services Public Rela-



tions (ISPR) weapons and ammunition was also recovered in the operation. Two brave soldiers Lance Naik Abdul Waheed and Sepoy Sakum Dad embraced Shahadat and five got injured in the exchange of fire with the terrorists during sanitization of the area. Martyred Lance Naik Abdul Waheed, aged 29, is resident of village Raj Kandi, Tehsil and District Muzafarabad. He has left behind three sons and a daughter. The 33 years old Sepoy Sakum Dad who also embraced martyrdom was resident of Bandi Awan Tajawal, Changla Gali, Abbotabad. Shaheed Sakum Dad, had left behind one son and a daughter to mourn his death.

Pak peacekeepers rescue 2000 people

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistani Peacekeepers rescued more than 2000 people stranded due to heavy floods in UVIRA region of South Kivu in Democratic Republic of CONGO (DRC). Torrential floods erupted in Uvira and surroundings in DRC starting last week which continued for days. Rains and flooding damaged thousands of houses and affecting some 75000 people. Pakistani Blue Helmets,

part of UN Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), immediately rushed to the affected areas for rescue and relief of local Congolese Populace. Rescue parties were immediately dispatched with paramedics and rescue equipment to different locations. Troops also built a stone embankment to check the flood water, which was strong enough to shift people and vehicles from affected area. The stranded people were served with food and provided necessary

medical care. Pakistani Peacekeepers' rescue efforts have been widely acknowledged by locals as well UN authorities. Being one of the largest troops contributing country, Pakistan has more than 4000 blue helmets serving under UN for maintaining peace and stability. 157 Pakistani peacekeepers have laid their lives during various UN missions for preservation of global peace, while serving humanity with honour, courage and dignity.

Wheat procured

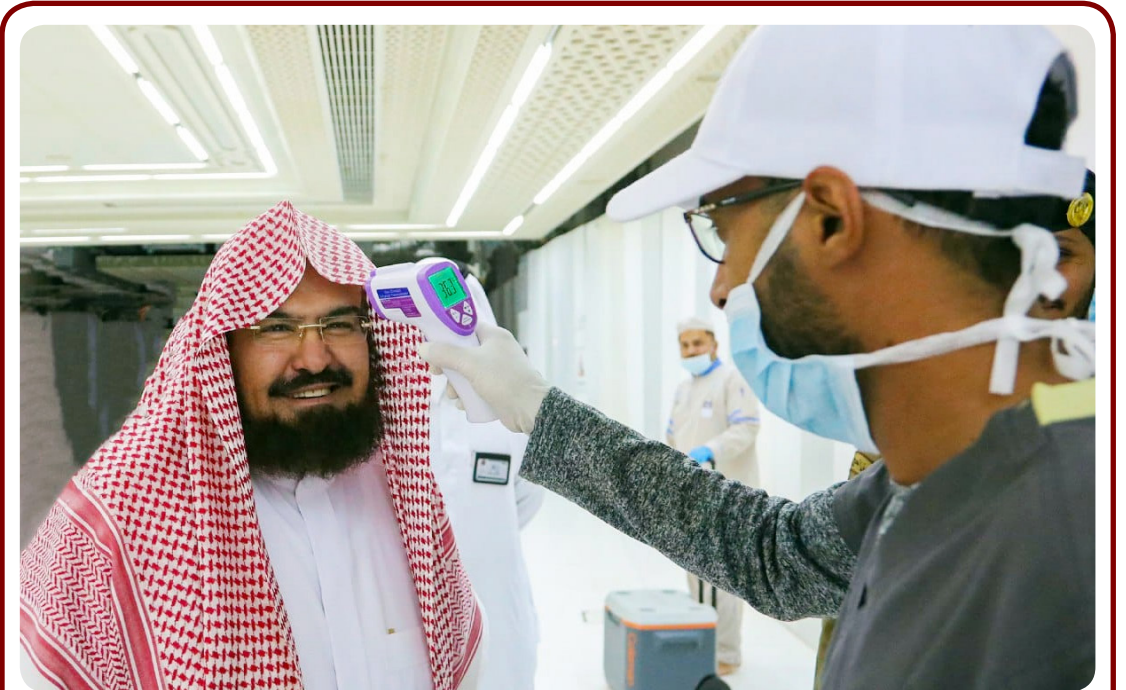
ISLAMABAD: About 830,619 metric tons of wheat has procured so far under the grains procurement campaign for the year 2019-20 as against the set targets of 8.25 million tons in order to fulfill the domestic requirements as well as for exporting. The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet had approved wheat procurement targets of the public sector at the level of 8.25 million tons for the period. - DNA

Iran slams new houses in W Bank

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran condemns the Zionists' recent moves of making new settlements & annexation parts of West Bank to the lands occupied in 1948. These measures are in line with US President Donald Trump's ominous Deal of the Century," said Foreign Ministry spokesman. "Such moves violate international laws & threaten the peace and security of

the region," Spokesperson of Iran Foreign Ministry said and called on the United Nations & other international organizations to counter these moves as defined in their duties & responsibilities. "The occupying regime of the Holy Quds is exploiting the conditions created due to the coronavirus outbreak; the people of Palestine are fighting the coronavirus and other viruses such as occupation, siege, and sanctions," Seyed Abbas Mousavi added.



MAKKAH: Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Aziz al-Sudais Imam of the Holy Mosque goes through medical procedure before entering the mosque. Only a limited number of people are allowed to pray in the Holy Mosque in the wake of Coronavirus disease. - DNA

Chinese mily helps Pak contain virus

STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: The Pakistani military received a batch of COVID-19 aid, which was sent by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), according to China's Ministry of National Defense. At the request of the Pakistani military, PLA also sent a 10-member medical expert team to Pakistan to help them contain the pandemic. They were received at the Islamabad International Airport by Pakistan's Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Nadeem Raza, as well as Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, reports Gawdar Pro App on Saturday.

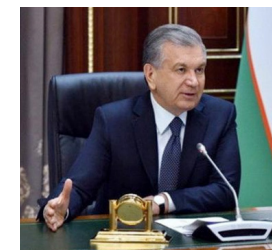
Uzbek President felicitates Pak leadership

DNA

TASHKENT: Shavkat Mirziyoyev the President of Uzbekistan has congratulated Pakistani leadership on the occasion of Ramadan. I a letter addressed to the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, the Uzbek president said that he was pleased to send You my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the coming holy month of Ramadan, which all Muslims look

forward to with great anticipation and joy, full of happiness and blessings. "I firmly believe that the close cooperation and multifaceted partnership based on the principles of solidarity, mutual trust and respect between our friendly People will continue to develop rapidly and

effectively through our high-level dialogue and joint efforts. In these difficult days, when patience and compassion will increase, I ask Almighty Allah to grant You and the brotherly people of Pakistan good health, peace and prosperity", the letter concluded. He said he was confident that the multifaceted, long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries further, which are closely linked by centuries-old ties of friendship, will continue to strengthen.



Chinese help for Gwadar families

The equipment includes 4000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems

STAFF REPORT

GWADAR: Gwadar Port Authority held a ceremony of distributing a batch of solar power equipment and food packets to the deserving families. According to Gwadar Pro App, the equipment including 4000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights, donated by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, will be delivered to local people lack of access to electricity. At the distribution ceremony on Friday Balochistan's

Finance Minister Zahoor Buledi and Chairman of Gwadar Port Authority Naseer Khan Kashani said this batch of materials will help the local people of Gwadar fight against the COVID-19. They also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government and enterprises for their long enduring supports to Pakistan and Gwadar. It is learnt that the 4,000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems will provide electricity supply for schools and residents in remote areas in Gwadar and ease the pressure of power supply.

More Canadians fly back this week: Envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Canadian HC Wendy Gilmour has said 9 special flights to Canada have been arranged since 2 April with thanks to PIA. She said next from Lahore and Karachi will operate this week. She asked the interested Canadians to get themselves registered in case they were interested in travelling to Canada thru these special flights. She thanked Pakistani authorities for extending full support. She hoped they will get similar support in coming days also.

Pillion riding ban extended

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended its ban on pillion riding until May 9. It has reasoned that since the countrywide lockdown has been extended, so will the pillion riding ban. The home department issued a notification announcing the extension. The notification also said the ban does not apply to women, the elderly and law enforcement officers. The ban was put in place to stop people from gathering and ensure social distancing is practiced.

China sends more medical supplies to Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: China despatched another huge medical supplies through a special PIA flight to Pakistan to contest the spread of coronavirus epidemic. Ventilators, N95 masks, FFP2 masks, protection clothes, goggles, and other necessary medical supplies are major portion of the total medical supplies, which were donated by different institutions in China. According to China Economic Net, Industrial and Commercial Bank

of China has donated 40 ventilators to Pakistani National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Hunan Daily News contributed 28,000 gloves, 13,800 masks, 2,944 goggles, and 530 protection clothes, Qiaoxin Holdings (Group) Co., Ltd gave 40,000 medical masks, and China Communications Construction Co., Ltd provided 10,000 surgical masks to NDMA. "Belt and Road" Silk Road Alliance has donated 101,500 biomass graphene disposable face masks, Shantou WBM Trading Co., Ltd has pro-



vided 100,000 medical masks, 5,000 medical eye goggles, 200 forehead temperature guns and other medical supplies, while Haier Pakistan

Trading Company has donated 50,000 gloves, 4,000 N95 masks, etc. In addition, General Institute of Hydropower and Water Resources

Planning and Design contributed 12,300 N95 masks and there is a long list of Chinese companies that donated medical supplies to Pakistan.

It is worth mentioning that a few days ago Pakistan Airforce special airplane from Beijing carried medical supplies and on April 15, a special plane of PIA left for Islamabad from Beijing with 10.23 tons of medical supplies. A team of Chinese doctors along with medical supplies and equipment also reached Pakistan on two special aircraft on April 24. The Chinese doctors who have expertise in treating infectious diseases shall support Pakistan's efforts in fighting against the COVID-19 situation for the coming two months.

Inside...

CDA asked to revise building byelaws

- Page 02

India's Undeclared War against the Indian Muslims

- Page 03

Beijing shuts door on eating wild animals

COVID-19: Firdous urges Ulema to play role

- Back Page

Briefs

CPIC launches relief for needy

DNA

ISLAMABAD – With the advent of holy month of Ramadan, CPIC, one of the largest developer and real estate companies, has launched a food ration distribution campaign to help the most vulnerable families in Islamabad, Karachi and Gwadar. Each ration pack includes three-month food supplies including wheat flour, rice, sugar, lentils, ghee, dates, Rooh Afza and tea. In addition, 50,000 surgical masks are also being distributed to Doctors, Nurses, key workers & those most at risk. Talking to media, CPIC board member Lt. General (R) Syed Sabahat Husain said that as a leading developer and key stakeholder in Gwadar, we take it as our responsibility to support the city's most vulnerable segments. "On behalf of the group and our valued clients, we have started an initiative to provide ration packs that include three-month essential supplies including rice, flour, wheat, lentils, ghee, roof afza and tea," he said.

Places for 'Panahgahs' identified

ISLAMABAD: The management of shelter homes has identified multiple places to set up the emergency 'Panahgahs' in the Federal Capital, which is expected to see an influx of migrant workers due to reopening of the construction sector. "Eight buildings belonging to the public and private sectors have been marked in capital, where at least two 'Panahgahs' will be established on emergency basis to facilitate proper implementation of the social distancing concept at Panahgahs," said Prime Minister's focal person on shelter homes Naseem ur Rehman. Talking to media during his visit to the G-9 'Panah Gah', he said the selected facilities included six government schools and two private hostels, which were located near Tarlai and Bhara Kahu shelter homes. – APP

CDA issues new SOPs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Chairman CDA, authority has issued new SOPs for streamlining the official work in its Human Resource Development Directorate. SOPs have been introduced in connection with Authority's efforts to bring discipline in all administrative spheres. According to newly issued SOPs all officers / officials have to dispose off / process the file within minimum two working days and maximum three working days positively, otherwise disciplinary action will be taken against the delinquent officer / officials. Similarly, issue of un-authorized movement of files violating the proper channels has been addressed as in future case files will be processed through proper channels by the concerned formations.

CDA asked to revise building byelaws

After depositing building map for construction, one has to wait for 2-3 years for its approval due to which development of the federal capital was very slow. He said that due to such difficult procedures, domestic and foreign investors were feeling no incentive to invest in construction projects in the federal capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has provided incentives to construction industry through a Presidential Ordinance, but CDA has neither taken any steps to revise its construction policy nor developed new SOPs for construction activities. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that CDA should revise its building byelaws in consonance with Ordinance for Construction Industry and develop new SOPs so that construction and business activities could flourish in

the federal capital. This was stressed by Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a press statement. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that about 5 years ago, CDA Board had approved revised industrial building byelaws which allowed multi businesses on industrial plots, but CDA has not issued their notification as yet due to which industrial growth in Islamabad was stagnant. He said that LDA and other authorities have developed new SOPs for construction activities in light of Construction In-

dustry Ordinance, but CDA has not made any progress to this effect as yet. He said that CDA in principal had allowed construction of additional storey in markets, but its procedure was made so complicated that it was not possible to construct additional storey in markets. He said that after depositing building map for construction, one has to wait for 2-3 years for its approval due to which development of the federal capital was very slow. He said that due to such difficult procedures, domestic and foreign investors were feeling

no incentive to invest in construction projects in the federal capital. ICCI President said that CDA was providing no infrastructure for auctioned plots due to which investors were facing great problems. He said that CDA has planned to build new Blue Area for which international investors were being encouraged. However, he said that after auction of plots in Blue Area, infrastructure was not provided due to which completed buildings could not be made functional. He urged that CDA should take

all stakeholders including ICCI on board for developing new SOPs for construction sector. He also appealed to Amir Ali Ahmed Chairman CDA and Ali Nawaz Awan SAPM on CDA Affairs to pay urgent attention to these issues and take remedial measures to address them. He further said that ICCI was setting up facilitation desks of various organizations in Chamber and added that CDA should also setup its facilitation at ICCI that would help in addressing the issues of traders and industrialists besides facilitating better growth of business activities.

Lok Virsa portrays antiquated culture

ISLAMABAD: The Lok Virsa Folk Heritage Museum has portrayed antiquated cultures of South Asia to the present day folk heritage and traditions of Pakistan. The museum has represented the evolution of culture and tradition through the ages in an excellent manner. There are different galleries which has imparted the essence of present folk heritage of all the provinces of Pakistan, an official told APP. He said Folk romance stories like Heer-Ranjha, Sohni Mahiwal and Dhola-Marjo etc., have been portrayed magnificently there. –APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Mr. Bernhard signing MoU with Bedari Pakistan to support Bedari to give food & hygiene kits to 600 households. – DNA

Mushsira" in first week of Ramazan

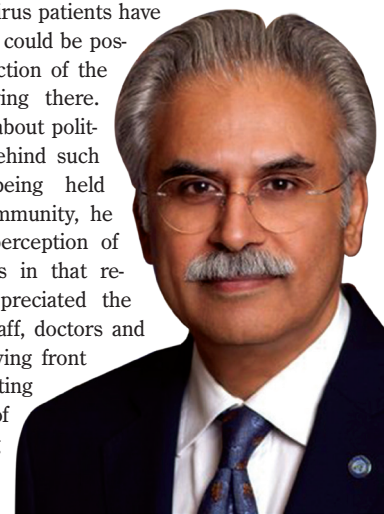
ISLAMABAD: As part of its online activities, Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has planned to organize "Hum international online Mushaira" in first week of Ramazan. More than hundred of poets and audience will participate in Mushaira from Pakistan and around the world on video link. Mushaira will be broadcast on the Pakistan Academy of Letters Facebook page, which will be viewed by millions of people. Pakistan Academy of Letters was committed to play its role in furthering the mutual relations of the writers and people by uti-

lizing modern resources better. Pakistan Academy of Letters has expanded the reach of scholars through advanced technology to many countries and continents. The Corona virus has restricted us to our homes under mutual protection measures that create an atmosphere of homogeneity, an official told APP. He said that the Academy's online activities will be an inspiration to those who love literature. He said that date will be announced soon to stay in touch with their scholars and poets in this Coronavirus epidemic.

Zafar assures help to doctors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM), on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza has assured full support of the government for addressing genuine grievances of doctors community treating patients of coronavirus. The incumbent government was well aware of problems of the paramedical staff including nurses, technicians, and doctors, he stated while talking to a private TV channel. Demand of doctors addressing press conferences to coerce the government for complete lockdown was not a feasible option, he said adding that a complete shutter down would add miseries of the daily wagers and labor community. However, he said social distance and other precautionary measures besides a strict lockdown in the areas where coronavirus patients have been detected, could be possible for protection of the community living there. To a question about political motives behind such conferences being held by doctors community, he rejected the perception of some elements in that regard. He appreciated the paramedical staff, doctors and nurses for playing front line role in treating the patients of this spreading virus around the world.



AIOU holds 'Ramadan Ul-Mubarik program

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has started lecture series on 'Noorul Quran' from its FM-Radio (91.6) on advent of the Holy month of Ramadan-ul-mubarik on daily basis.

The program with title

'Voice of AIOU' includes 'Tilwat-e-Quran' and talks on 'Fazyle Quran'. Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid of the University's department of History recites one 'Para' of the Holy book daily at 3 pm, along with its interpretation. Besides this, regular talks for one hour also take place daily at 11 am on

Islamic History, Islamic studies and contemporary Islamic thoughts.

According to the in-charge FM Radio Irfan Ali Ansari, the talks also covered the relevant academic courses of the University's students. The program's participants highlight the importance of the Holy month

and its message, with the special reference to the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah.

As per directions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, online academic-related programs are also arranged with participation of the University's regional offices on daily basis, he added

Call to increase testing capacity

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Task Force for Science and Technology Dr Ata ur Rehman has urged the authorities concerned to increase testing capacity for detecting coronavirus patients. Enhancing testing capacity would help identify the affected persons with coronavirus symptoms, he stated while talking to a private TV channel programs. Purchasing testing kits in bulk numbers would be an additional facility for medical staff in testing people with dangerous virus, he said adding that the procedure would help isolate the patients from healthy persons. – APP

IEP-RIC holds lecture series online

ISLAMABAD: Institution of Engineers, Pakistan, Rawalpindi-Islamabad Centre (IEP-RIC) has decided to hold its regular lecture series online in wake of coronavirus outbreak. Accordingly, it held its first such event for the

benefits of the engineers. It is the part of continuing professional development (CPD)'s activities, being carried out by the Center on regular basis. According to Secretary IEP-RIC Gp Captain (r) Engr. Najamuddin, the

topic of first online CPD lecture was Project Procurement Management, conducted by the Vice Chancellor Karkarum International University, Gilgit-Baltistan Dr. Atta Ullah Shah who is also vice chairman of the local

chapter of IEP. He elaborated on the topic of project Procurement Management, with special reference to procurement of Consultants, Price Adjustments and Dispute Resolution and Claim under FIDIC. – APP

Employees working from home spare more money

The middle class salaried people, especially those working in public sector departments and working from home serving private sectors are getting their monthly income regularly without any cut

NAJAM UL HASSAN

ISLAMABAD, Unemployment, rising poverty, and no-work no-earning has become talk of the town during the lockdown but one has to confess that the employees working from homes under the current circumstances spare more money than before. With thousands of people facing recession in businesses and job insecurities, struggling to pay for utilities, rents, and even to purchase daily use necessary items, it seems surprising that there are still hundreds of thou-

sands people in the country who are saving a big amount of money due to the lockdown. The middle class salaried people, especially those working in public sector departments and working from home serving private sectors are getting their monthly income regularly without any cut. However, they have nothing to spend on transportation, shopping (clothing, footwear, cosmetics, jewelry, etc), dining out, beauty salons, recreation activities, parties and much more. Talking to APP, the HR Manager of an international private services providing company Hus-

sain said, "I am lucky to work as normal from home for a business company that shows no signs of cessation despite the ongoing lockdown in the country". He said, "I am getting salary as usual but the thing is since I have been locked down at my home, I am saving a major portion of the salary as I have nothing to spend at a time when all shops of clothing, shoes, and even hotels (his favourite activity) are closed." He said although there are opportunities to shop online but "why should I purchase things when I can't go out to utilize them". "When you are at home, with

uncertainty about ending of pandemic and about when the lockdown is over, it seems ridiculous to purchase what you cannot wear," Hussain added. However, he was shocked how he was used to fritter away the money in pre-Covid-19 days as what he thought there were lot of ways to save money for better use and to help the needy. Hussain also felt bad for wasting out money on useless things, saying "there is guilt inside me that I could have spared money for the needy". Sympathizing with small businesses, and people who lost their income, he called upon

the people to help them in this hour of need out of their saved money. Although the number of marriage parties have come down significantly mainly due to closure of marquees and ban on gatherings during lockdown. But marriages have not stopped yet and people are taking it as an opportunity to spend the saving money on it. "In Pakistan, the marriage has become a nightmare as for as expenses are concerned; we have to spend frivolously in such parties just due to social pressure," Muhammad Iqbal, a government servant said.

Over 2,800 patients recovered

ISLAMABAD: The total number of coronavirus infection cases in the country has reached 12,723. These include Punjab 5378, Sindh, 4232, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 1793, Balochistan 722, Islamabad Capital Territory 235, Gilgit-Baltistan 308, and Azad Kashmir 55 cases. According to National Command and Operation Center, so far 2,866 patients of Coronavirus have been recovered, while 269 died (Sindh: 78, Punjab: 81, KP: 93, ICT: 03, Balochistan: 11 and GB: 03) and 78 others are in a critical condition. 144,365 tests have been conducted since outbreak of the pandemic. – DNA

Extended lockdown

As becoming inevitable to everyone able to use even a modicum of rationale and reason, the lockdown aimed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 has been extended till May 9. The announcement was made by the prime minister after a meeting of the Command and Control Centre. PM Imran Khan, who has consistently opposed lockdowns in the past, and has lashed out at the Sindh government for enforcing them, has said that a track and trace system will be put in place, with the help of the armed forces, to ensure this is a 'smart lockdown'. This would mean that only areas with high concentrations of Covid-19 would be shut down entirely and others allowed to function as normal. This may sound like a good option. The issue is that we are not quite sure, because of the lack of testing, into which alleys, which towns, which villages, Covid-19 has taken root and how many are affected. The WHO has predicted that Pakistan could be confronted with 200,000 coronavirus cases by July this year, and other experts have pointed out that the trajectory in the country currently looks very similar to the US, the UK and, in the past, Italy and Spain. Since then, Italy and Spain have been able to begin flattening the curve. But this was through stringent lockdowns.

A smart lockdown would need to be better organized and better planned. We should keep in mind that the tracing, tracking and quarantine programme used in countries like Singapore was backed by a highly developed system of surveillance cameras located on every street and in every building. This allowed any person a corona-positive individual had come into contact with to be asked to observe voluntary quarantine for 15 days. Wuhan used roughly the same method. Whether we can develop such systems, whether our people have the discipline and responsibility to observe days of voluntary quarantine often in crowded houses, whether entire families will need to be quarantined are questions that are yet to be answered. For the moment, we can only hope this system will work. What the impact of mass congregational prayers in mosques in most parts of the country - apart from maybe parts of Sindh where the provincial government has been more diligent - will be is still to be tested while the ability of the government to enforce its own regulations may prove to be most significant of all. The government should also take appropriate measure to avert the creeping economic meltdown if the severity of the disease intensifies in the coming weeks and we end up extending the lockdown yet another time beyond May 9. Fortunately, Pakistan has been able to secure some more funding from foreign sources which should enable the government to offer much-needed economic support to the most needy in the country. The next budget preparation should also start in earnest, as that can be initiated online and by conducting video conferencing.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 31

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Line of fire

JOURNALISTS and photographers are the latest group to come under heavy fire in Indian-held Kashmir. In the former state which was split to form two union territories after the New Delhi government in August last year revoked Article 370 of the Indian constitution, giving the disputed territory autonomous status, a policy of harsh measures to quash dissent and suppress opposition to the move has continued without break. This has meant endless misery for the people of Kashmir, who have attempted to launch small protests in various places, only to be met with batons, teargas and rubber bullets. Last Wednesday, four Kashmiri freedom fighters were killed during an encounter with Indian security forces. In a press conference, DG ISPR Maj-General Babar Iftikhar stated that in 2020, there had been 848 ceasefire violations, with the Indian army using heavy artillery across the Line of Control. He noted that these appeared to be attempts, combined with the Indian government's continued hostile statements, to divert attention from growing animosity in the Gulf States to violence in Kashmir and to other domestic problems.

Certainly, India has made a concerted effort to suppress the media. Journalist Gowhar Geelani is being investigated by police after being accused of glorifying terrorism. Other journalists, including freelance photographer Masrat Zehra, have been targeted under the draconian terrorism laws enforced in Kashmir for years and used more widely after August this year. Journalists have been forced to report to police stations to 'explain' stories they have published or are investigating, and others have been severely harassed or had their phones confiscated. The Editor's Guild of India has spoken out against the actions being taken to clamp down on reporters in Kashmir and pointed out that publishing an opinion or a story on social media can hardly count as terrorism.

Sadly however, Indian authorities appear reluctant to alter their tough stance on Kashmir. The territory has already been crushed with many protestors arrested over the past months. Journalists who are attempting to speak up are now in the line of fire, and unfortunately have only limited support from other journalists across India. The mainstream Indian media is refusing to highlight the plight of Kashmir and generally, with a few grave exceptions, toeing the line of the Modi government. Kashmir has experienced too much trauma already. The onslaught on free expression shows New Delhi's determination to ensure that the voice of the Kashmiri people is not heard. Quite obviously, journalists who write about the events in Kashmir are not terrorists. They are simply portraying what they see before their eyes. These scenes are grim and their stories an attempt to bring to the world the true happenings in Kashmir.

India's Undeclared War against the Indian Muslims

Sajjad Shaukat



The fact is that Indian health system is as good or bad as of Pakistan. But, it is misfortune that some Pakistanis found it convenient to get them treated in Indian hospitals. And the outbreak of COVID-19 in India has also proved the shallowness of Indian health system, as poor Indians have been left on the mercy of doctors and hospitals who charge exorbitant fees for basic treatment

THE entire world is facing the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) which has taken the life of more than 195,000 persons and infected 2.8 million people (Up to April 26, 2020). A majority of the deaths and affected cases have been recorded in the USA and Europe where this deadly virus has, rapidly, been spreading. Having best medical equipments and facilities, these countries do not blame each other for the COVID-19 outbreak. But, it is regrettable that under the guise of Coronavirus, India has started undeclared

war against the Muslims in the country. In this regard, since Narendra Modi, the leader of the ruling party BJP, became Indian prime minister, he started implementing ideology of Hindutva (Hindu Nationalism), especially by persecuting the Indian Muslims.

During his second tenure, Modi government accelerated the completion of Hindutva agenda, using as tools against the Muslims. Indian extremist rulers' various moves such as abrogation of the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir to turn Muslim majority into minority in the Occupied Kashmir (IOK), continued lockdown in the IOK and martyrdom of thousands of the Kashmiris there are notable. Besides, lack of medical treatment and food, hundreds of the Muslims have already been died in the Indian Held Kashmir due to lockdown, while, now more people might have died and affected by the coronavirus.

Particularly, in the aftermath of the Indian elections 2019, news reports have highlighted different cases in which Muslims were violently targeted by the radical Hindus. In this respect, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat stated on October 8, 2019: "Bharat is Hindu Rashtra and all Bharatiyas are Hindus."

Meanwhile, the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA) further exposed the Modi-led government's fanatic policies. The CAA coupled with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is mainly against the Muslim immigrants especially from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. It strips 200 million Indian Muslims of their citizenship.

Since December 15, 2019, daily mass protests, even by the moderate Hindus have been taking place across India against the CAA and the NRC, which resulted into killing of more than 200 persons and injuring 800-mostly Muslims by the police and fundamentalist Hindus. But, Modi-led regime has not withdrawn the CAA/NRC.

In the recent past, when clashes started in New Delhi between protesters for and against

the citizenship law, Hindu zealots of RSS and BJP have burnt properties of Muslims, including their vehicles and mosques and compelled them to leave the areas.

While Indian rulers have been imposing various kinds of restrictions on the Muslims, coronavirus provided them another pretext to increase their hardships. Top officials of the Modi's government and the health ministry claimed that Muslims are spreading this virus. Availing this opportunity, Hindu extremists have set off a series of assaults against Muslims across the country.

In this respect, Al Jazeera and The New York Times reported: "Muslims have been beaten up, nearly lynched, run out of their neighborhoods or attacked in mosques...Hindu extremists are scapegoating the country's entire Muslim population for deliberately spreading the virus through corona jihad Indian hospitals segregates Muslim and Hindu coronavirus patients...In what many are calling a case of "apartheid" during a global pandemic...made separate wards for Hindu and Muslim patients. It is a decision of the government".

In this context, Time magazine under the title "It Was Already Dangerous to Be Muslim in India. Then Came the Coronavirus", also elaborated the Indian present drastic anti-Muslim phenomena.

As part of New Delhi's biased policies, Indian fanatic rulers accused the Tablighi Jamaat of spreading coronavirus through their congregations, held in India, while since the remote past, their preachers have been holding congregations so as to why this deadly virus did not emerge.

In this connection, Indian news website "The Print.in." pointed out: "Covid is an excuse to push Indian Muslims out of informal sector jobs...What Muslims are effectively facing now is a new form of concerted, deliberate economic marginalisation through blatant lies linking the community to the virus...Having been largely shut out of the formal sector, many Muslims

depend on the informal sector and self-employment for their livelihood".

Following the instructions of the government, doctors are not paying attention to the Muslims patients, affected by this virus.

Notably, Indian medical system is widely exaggerated behind the facade of Shining India. It became popular in South Asia through a fake narrative of Indian expertise in health sector and affordability.

The fact is that Indian health system is as good or bad as of Pakistan. But, it is misfortune that some Pakistanis found it convenient to get them treated in Indian hospitals. And the outbreak of COVID-19 in India has also proved the shallowness of Indian health system, as poor Indians have been left on the mercy of doctors and hospitals who charge exorbitant fees for basic treatment.

Recently, three Pakistanis returned from India after medical treatment-all three tested positive for coronavirus. It reminds the Pakistanis that it is better to get treated in Pakistan instead of paying heavy fees and getting infected by this virus. Besides, these three cases also prove that New Delhi may actually deliberately target Pakistanis to further spread this deadly virus.

In Pakistan, the number of coronavirus-deaths has reached the figure of 248, whereas the number of persons, affected by the virus is 11,736. But, Islamabad did not blame India in this regard. But, under the guise of Coronavirus, India's undeclared war against the Muslims continues.

Nevertheless, Indian biased rulers have politicised the COVID-19 epidemic by accusing the Indian Muslims and thus, created a big divide. Hence, coronavirus may die, but the virus of communal disharmony will be hard to kill when this is over.

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

Alamdard Hussain Gillani: the moments to remember

Syed Shakil Gillani



As a Minister Health he established District Headquarters Hospitals in several districts, like Multan, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan his other remarkable contribution is to establish the Nishtar Hospital and Medical College, Multan and also the extension of Mayo Hospital Lahore and Samli Sanatorium Murree, took place during his tenure

ON December 12th 1919 at Multan in the cortile of Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Gillania boy took birth namely Syed Mohammad Alamdar Hussain Gillani, at the time of birth name was Syed Abul Hasan but with the relevance to 8th of Muharram it was synchronized with the name of Alamdar Hussain Gillani, became blissful and prominent. He received early education from Muzaffargarh and Multan, did graduation from Emerson college in 1941 and set the integral role of Gillani family in the politics of Pakistan, practically it starts when the father of former Premier of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Syed Ahmed Mujtaba Gillani MPA, taken part in politics during his studies and joined All Pakistan Muslim League when he was the student of FA, the house 'Al Jeelan,' located on Sooraj Kund Road, was the place and epicenter of politics in Multan where notable personalities like Governor General Ghulam Muhammad, Khawaja Nazimuddin, Prime Ministers Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, I.Chundrigarh and Malik Feroz Khan Noon and other dignified people like Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, SardarAbdur Rab Nishtar and Raja Ghazanfar Ali used to visit. The convention of Muslim League held in 1951 at 'Al Jeelan,' Multan, presided over by then Prime Minister of Pakistan & President of Muslim League Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, addressing to the audience attending the event, The PM took the hands of Alamdar Hussain, Walayat Hussain and Rehmat Hussain Gillani and declared loudly:

"They are the backbone of the Muslim League." Brief story of becoming the Provincial Minister, once he visited Chief Minister Punjab Feroz Khan Noon at his residence, Mr. Noon desired to suggest five names for his cabinet, proposed names were Sardar Muhammad Khan Leghari, Rana Abdul Hameed, Muzaffar Ali Qazilbash, Chaudhry Ali Akbar and Sheikh Masood Sadiq.

However, when the cabinet was announced, there was an additional name and that was the Alamdar Hussain Gillani." In 1953, he took oath as Minister for Health and Local Bodies in the cabinet of Feroz Khan Noon. Local Bodies Ministry was essential for contact with the people and local works.

As a Minister Health he established District Headquarters Hospitals in several districts, like Multan, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan his other remarkable contribution is to establish the Nishtar Hospital and Medical College, Multan and also the extension of Mayo Hospital Lahore and Samli Sanatorium Murree, took place during his tenure, due to acute shortage of Doctors during those time specially in rural areas negligible health services and for immediate solution on humanitarian concern, foundation of LSMF Medical School in Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur was laid down where the students offered a three-year medical course, and upon completion of a two-year service in a rural area, the respective candidate was declared eligible for the MBBS examination. His cousin Makhdoomzada Syed Hassan Mehmood was the Chief Minister of the State of Bahawalpur in during that era who provided necessary help for this noble cause and matured the revolutionary contribution. Gillani appointed masses under the admissible rules as a Health Minister, encourage and also enabled children of poor parents to get admissions to become a Doctors to serve the humanity.

He established libraries in every district to develop the interest of people to access the books and inaugurated the huge Municipal Library in QasimBagh, Multan, which is a great literary treasure for the book lovers, Gillani Medical & Law college and many other institutions, he also retained the portfolio of Improvement Trust (currently Ministry of Housing) took particular interest in the development of Lahore, Gulberg and

Murree now the same places turned into busy and populous localities. The first local bodies elections after the creation of Pakistan at his credit. His name is included in the world historical book "WHO IS WHO 1954-1955". The former President of Pakistan Chaudhry FazalElahi, was the parliamentary secretary in his Ministry in 1953. He was the active member of Pakistan Movement, Sajjada Nasheen Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed (RA), Former Federal State & Health Minister, Government of Punjab, Signatory of Resolution of Pakistan March 23rd 1940 and Constitution of 1956. He travelled to eternal abode on 3rd Ramadan, August 09, 1978.

The writer is broadcast Journalist shak_gillani07@yahoo.com



Briefs

Ningxia Hui Region donates material to Punjab

BEIJING: China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region has donated anti-epidemic material to Punjab province to battle Covid-19 pandemic. The anti-epidemic material includes 1,000 N95 medical protective masks, 20,000 disposable medical masks, and 500 pieces of medical disposable protective suits worth more than 120,000 Yuan, according to local media here on Sunday.

This material will be transported from Yinchuan, capital city of Ningxia Hui Region to Punjab, one of most affected area in Pakistan, through Pakistan Embassy in Beijing to help prevent and control the epidemic.

"We believe that through this joint fight against the epidemic, the friendship between the people of two provinces will be further deepened, and friendly relationship will definitely reach a higher level," Zhan Tao, Head of International Donation Working Group, said while commenting over donation. It is worth mentioning that Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Punjab province formally established international friendship relationship in September 2006. — APP

Saudis relaxes virus lockdown

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Sunday partially eased a 24-hour curfew in place to combat the coronavirus pandemic, except for in hotspots including the Muslim holy city of Mecca. The curfew will be relaxed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and malls and retailers will be allowed to reopen in all regions of the kingdom until May 13, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

But a round-the-clock lockdown will be maintained in some areas including Mecca, which has reported the kingdom's highest number of infections in recent days despite being sealed off. Many countries around the Middle East and North Africa have announced a similar easing of lockdown restrictions as Muslims mark the holy fasting month of Ramadan. — APP

Cuban doctors go to S. Africa

DNA

HAVANA: More than 200 doctors from Cuba are due to arrive in South Africa to help fight coronavirus. The medics left on a plane that first carried a donation of South African medical supplies to the Caribbean island, its embassy in Pretoria said. They are among 1,200 healthcare workers sent to battle Covid-19 in 22 countries that have requested help from the communist state. South Africa is to begin easing strict lockdown restrictions next month.



LALAMUSA: Shops at GT Road completely closed due to lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, on Sunday. — Khurshid Nadim

Beijing shuts door on eating wild animals

Complying with an earlier notice issued by China's top legislature in February, the new regulation is a prudent response to the COVID-19 pandemic

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Beijing, capital of China, decided to root out any consumption and trade of wildlife in the city by passing a new regulation, imposing even harsher punishments on violators.

Complying with an earlier notice issued by China's top legislature in February, the new regulation is a prudent response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is believed to be caused by the virus linked to bats, China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported on Sunday.

It has also redefined the scope of protected wild animals and banned wildlife hunting in all regions in Beijing unless otherwise specified, said Wang Rongmei, chairwoman of the Legislative Commission of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress.

The new regulation will be put into effect from June 1 this year. Earlier, the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen also introduced new regulations banning eating wild animals. It was also the first-ever Chinese city to ban eating cats and dogs. Under the new regulation, the

consumption of all terrestrial wildlife and certain aquatic wild animals on the Beijing wildlife conservation list are prohibited, and their trading is forbidden in markets. Violators can face fines up to 20 times the value of wild animals or their products.

Guideline for elders to avoid COVID-19

To fight against the pandemic, the Chinese Geriatrics Society has issued two guidelines for the elderly to prevent and control the COVID-19

I.POST REPORT

BEIJING: Elderly people in Pakistan could follow a guideline issued by the Chinese Geriatrics Society to save themselves from the COVID-19, said a report published by China Economic Net. The report says, whole society in Pakistan is under pressure to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

Among them the seniors are the most vulnerable, as they make up the vast majority of the severe and critical cases. To fight against the pandemic, the Chinese Geriatrics Society has issued two guidelines for the elderly to prevent and control the COVID-19. One of them is the "General rules for the prevention and control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the elderly".

This standard covers a wide range, from common prevention and control technologies, mental health maintenance, housing and personal hygiene management, food hygiene and diet nutrition, rest and exercise, chronic disease management and health monitoring, to the prevention and control for travel, consultation, and after close contact. The other one is the

"Guidance of reasonable diet for the home-dwelling elderly to prevent and control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)". This standard gives guidelines on diet, exercise and sleep for the home-dwelling elderly to prevent and control coronavirus. It is applicable to reasonable dietary for the home-dwelling elderly to prevent and control the virus, the report added.

China seizes shoddy face masks

BEIJING: China has confiscated over 89 million poor quality face masks, a government official said Sunday, as Beijing faces a slew of complaints about faulty protective gear exported worldwide. Demand for protective equipment has soared as nations across the globe battle the deadly coronavirus, which has infected nearly 2.9 million people. But a number of countries have complained about faulty masks and other products exported by China, mostly for use by medical workers and vulnerable groups. — APP

Sri Lanka extends lockdown

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has reversed plans to end its virus lockdown on Monday, extending it for another week after a spike in coronavirus infections including at a naval base. Within hours of announcing that the nationwide restrictions imposed on March 20 would be lifted, the government revoked the order and extended them until May 4. Health officials said there had been a jump in cases. — APP

COVID-19: Azerbaijan is a success story

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan is one of success stories in the fight against COVID-19, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said in an interview. "Azerbaijani government has been taking certain actions since mid-January. It is because of the strategic vision demonstrated by Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and also risk assessment and threat perception with regard to COVID-19. As a result of this, we can say that Azerbaijan is in a better situation. It is one of the success stories in the fight against COVID-19," he said. With regard to the actions by Azerbaijani government, Hajiyev pointed out that in the fight against COVID-19 crisis, in such a pandemic situation, national coordination is extremely important. "Therefore, by the decree of Azerbaijan's president, a Task Force has been es-



tablished under the Cabinet of Ministers to coordinate the actions of all government institutions. Of course, quarantine measures are extremely important as well. Here, I would like to share the unique experience of Azerbaijan. Since late January and early February, we have started taking all Azerbaijanis or foreign nationals visiting Azerbaijan in special quarantine zones. Actually, four and five-star hotels have been designated for that purpose. Since mid-February, certain restrictions have been applied. Since early March, all educational institutions have been closed and social isolation measures, as well as movement restrictions have been imposed. With all of these actions, we've effectively contributed to success story of Azerbaijan," he added.

Teachers threaten protest

ISLAMABAD: The representative bodies of Punjab teachers Sunday threatened to launch a protest against the administrations of various districts for deploying teachers at wheat procurement centres, what they believed was contrary to repeated directives of the provincial government. — APP

RCCI seek 5% sales tax

ADNAN YOUSAF

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged Government to slash sales tax and deferred income tax to put economy back on track. Saboor Malik, president RCCI in a statement said that "Pakistan's economy is in dire straits due to the Corona Lockdown. The imports and exports closed and trade activities at local level have been

minimized which further contracted the economy into a negative growth tunnel. In order to get the economy back on track, the sales tax rate should be brought down to five per cent, he suggested. The Corona outbreak also gave an important opportunity for Pakistan to engage in meaningful dialogue with the outside world to better reschedule and forgive debts, he added. The Ministry of Finance and Commerce must reach out to the relevant stakeholders

and come out with a comprehensive and long term policy, he further commented. All sectors are interconnected with each other and a long-term policy will have to be adopted as Corona's losses will span decades. The prices of petroleum products will have to be further reduced, the price of electricity and gas should be reduced as well as a comprehensive program will have to be introduced in which discounts will have to be given under different slabs.

COVID-19: Firdous urges Ulema to play role

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan has emphatically stated that the forensic report into wheat flour and sugar crisis will be made public. Addressing a news conference in Sialkot on Sunday, she said the people will be apprised about the whole facts behind the crisis. She strongly rejected the Opposition Leader Shabbaz Sharif's allegations about delay in presentation of the report. She said Prime Minister Imran Khan believes in across the board accountability and that is why he formed a commission to unmask the real faces behind the crisis.

She said all the responsible institutions were made part of this commission and since it had to carry out forensic audit of the last three years, therefore, it requires time to complete the process in the most transparent manner. She said the commission has demanded to further extend its period for three weeks and this request will be presented before the cabinet for approval. The Special Assistant said time warrants greater unity and harmony in our ranks but regretted that the Opposition Leader resorted to allegations against the Prime Minister in order to keep himself alive in the politics. She said no family member of the prime minister is involved in this scam. The Special Assistant said a



relief package for industrial workers has been prepared which will be approved by the Economic Coordination Committee on Monday (April 27). She said the package is aimed at protecting the rights and livelihoods of the industrial workers. This is only possible when we will shoulder the burden of the industries during these

testing times. Therefore, she said, this package envisages relief measures for the owners of the industries and factories. Firdous Ashiq Awan said the testing capacity for coronavirus cases is being enhanced and by the end of May it will be enhanced to twenty thousand. She said we currently have forty labs which will be enhanced to sixty.

The special assistant stressed that responsibility rests with different segments of the society particularly religious scholars to play their role to contain and defeat this contagion. She expressed the confidence that the Ulema will fulfill their responsibility regarding implementation of the twenty-point Ramazan guidelines in order to avoid the spread of the virus. Firdous Ashiq Awan said doctors and paramedical staff are fighting as a front line soldiers in war against COVID-19 pandemic. She said the government is committed to ensure the safety of doctors by providing all necessary equipment to them. She said we value their services during these testing times. She said people still haven't understood the gravity of the

threat posed by the novel coronavirus yet. She reiterated that best way to fight the deadly pandemic was through teamwork between the government and the public. "We have been doing our work, but the public is still not practicing social distancing and self-isolation," she lamented. It is very necessary to follow these protocols to safeguard yourself and those around you from COVID-19, she said. "If and where a lacking is observed, it should be immediately corrected," the special assistant said, adding that only God can help the nation in its fight against the pandemic. Dr Furdus also lauded the efforts of doctors across the country and called them the country's biggest "assets" in the war against the coronavirus.