



Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**MCI fully geared to tackle COVID-19, says Mayor Islamabad**

**Fawad for debate on NFC award**



**Shibli for proactive role of PROs**



# Hafeez discusses debt review with French, German envoys

**A.M.BHATTI**

ISLAMABAD: Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck\_ Ambassador of Germany accompanied by French Ambassador Dr. Marc Barety and Economic Counselor \_Mrs. Anais Boitiere, called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh here at the Finance Division. The Advisor welcomed the Ambassadors and shared with them the overall picture of the country's economy amid the Corona Virus pandemic and its future impact on the overall progress of the economy. He shared that before the pandemic Pakistan was successfully able to control its current account deficit and was expecting a growth of 3% during the ongo-

ing financial year after observing strict financial discipline. However, after the outbreak the growth projections have become difficult to realize. He shared that due to the ongoing circumstances it is expected that the growth might remain between -1% to -1.5%. He then, told the ambassadors about the details of the relief package offered to the vulnerable by the Prime Minister through Ehsaas Program and the steps which the government is taking to support the SME sector. The Ambassadors then discussed with the Adviser the details of the debt rescheduling offered by G-20 countries and the need for any further loans. The Adviser said that Pakistan's firm stance in favor of debt rescheduling drive at the G-20 fo-

rum was based on the belief that the poorer countries genuinely require this assistance though Pakistan Specifically had benefited lesser from the said relief. He also shared that \$1.8 bn due in debt servicing to G-20 countries till December 2020 are under process of rescheduling. Pakistan is not going for any commercial loan rescheduling until now, said the Adviser. The Finance Division shall adhere to the requirements of Debt Limitation Act before planning to take up additional burden as most of the loans will be for the purpose of clearing old debt stocks, shared the Adviser. The Adviser appreciated the support offered by the friendly countries and said that he hopes that the cooperation will continue in future for the benefit of the people of the three countries



**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassadors of Germany and France in a meeting with Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. – DNA

**Gen. Bajwa phones Iranian colleague**



**DNA**

EHRAN: COAS of Pakistan Gen Bajwa has telephoned Chief of Armed Forces of Iran Maj. Gen Bagheri. Gen Mohammad Bagheri received a telephone call from COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa. The chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has expressed his country's readiness to develop defense and economic cooperation with Pakistan. Top commanders discussed the latest military relations between the two countries, Corona Crisis and the security of common borders.

## Chinese mily experts praise Pak testing capacity

**DNA**

BEIJING: The Chinese military medical experts, currently visiting Pakistan to share China's experience on COVID-19 prevention and control, has lauded the Pakistan's testing capacity of the disease. Zhou Feihu, head of the Chinese expert team and former director of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Department of the Chinese PLA General Hospital, said, "We have visited a total of eight military hospitals in the surrounding areas in the last week and a half. We shared with them our experience of fighting against the coronavirus."

"They also told us their diagnosis and treatment procedures. As for their problems encountered in fighting the virus, we made suggestions based on our experience, which they thought were helpful," China Economic Net reported. One expert of the military medical team Li Mi- yang said, "Both of the tests - quantity and level - at the virology institute are good. One laboratory could conduct about 700 tests every day, which is relatively large. Li added, "We advise Pakistan to further improve the testing capacity to meet the clinical demand. After visiting many hospitals, the visiting medical

team thinks the Pakistani government and army have attached great importance to the control and prevention of the pandemic. They have established relatively sound epidemic prevention systems and also made some achievements. However, the general public need further raise their awareness of the pandemic's control and prevention." "The general public can also do better in keeping a social distance," said Xu Yinzhe, another expert of the medical team to aid Pakistan. Xu added that they hope to work together with Pakistan to mobilize the masses to join in the fight against the pandemic.

## Briefs

**Mehfil e Seerat at Pak embassy in France**

**DNA**

PARIS: The Embassy of Pakistan to France organized a Virtual Mehfil e Seerat to pay tribute to the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH). The event was organized on 17th Ramazan to mark the day of the battle of Badr, a turning point in the history of Islam, a press release received from Paris here today said. Renowned Islamic scholar and expert Iqbal Dr Tahir Tanoli in his key note speech highlighted the importance of following the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad PBUH to bring peace and harmony to the world. He said that Prophet (PBUH) was an embodiment of truthfulness and justice. Replying to a question, he said that it is a misconception that science is an antithesis to the religion of Islam.

## MCI fully geared to tackle COVID-19: Mayor

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Mayor of Islamabad Shikheh Anser Aziz has urged people to exercise all precautionary measures in order to keep safe from Coronavirus disease. In his special message the Mayor further said that the best way of avoiding this disease is to stay at home

and avoid meeting people unnecessarily. He said the MCI has taken all measures in this regard in collaboration with the district administration due to which negative impact of virus in the Capital has successfully been contained. Mayor Sheikh Anser further said the virus is an extra ordinary phenomenon and therefore needs extra

ordinary steps. He further said fight against this deadly disease can only be fought with the help of people therefore citizens are requested to help MCI and other relevant depts. He said the best way to help is to regularly wash hands, use sanitizers and keep social distancing. He expressed hope that people will listen to his plea.

## New Zealand to end corona lockdown

**DNA**

WELLINGTON: New Zealand will phase out its coronavirus lockdown over the next 10 days after successfully containing the virus, although some restrictions will remain, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Monday. Ardern said that from Thursday shopping malls, restaurants, cinemas and playgrounds will reopen - with the country moving



to Level Two on its four-tier system. The 39-year-old leader warned "none of us can assume COVID is not with us" but said New Zealand currently had only 90 active cases after a seven-week lockdown.

"Your efforts New Zealand have got us to this place ahead of most of the world and without the carnage that COVID has inflicted in many other places," she said in a televised address. "But there are risks ahead, so please be vigilant." New Zealand, with a population of five million has recorded 1,147 coronavirus cases, including 21 deaths. The number of new cases has been in single digits since mid-April, with three new infections recorded on Monday.

**PTCL asked to improve services**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) has directed PTCL to enhance voice and broadband services network in erstwhile FATA districts of KP province to facilitate people of the area for online education and other web based services. As PTCL has already been providing fixed line voice and data services in the erstwhile tribal agencies, hence growing demand of the people will likely be met in short timeframe.

## Payment under Ehsaas on merit

**MUNIR FAISAL**

ATTOCK: The Provincial Minister for Revenue Col (R) Malik Anwar Khan surprise visited Ehsaas Kafalat Programme centres in Government Boys High school Pindi Gheb and Government High School Minawala in district attock on Monday. Assistant Commissioner Haider Abbas, Assistant Director Benazir Income Support Programme and others were also present. During the visits, he inspected the process to distribute the relief assistance.

He was briefed about the distribution of the financial aid. He also interacted with the people present in the centres. They appreciated the government for announcing a big amount for them. The Provincial Minister expressed his satisfaction with the distribution process. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Revenue Anwar Khan said that Prime Minister Ehsaas Kafalat Programme will be the fairest program in the country's history. He said that provision of financial aid under Ehsaas Kafalat Programme would be ensured on merit.

## Pakistanis return from Singapore

**DNA**

PULAU UJONG: Pakistan High Commission, Singapore, arranged the return of 13 Pakistanis to Peshawar, in close coordination with Pakistan International Airlines. These Pakistanis had been stranded in Singapore due to suspension of flights to Pakistan in the wake of COVID-19. The group included 7 students, 3 tourists and 3 employment/dependent pass holders. Earlier the High Commission had arranged evacuation of 70 Pakistanis to Karachi on April 24, 2020.

# Israeli occupation and COVID-19 factsheet

**DNA**

RAMALA: The laws of occupation continue to govern Israel's policies and practices in the OPT during a pandemic or a health crisis, including the Hague Regulations and the Geneva Conventions. Article 56(1) of the Fourth Geneva Convention (hereinafter GCIV) explains that 'the occupying power has the duty of ensuring and maintaining, with the cooperation of national and local authorities, the medical and hospital establishments and services, public health and hygiene in the occupied territory, with particular reference to the adoption and application of the prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics. Medical personnel of all categories shall be allowed to

carry out their duties.' Likewise, Article 14(1) of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, the occupying power 'has the duty to ensure the medical needs of the civilian population in occupied territory continue to be satisfied'. Disregards for Palestinian detainees' health, especially of the sick detainees, who have been denied from visiting the infirmary, is blatant violation of Israel's obligation as an occupying power towards Palestinian detainees, including Article 91 of GCIV that requires the presence of an adequate infirmary in places of detention, in addition to separate spaces dedicated for people with diseases and Article 92 that obliges the occupying power to run medical inspections on a regular basis in order to detect contagious diseases. Israel's refusal to coordinate with the Government of Pales-

tine shows that Israel is operating in bad faith and not in the best interest of the occupied people. The principle of good faith is a cornerstone principle of the laws of occupation. The principle requires Israel, to 'restore, and ensure, as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country' as required in Article 43 of the Hague Regulations. Israel should guarantee Palestinian workers their right in accordance with Article 40 of the GCIV whereas; 'protected persons compelled to work shall have the benefit of the same working conditions and of the same safeguards as national workers in particular as regards wages, hours of labour, clothing and equipment, previous training and compensation for occupational accidents and diseases'.

### Israeli Violations

Medical personnel, facilities, and transport: IOF demolished, confiscated and obstructed Palestinian initiatives to fight the pandemic by shutting down first-aid community initiatives by and for Palestinians; IOF arrested volunteer health workers who were sanitizing and disinfecting the public facilities in the Old City and seized their equipments. They also arrested and beat youth volunteers who were handing out brochures in the streets to spread awareness on the COVID-19 virus; Israel only provided only 200 testing kits to the almost 5 million Palestinians in the West Bank; Israel, continued to bar the GOP from providing health services or provide testing for residents of East Jerusalem. **Detention;** Israel continued to arbitrary arrest and detain Palestinians,

where 357 Palestinians including 48 children were arrested in March alone; Israeli arbitrary measures in regards to Palestinian detainees include: denial of sanitary supplies, denial of family visits, denial of legal visits, and medical neglect; Israeli occupation authorities did not conduct any thorough tests on Palestinian detainees, nor are they providing them with essential hygiene and sanitization kits, or even face masks and gloves. **Palestinian Workers:** Israel, the occupying power, has been purposely smuggling Palestinian workers back into OPT by opening checkpoints at night through opening several wastewater tunnels thus risking the lives of millions of Palestinians. **Settler violence:** Over the last month, settler violence against Palestinians

and their properties has increased by 78% comparing to the rest of the year; Between March 17 and 30, the UN reported at least 16 attacks by Israeli settlers resulted in 5 Palestinian injuries and extensive property damage'; Settler violence included the stoning of vehicles, vandalizing structures and physical assault, some 100 Palestinian-owned olive trees were uprooted, and tens others were drowned with sewage water. Also, surveillance cameras were damaged and stolen from a home and a school. **House demolitions:** The occupation forces demolished three seasonal homes of farmers who are residents of Jerusalem, in the village of 'Ein a-Duyuk a-Tahta west of Jericho. Not to mention the demolition of the first-aid initiatives by Palestinians.

## Inside...

**Pak, China's universities hold video conference to tackle COVID-19**  
– Page 02

**Heydar Aliyev: the national leader of Azerbaijan**  
– Page 03

**UNICEF Pak, Zong 4G partner to create awareness around COVID-19**  
– Back Page



Briefs

People advised to avoid overeating

ISLAMABAD: Health experts and dieticians Monday suggested to fasting people that proper diet and exercise in safe place were important during Ramazan, as fatty and sugary foods were consumed more frequently in Ramazan as compared to other non-fasting months. Health experts talking to a private news channel shared some healthy tips with people that during fasting it was extremely crucial to load up on nutrient-dense foods and sugary options must be avoided. A dietitian Dr Farah Faizan said, millions of people around the world were observing holy month of Ramazan under lockdown this year, so people with fast, iftar meals are crucial for maintaining a balanced diet especially in places where the summer season is in full swing. She said overeating could often lead to people putting on weight during the holy month, despite fasting for so many hours. “The biggest mistake people make is that they don’t use Ramazan as an opportunity,” she said, adding, that fasting can improve our immune system cell repair, weight loss, detoxification, positive hormonal balance and improves insulin resistance. – APP

Five injured

PESHAWAR: Five people, including two traffic police officials, were injured as an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted on roadside exploded here on Monday at busy Ashraf Road area of Peshawar City. According to initial reports of Edhi Welfare Trust, five persons including two traffic police officials were injured. The conditions of all the injured are stated to be out of danger who were rushed to Lady Reading Hospital for treatment. The injured traffic police officials were identified as Naeem and Kaiser. Police have reached to the spot, cordoned off the area and started investigation. – APP

Pak, China’s universities hold video conference to tackle COVID-19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China’s Xi’an Jiaotong University(XJTU), at the invitation of Pakistan’s University of Peshawar(UOP), held a video conference on COVID-19 prevention and treatment on Thursday. According to Gwadar Pro, Director General of Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, UOP Vice Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Asif Khan, XJTU Vice-President Xi Guang and more than 20 experts and scholars from Pakistan and China participated in the online conference.

Dr. Safdar Ali Shah expressed his gratitude to XJTU for its support during the epidemic. “Cooperation and exchange among educational institutes at this crucial moment are of great value. Experience sharing will contribute to the world’s joint fight against COVID-19,” he mentioned. Mr. Xi Guang mentioned that the epidemic in China has been brought under control, and China’s experience in fighting the virus will power Pakistan and other countries in containing the epidemic. “The Second Affiliated Hospital of XJTU had sent a medical team of more than 300 medics



to Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak,” Xi said, “and our students returned to class recently. We believe that through joint efforts, things will

get better for universities in Pakistan in the near future.” Prof. Gong Shouping from the Second Affiliated Hospital of XJTU, one of the first Third-level

grade-A hospitals in China, introduced in detail the medics’ experience on the front line in Wuhan, and illustrated some of the key measures that China took to contain the epidemic. Other Chinese medical experts shared their views on the etiology, epidemiology, clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of COVID-19. They also presented the structure and functions of makeshift hospitals which had played an important part in China’s fight against the epidemic. Prof. Asif Khan said on the occasion that he was delighted to see the epidemic, which occurred earlier this year, had

been well controlled in China. “This gave Pakistan confidence and strength to tackle the virus,” he hoped that the idea sharing between the two universities will set an example for related regions to jointly end the pandemic. Medical experts from both countries also discussed group and personal protective measures during the orderly resumption of work, production and schooling. Both sides agreed that international and regional cooperation should be expanded since all countries are bound together and become a community with a shared future.



ISLAMABAD: Hamza Shafqat DC Islamabad announcing Shop opening in all markaz of Islamabad along with Muhammad Ahmed Waheed President ICCI, Ajmal Baluch President All Pakistan Anjman Tajran. – DNA

Pak Post online shopping facility

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post’s Urgent Mail Service (UMS) - Cash On Delivery (COD) service is one of the most promising services for online buying and selling. Spokesman Pakistan Post told APP that provision of such services was becoming more and more important, as the concept of electronic media and online shopping was gaining popularity with each passing day. He said even though online shopping was gaining popularity but that still did not mean that Pakistan had completely accepted the online buying and selling trend. – APP

‘Different options for exams of Varsity students’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri said the commission was considering different options for the examinations of university students. Talking to media, he said, the world was facing a powerful challenge in the shape of novel coronavirus, so the students and faculties have to face and resolve the challenges of education sector together. He said till the end of lockdown, HEC was reviewing and adopting all necessary alternative measures regarding the students’ issues, but the final decision would be taken in light of governments’ and health experts’ suggestions and directions. Dr Tariq Banuri said, efforts were underway by HEC to eliminate the hurdles in

the way of students’ education during pandemic situation. A number of issues regarding universities’ education had been resolved while remaining problems would also be resolved till May 31, he added. If the current pandemic situation becomes normal till May 31, then HEC would approach the government for directions and permission to take the exams of university students, he briefed. Besides the government, the health experts would also be taken on board for consultation and they would be asked whether exams were safe or not after situation becomes normal, Dr Banuri informed. If the relaxation, he said, was given by the government in those areas where corona was curtailed, then the exams would be conducted there. We have other options as

well if the epidemic was not controlled, he added. These options included the conduction of exams after July 15. However, the option of online exams was also under consideration, Dr Banuri said. In the online exams, he said, different methods were used including research paper work and home work etc. To a question, he said the online education had many problems, mentioning that some of universities and regions had internet issues. The universities having internet issues would not be allowed to start online classes and they would be asked to start their education at the end of July if the situation becomes normal. However, such universities having the capacity to start online classes but facing few issues would be provided support to resolve their issues, he added.

Rs 91.2131 billion disbursed

ISLAMABAD: A total amount of Rs91.2131billion has been disbursed among 7,479,774 beneficiaries so far under different categories of Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme. According to the details provided by Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, this amount has been disbursed among the daily wage, piece-rate workers and deserving ones till 10.00 a.m of May 11, since the beginning of the payment process under this programme on April 9. Till today, an amount of Rs1.575861 billion has been disbursed among 126,221 beneficiaries in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Rs4.270496 billion among 348,967 beneficiaries of Balochistan, Rs0.645911 billion among 50,519 beneficiaries in Gilgit-Baltistan and Rs0.3521815 billion among 28,977 beneficiaries of Islamabad Capital Territory.

Shibli for proactive role of PROs

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Monday that the role of information officers was crucial in spreading awareness about precautionary measures among masses following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic. In a tweet, the minister said he talked to public relation officers of all ministries through video conferencing and asked them to play this role proactively. Senator Shibli Faraz said it was vital to motivate the people and create awareness among them to adopt effective precautionary measures and social distancing to defeat coronavirus. He said protection of public health in wake of the outbreak of coronavirus was top priority of the government.

CAP donate 5 mln face masks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chain-store Association of Pakistan (CAP) and its member brands have come forward to help Pakistanis fight the novel coronavirus by pledging to donate 5 million cotton face masks. This collaboration brings together over 200 of Pakistan’s leading retail brands together for a common united philanthropic endeavor. In conjunction with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, this united initiative aims to launch the global Masks 4 All campaign in Pakistan and shall work together to manufacture and donate cotton masks via its distribution partner, SabSaath.org – an initiative of Zaman Foundation. CAP intends to partner with the Government to make this a national movement of all members of society men/women/stitchers/tailors etc making cotton/cloth masks at home.

‘NAB working sans influence’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood has said National Accountability Bureau being an independent institution is effectively working to eradicate corruption from the society without political influence. Talking to private news channel, he said NAB is carrying out investigation of corruption cases against the bigwigs of the opposition parties. He said the government was not registering the cases against anybody and it was also not using power to give relaxation to corrupt and plunderers.

12,000 Pakistanis to be brought back in 10 days

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security, Dr. Moeed Yusuf says the government plans to bring back home about twelve thousand Pakistanis stranded in foreign countries in next ten days. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, he said earlier about 7500 stranded Pakistanis were repatriated in ten days. The Special Assistant said under the new policy, Coronavirus test of the Pakistanis will be conducted soon after their landing in the country, and then those who test negative will be sent home while people with positive tests will be quarantined either at government facilities or at their homes. Moeed Yusuf said about 20,000 stranded Pakistanis have so far been brought back home while 110,000 other Pakistanis in foreign countries desire to return home. He said on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government is endeavoring to bring maximum stranded Pakistanis back home at the earliest. The Special Assistant said the government plans to operationalize Sialkot and Quetta airports as well in days to come.



MAY 2020

Pakistan’s Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

[www.centreline.com.pk](http://www.centreline.com.pk)
[www.dnanews.com.pk](http://www.dnanews.com.pk)
[www.islamabadpost.com.pk](http://www.islamabadpost.com.pk)

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN

Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

MEMBER ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY (APNS)

CENTRELINE

Pakistan’s Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



VLADIMIR NOROV

Joint efforts needed to fight coronavirus

EU supports Pak civil society

Japan to expand support at grassroots level: envoy

Palestine Ambassador indebted to Pakistan whole-hearted support

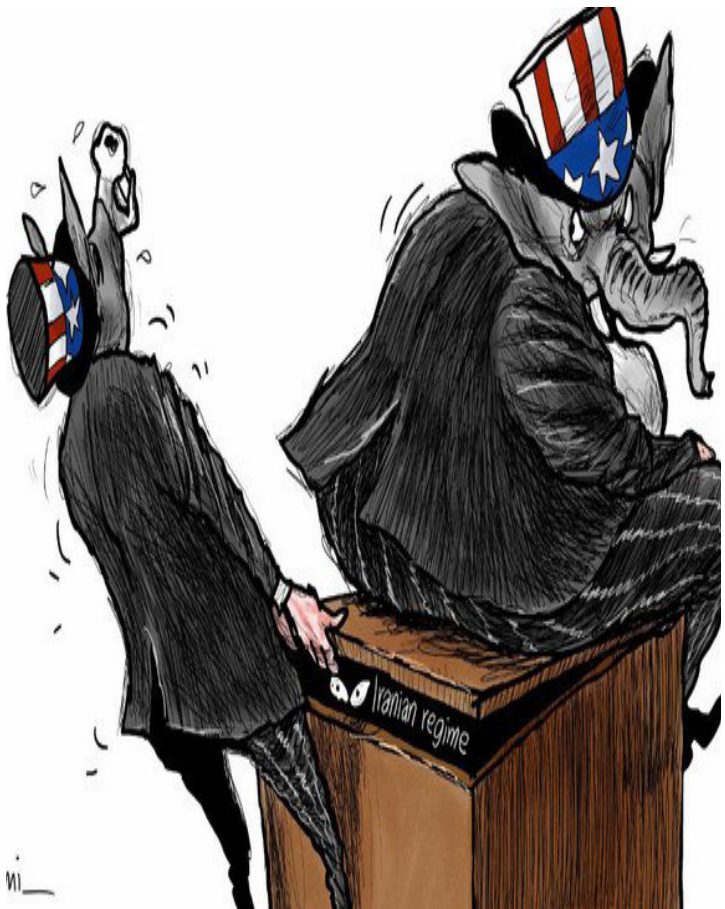


## Unbearable heat

A New study which appeared in a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggests that unbearable heat may lie just 50 years away. This would not be because we have been sent to hell but because a billion people around the Earth will either be displaced or forced to endure immense suffering as a result of the rise in the global temperature. With emissions increasing, areas which currently house a third of the world's population may become as hot as the hottest parts of the Sahara within 15 years, scientists warn.

The best outcome would be that 1.2 billion people will fall outside the comfortable climate zone in which humans have thrived for 6,000 years and which stands at around 6 degrees centigrade to 28 degrees centigrade. This temperature is considered ideal for human health and food production. But due to man-made global heating, there is a possibility that the majority of humanity could end up living in conditions which the authors of the scientific study suggest are 'near unlivable'. They say that they were themselves stunned by the magnitude of the findings and the fact that there could be more change in the next 15 years than in the past 6,000. This would obviously have a huge impact on human habitats, crop patterns and the ecology. While a small number of people may have the use of air conditioning, climate adaptable clothing and other means to cope with the change, the majority will live inside a climate niche that is rapidly moving towards creating an entirely new situation on our planet.

While there have been warnings of global warming for many years and by many different scientific organisations, this latest study draws attention to the speed and scale at which the change could come. We should try to imagine, as the heatwave hits many of our cities, what the situation would be like if climates were to rise by another ten or more degrees. The authors say policymakers must work together to accelerate emission cuts because each degree of warming that can be avoided could save a billion people from falling out of humanity's climate comfort zone. They point out that only if we begin now would it be possible to protect our children against the potentially enormous social tensions the projected change could invoke as mass migration and conflict for livable space increases. Of course, the projected climate change would also result in the extinction of species and would envelope 1.2 billion people in India, 485 million in Nigeria and more than a 100 million each in Pakistan, Indonesia and Sudan. Enormous pressures will be placed on the food production system. The study should shock the world and its leaders into taking action. If they do not, it seems Hell may just be created by humans themselves.



# Heydar Aliyev: the national leader of Azerbaijan

Ms. Mehreen Gul



*“Our path is clear, the system of government and style of society we are developing in Azerbaijan is based on democratic pluralism, the free market economy, and a secular republic that respect universal human rights.”*  
*Clarity of a vision and building a strong communication mechanism to develop confidence in the nation was well handled by the newly elected president*

A Person who is an influencer in the Caucasus and remains in the hearts of the people. History is evident about the figures who conquered the true essence of leadership and achieved the status in the world's history as legends. Heydar Aliyev's vision, commands, and his incremental influence are reflecting in the contemporary prosperous structure of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This article is dedicated to the 97th Birth Anniversary of “H.E HEYDAR ALIYEV” who entered the history of Azerbaijan as a builder of an independent state. He was born on 10th May 1923 in Nakhchivan. The article aims to analyze the interpersonal influence that he exercised in the development of his country and the people when the country needed a standardized structure for the country. In every sphere, he made remarkable efforts for Azerbaijan. On the loss of the great leader, the world made excellent remarks for Heydar Aliyev as he had formulated long term solutions and strategy for Azerbaijan.

**The initial struggle of Heydar Aliyev:**  
From ancient times to the declaration of independence Azerbaijan was in a struggle for its people, land,

and resources. Heydar Aliyev was an active figure since 1939 when his career was impeded in World War II. His contributions were in various departments from the Archive Department of the people's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, as a Head of the General Department of the council of Commissars of Nakhchivan to the Head of the Department of State Committee of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev remained a member of the Supreme Soviets of the USSR for twenty-two years and in Azerbaijan SSR. It was the time when Azerbaijan had to devise a strategy for the survival of an independent nation. In the 1990s deadly tragedy in Baku, this valorous man demanded punishment to the executors of the crime at Azerbaijan's representative office in Moscow and left the party for his homeland. The journey of his struggle didn't consist of small steps but it took many years. Meanwhile, the people of Azerbaijan were aware of his position in several important parties and they elected him as a president in 1993.

**A period of hope, stability, and peace**  
Since world war II, Heydar Aliyev had fought for the country as the main issue was stability in the region. After the establishment of Heydar Aliyev Government in Azerbaijan people could gain confidence and optimism. The vision of this inspirational leader was very conspicuous, he said:

“Our path is clear, the system of government and style of society we are developing in Azerbaijan is based on democratic pluralism, the free market economy, and a secular republic that respect universal human rights.”

Clarity of a vision and building a strong communication mechanism to develop confidence in the nation was well handled by the newly elected president. Civil war and other internal conflicts were destabilizing the peace of the country but in Heydar's presidency, significant steps were taken to contain the civil war. Soon after the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, the president committed to restoring the ancient tradition and values of the country. Without the effective style of his leadership peace efforts were unattainable in Azerbaijan.

**Negotiations to Manage Territorial Conflicts:**  
The beginning of independence was in danger and had many conflicts because it has sensitive border issues. Armenian's illegal involvement and breaching the international laws were threatening the peace of newly established Heydar Aliyev state. To build an independent state, stabilizing security in the region and territorial rectitude were focused. Armenian aggression was halting the peace and stability but, he had maintained control. The national leader made several talks with Armenian leaders to curb the violence, his efforts were to bring peace and stability but the violation of Armenian troops got inflamed, here this is very important to remember that in the era of constant crisis the great leader didn't lose hope and made the country's development possible and gained the political stability. Through his intellectual stimulation, he strived hard to make the country's pillar strong. To manage the situation, he made

significant attempts to amplify the foreign policy. He believed in multilateralism for a balanced relationship with the countries.

**Crisis Couldn't Stop Heydar Aliyev to Recover the Economic Imbalance**  
In Heydar's point of view “a country even the greatest one, can not develop its economy without international help. Keeping in mind that the predicament survival of the economy was a dire need. Leadership is very difficult in an unpleasant environment to organize and solve the problems, though problem-solving is a key. For this purpose, he made personal endeavors to establish a friendly relationship with the USA and Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, his position and struggle had attracted a large volume of foreign investment for economic development. The only way to defend Azerbaijan was through sustainable economic development” oil sector contracts” this strategy had captured international attention as the geostrategic value was important to the world. The new era of modern, powerful, and development had started. Through mapping out, he planned the best strategy for economic prosperity. The Joint Development and production agreement for the Azeri-Chiragli-Gunashli in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea was signed on September 20, 1994, it was the biggest achievement of the Century under the leadership of Heydar. Moreover, 11 companies were engaged i.e. AMOCO, BP, McDermott, UNOCAL, SOCAR, Lukoil, Statoil, TPAO, Pennzoil, Ramco, and Delta in this remarkable agreement Azerbaijan, USA, UK, Russia, Turkey, Norway, and Saudi Arabia were partners. This was only possible through the charismatic leadership qualities of Heydar Aliyev and due to the functional operations of the agreement Azerbaijan signed 26 more contracts with 41 companies from 9 countries. This new transition laid the foundation of efficient foreign policy and gradually mitigate the threats. For timely implantation of the provisions of the deals, Heydar Aliyev had ensured the transportation of the oil to international blocs. By the commitment and dedication in late 1997, Azerbaijan had exported oil to the black sea by the Baku-Novorossiysk pipeline.

With the determination of the prominent leader, Azerbaijan turned into a stable, powerful, and developed country by maximizing its involvement in the international arena through trade and investment. Not only in the Oil Sector but he made long term strategy in the Gas Sector, in 1996 SOCAR and international oil agencies discovered the gas field, and 1.2 trillion cubic meters' gas reserves caught attention. All the attempts and efforts of Heydar Aliyev had recovered the economy of Azerbaijan and the incumbent leadership is working for sustainability tremendously. In his era 165 1:50000 scale, digital maps were developed by the collaboration with the Japanese government and received 2\$ million grant from Swiss SECO company for the land cadaster in the Azerbaijan project. It was important for Azerbaijan to manage border issues and the process was started by Heydar Aliyev in 1996 and in 2010 completed the

demarcation between Azerbaijan and Russian Federation which was 390 km in length.

**Social reforms**  
Azerbaijan's modern development is associated with the visionary leader Heydar Aliyev, from political to economic spheres. He contributed and brought new reforms that could curb the crisis and revived its stability. History will never forget the reforms of the national hero, middle and old generations will always praise him for his tireless work for the country. He had served for the interests of people, state, and for their integrity. According to him freedom and independence are all people's national wealth. He mainly focused on social reforms his first initiative was to give free lands to the citizens of Azerbaijan and it established new significant class of proprietors, formulated new land ploughman relations that aimed to the best utilization of the lands. Workable decrees were made for land laws, and these lands were also used for the welfare of people of Azerbaijan which improved the financial crisis. In his tenure, agrarian reforms and land reforms for the production outputs were intensified as Heydar wanted to revive his country with the best possible resources.

**The Leadership is Being Continued by Ilham Aliyev**  
The world can easily compare the leadership skills of H.E Ilham Aliyev and the national hero Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan is fortunate that they couldn't deprive of true leadership as H.E Ilham Aliyev is exhibiting his potentials and skills extensively to continue the efforts of the national leader of Azerbaijan. His dynamic approach is deepening foreign policy, political and socio-economic development. World Economic forum reported the 39th position of Azerbaijan in economic competitiveness. Carrying the vision of Heydar Aliyev, Ilham is intensively highlighting the Armenia issue in the UN Security Council. Concerning leadership qualities, in the testing times leaders should be decisive and should introduce the best contingency plan. In the COVID-19 era, the action plans by Ilham Aliyev are remarkable. Immediate surveillance in the health sector has contained unexpected pandemic by analyzing the world's situation Ilham Aliyev's leadership was prepared to manage the crisis. Undoubtedly, the incumbent leadership is for the interest of its people and statehood and in the current crisis giving relaxation in tax and mortgages and all the daily life items are available for the people. To cease the educational loss, a very comprehensive strategy is devised for schools, colleges, and universities. The excellent Leadership of Ilham Aliyev is appreciable as the rapid growth in socio-economic, political sectors can be seen. The current leadership's cooperation with the world in COVID-19 is acknowledgeable.

In the end, I would like to highlight the rich culture and Islamic history of Azerbaijan that is remained attracted to the world and the Azerbaijani leadership is successfully maintaining it.

**The writer is the Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad & Eurasian Expert.**

# World has chance to put peace on the region's agenda

Yasar Yakis



*Libya is important for Turkey because of the agreement between the two countries over the delineation of their maritime jurisdiction areas*

A Calamity may also be an opportunity for a new beginning, with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ushering in a new era in the Middle East. This article will focus on the Syrian and Libyan crises, which have become interrelated because almost all foreign actors in the two crises are the same. Furthermore, many of these foreign actors have convergent interests on some stages and divergent on others.

New components have been added to the combined Syria-Libya crisis; one being the disgruntled voices coming from Moscow over the attitude of Syrian president Bashar Assad. Russia would be happier if the Assad regime gave up its insistence on a military solution and showed some interest in a negotiation. It also seems to be in agreement with the US – much to Turkey's disappointment – over its continued support for the Kurdish cause in Syria, while also not objecting to the establishment of a corridor controlled one way or another by Turkey, which would interrupt the Kurds' bid for access to the Mediterranean.

Second is Libya's increasing importance to Turkey. Ankara is heartened by the results it has obtained by deploying its nationally manufactured drones and assigning military trainers to the UN-backed Government of National Accord.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last week promised good news for his citizens, saying: “God willing, we will receive good news from Libya. Libya's peace and welfare are key to the stability of the entire North Africa and Mediterranean (region).” So we are resolved to turn the region into a peaceful area.”

Libya is important for Turkey because of the agreement between the two countries over the delineation of their maritime jurisdiction areas. This agreement renders the construction of a pipeline to transport Eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe difficult without Ankara's cooperation. The situation is made more complex because of the contradictory interests of Turkey and Russia in Syria's northern Idlib province. We don't yet know how the UAE and Egypt will respond to Turkey's challenge. The security situation will further deteriorate if both sides remain determined to bid higher.

The third component is the dwindling price of oil and its constraining effect on the Russian economy. If a reasonable solution cannot be found, Moscow will face additional economic difficulties in sustaining military activities in both Syria and Libya.

Another factor affecting the Turkey-Russia controversy in Libya is a subject voiced by James Jeffrey, the US special representative for Syria. He said last week: “We

know that certainly the Russians are working with Assad to transfer militia fighters... to Libya.”

Other reports have stated that a high-ranking Russian commander and his team held a series of meetings with mercenaries fighting for the Assad regime in the southern Syrian city of Deraa. The reports added that Russia offered \$1,000 and three-month renewable contracts to the Syrian mercenaries to fight in Libya.

The situation is made more complex because of the contradictory interests of Turkey and Russia in Syria's northern Idlib province. The fate of the Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) fighters is still unclear and Turkey may prefer to see them stay in Idlib for an extended period. This would be to use them to both harass the Syrian government and prevent the establishment of a Kurdish corridor.

Given this complex atmosphere and the new paradigms that will emerge in the post-COVID-19 international arena, one may wonder whether the time has come for the parties to the present conflicts to put aside their present strict positions and negotiate a cease-fire, followed by a lasting peace in the region.

**Yasar Yakis is a former foreign minister of Turkey and founding member of the ruling AK Party. Twitter: @yakis\_yasar (Courtesy Arab News)**



## Briefs

### PM chairs meeting on COVID-19

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired a meeting on COVID-19 here on Monday that discussed matters relating to the current situation of pandemic in the country. Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umer, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Khushro Bakhtiar, Federal Minister for Industries Production Hammad Azhar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz attended the meeting. Adviser to PM on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, PM's Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, PM's Special Assistant on Information Asim Saleem Bajwa, PM's Special Assistant on Health Dr Zafar Mirza and senior officials were present. The meeting also discussed the financial impacts of lockdown in the wake of coronavirus. — APP

### China urges India to uphold peace

DNA  
BEIJING: China on Monday urged India to uphold the peace and tranquility in the border regions with its concrete actions after clashes between the soldiers of the two countries erupted on Sikkim border region. "We hope India will work with China to uphold peace and tranquility in the border regions with its concrete actions," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing here. A clash happened at China-India border last week. Several Chinese and Indian soldiers were injured after throwing stones and fighting each other. The spokesperson said, "As to China-India border issue, our position is clear and consistent. Our troops there remained committed to upholding of peace and stability in the region. This serves the common interest of our two countries and two people."

### France, Spain ease lockdowns

PARIS: Millions of people in France and Spain were set to embrace a relaxation of stay-at-home rules on Monday, but Britain extended its lockdown as countries plot their way tentatively through the coronavirus crisis. Fears of a second wave of the pandemic, which has killed more than 280,000 people worldwide and wrecked the global economy, stalked much of Europe and the world. With millions out of work and economies flatlining — including in the United States, where 20 million people lost their jobs in April — governments are desperate to reopen, but most are choosing a gradual approach. In France, people from Monday morning were able to walk outside without filling in a permit for the first time in nearly eight weeks, teachers will start to return to primary schools, and some shops — including hair salons — will reopen. — APP



**WASHINGTON:** A special charter flight arranged by the Govt of Pakistan in collaboration with the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Dulles Intl Airport. — DNA

## Fawad for debate on NFC award

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science & Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday underlined the need for holding debate on national finance commission (NFC) award. There was also need to have discussion on 18th Amendment, for transferring resources from provincial level to tehsils level, he stated while talking to a private news channels. There was no difference of opinion on legislation of 18th Amend but we want progress at grassroots level for a common man. To a question on calling assembly session by Opposition, he said in the current situation of coronavirus, we should go for virtual session of Parliament. Opposition parties particularly PML-N, leaders who were insisting to call assembly session was just for political point scoring.

# UNICEF Pak, Zong 4G partner to create awareness around COVID-19

In these challenging times, it is imperative that reliable, accurate and authentic information reach every corner of the country. Zong 4G and UNICEF Pakistan have partnered to augment the efforts of the health authorities in relaying authenticated messages to the public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G and UNICEF joined hands to help inform the general public in Pakistan on COVID-19. As part of the partnership, Zong 4G will use all its digital channels to disseminate accurate and reliable information on the coronavirus COVID-19, reports Gwadar Pro on Monday. The campaign aims at reaching Zong 4G's over 37 Million customers through multiple platforms and channels, including Zong 4G's official Facebook Page, Zong 4G's official Twitter

Handle, Official Website and MyZong app. "Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, we have also seen a major outbreak of mis- and disinformation surrounding the topic on social media. In these challenging times, it is imperative that reliable, accurate and authentic information reach every corner of the country. Zong 4G and UNICEF Pakistan have partnered to augment the efforts of the health authorities in relaying authenticated messages to the public. These are testing times for the entire world and we must stay united in battling this pandemic by following guidelines being

promoted by the health authorities," Said Mr. Wang Hua, Chairman and CEO, Zong 4G. The content, which will inform people on how to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and how to protect themselves and their families from it, was developed by UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The new partnership will help the messages reach wider audiences across the country through Zong 4G's channels. The messages cover important issues such as the need to stay

home as much as possible and keep a distance of at least six feet (two meters) from other people when going outside; the need to frequently wash hands with soap for 20 seconds or with a sanitizer; or the need to avoid stigmatizing people affected by the virus. "Since the outbreak of COVID-19, UNICEF has been on the forefront to help prevent the spread of the virus," said Ms. Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "Besides supporting health care services led by the Government of Pakistan and supporting procurement services to ensure that

medical supplies and equipment are available, disseminating authentic information on care and prevention during the pandemic has been our top priority. In this effort, the role of cellular networks in reaching people cannot be overemphasised. We are grateful to Zong 4G for supporting our mission and help us battle myths and misinformation with their top-notch technology and country-wide coverage." Zong 4G, China Mobile Pakistan (CMPak), a 100% owned subsidiary of China Mobile Communications Corporation, is Pakistan's leading telecom service provider.

## 'UK lockdown until June 1'

LONDON: Britain's coronavirus lockdown will stay in place until at least June 1, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday, as he unveiled cautious plans to lift restrictions imposed seven weeks ago. "This is not the time simply to end the lockdown this week," he said in a televised address but added that some primary school children could return and shops re-open from June 1. — APP

## Shanghai Disneyland reopens

SHANGHAI: The Shanghai Disneyland theme park reopened to visitors with controlled capacity on Monday, after the COVID-19 epidemic in China became more subdued. This is the first Disneyland theme park in the world that has reopened since the outbreak of the COVID-19. The Shanghai Disney Resort announced temporary closure in late January in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It reopened the Disneytown, Wishing Star Park and Shanghai Disneyland Hotel in early March. — APP

## 19 Iranian servicemen killed

TEHRAN: Nineteen Iranian navy servicemen were killed after an incident happened to the Iranian Army's Konarak logistic vessel in the country's waters near the southern port of Jask in the Sea of Oman, official IRNA agency reported on Monday. In the incident which happened on Sunday evening naval drills, 15 others were injured. Konarak has been towed to the port for further technical investigations, according to the statement. — APP

## Malta ambassador compares Merkel with Hitler

DNA

HELSINKI: Malta's ambassador to Finland has resigned after comparing German Chancellor Angela Merkel to Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, local media say.

Michael Zammit Tabona reportedly wrote on his Facebook page: "Seventy-five years ago we stopped Hitler. Who will stop Angela Merkel? She has fulfilled Hitler's dream! To control Europe." The post has since been

deleted. Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo said Germany would receive an apology, the Times of Malta reports. Mr Bartolo told the newspaper that he had instructed the ambassador to remove the comment

"as soon as I was alerted to it". Mr Zammit Tabona, who became Malta's ambassador in Finland in 2014, has so far made no comment on the row. He is reported to be a political appointee - not a career diplomat.

## Nepal announces to deploy more forces at India border

ISLAMABAD: Nepal will increase the number of security outposts and deploy more armed personnel at the border with India, Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali has announced. The senior minister said Kathmandu expects India to avoid any unilateral measures in the Kalapani region and remain committed to the 'fixed border' principle as agreed during the past official talks, The Hindu reported on Sunday. "The number of border posts on our side is less when compared to the security arrangement on the Indian side. We have

approximately 120 border posts at present and are planning to increase the numbers in future," said Gyawali told The Hindu over the phone from Kathmandu. Nepal's decision follows protests in Kathmandu on Saturday after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday inaugurated a link road to Lipulekh pass that will reduce the travel time for pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar region. In a strongly worded statement, Nepal's Foreign Ministry had said the decision to build the road through territory that it claims is a

breach of an agreement reached between the two countries to discuss the matter. Earlier, responding to questions in the Nepali parliament on Sunday, Gyawali said the government of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was committed to protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nepal. He said India "should refrain from further activities in the region". The Kalapani region is claimed by Nepal but India has been maintaining that the new political map of 2019 has shown the territory "accurately" as part of Uttarakhand.

## Pakistan exports to Afghanistan decrease

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed a decrease of 10.37 percent during the first three quarters of financial year (2019-20) compared to the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$789.437 million during July-March (2019-20) against exports of \$885.779 million during July-March (2018-19), showing negative growth of 10.37 percent, the SBP data revealed. — APP

## NW Syria clashes kill 48

BEIRUT: Clashes in northwest Syria killed 48 regime fighters and IS militants Sunday in the highest such death toll since the start of a two-month-old ceasefire there, a monitor said. A truce since March 6 had largely stemmed fighting in Syria's last major rebel bastion of Idlib after a months-long regime assault that killed hundreds of civilians and forced almost a million to flee. But before dawn on Sunday rebels attacked the positions of pro-regime fighters on the western flank of the IS-dominated region, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The clashes in the Sahl al-Ghab area killed 35 regime fighters as well as 13 IS militants including from the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Hurras al-Deen group, the Britain-based monitor said. "It's the highest death toll for fighters since the truce came into force," said Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman, who relies on

sources inside Syria. "There had been intermittent clashes and mutual bombardment between both sides before, but this is the most violent attack yet." Abdel Rahman said clashes were ongoing after dark on Sunday night. The Idlib region of some three million people is dominated by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, but other jihadists such as Hurras al-Deen and rebel groups are also present. The truce brokered by regime ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey has kept Syrian and Russian warplanes out of the region's skies, and largely held despite sporadic clashes or rocket fire. Tens of thousands have returned to their hometowns. Hundreds of thousands of others remain in crowded displacement camps or in temporary shelters near the Turkish border.

# COVID-19: Pakistan-China trade fairs move online

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan-China trade fairs are moving online as the COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted the events industry, reports Gwadar Pro. The traditionally face-to-face communication has shifted to a screen-to-screen one. As per the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province, China, an online 2020 Zhejiang Export Commodity Online Fair for Pakistan (Hardware & Electromechanical Products) is to be held from May 12 to May 16.

The event organizer Zhejiang Samexpo Exhibition Company told Gwadar Pro, the events industry has taken a massive hit as businesses continue to withdraw from planned events, so an online fair could provide bilateral trade opportunities for Pakistan and China's enterprises through an accurate match and online negotiation. Recently, an online investment promotion meeting for foreign investment projects was successfully held in Heilongjiang, China. More than 30 well-known enterprises from Pakistan, Greece, Germany, Britain, the United States and



other countries have been invited to participate in the remote trade fair with Chinese merchants from different cit-

ies of Heilongjiang Province. The industries related to the online meeting included biomedicine, equipment manufacturing, graphite, cultural tourism and agriculture. On April 28, twenty-eight Pakistani enterprises involved in electro-mechanical, hardware, building materials, and epidemic prevention materials, etc. have been invited to participate in China's Shandong Export Commodities (Pakistan) Cloud Exhibition. By "one-on-one" negotiations through precise matching, 124 meetings have been held between both sides, indicating

fruitful results. Tecno, one of the leading mobile phone brands of China's Shenzhen Transsion Holdings Co., Ltd. unpacked its most awaited Camon 15 in first-ever Live Broadcast form in Pakistan this March. The Camon 15 launch event was recorded on March 15 and was broadcasted on GEO News and on more than 13 social media channels, including YouTube and Facebook. The hashtag #TecnoGrandOnlineLaunch has been trending on Twitter since the online event attracted 300,000 visitors, the report added.