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**Army Chief says
Balochistan future
of Pakistan**
**UK helps over
25,000 people
to return home**

**Azerbaijan to
continue helping
Pakistan people**


Briefs

Pakistan slams India

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says India will never succeed in suppressing the Kashmiris' resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination. Condemning the brutalizing of Kashmiri people in Occupied Kashmir by India at a time when the world is grappling with Covid-19 pandemic, the Foreign Office spokesperson in a statement said the cold-blooded murder of Peer Mehrajuddin by the CRPF in Budgam, today, is the latest in the mindless killing spree being carried out by the Indian occupation forces.

E-cigarettes cause heart health

ISLAMABAD: When it comes to heart health, e-cigarettes might no longer be the safer alternative over combustible cigarettes, according to a new research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. "Many people believe e-cigarettes are safer than combustible cigarettes. In fact, most e-cigarette users say the primary reason they use e-cigarettes is that they think e-cigarettes pose less of a health risk," according to the study author Jessica L. Fetterman, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, Boston. "Meanwhile, the evidence from scientific studies is growing that e-cigarettes might not be a safer alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes when it comes to heart health. Our study adds to that evidence," Fetterman added. The researchers found that former smokers who switched to e-cigarettes and dual users had an augmentation index similar to traditional cigarette users. — APP

Army Chief says

Balochistan future of Pakistan

COAS directed all commanders to reach out to people in far flung areas of Balochistan to help mitigate challenges faced by masses due to COVID

DNA

QUETTA: While interacting with officers and men, COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa has lauded dedication and professionalism of soldiers. The COAS said that Balochistan is future of Pakistan and it is our duty to fully assist its government and the people towards a peaceful and prosperous Balochistan. He expressed these views during his visit to Quetta on Wednesday. COAS directed all commanders to reach out to

people in far flung areas of Balochistan to help mitigate challenges faced by masses due to COVID. During the visit, COAS attended briefing at Headquarters (HQ) Southern Command, visited Garrison Quarantine Facility for COVID-19 and interacted with troops busy in COVID relief activities. During visit to HQ Southern Command, COAS was briefed in detail on security situation, operational preparedness of the formation and border management including fencing along Pak-Afghan and Pak-

Iran Borders. COAS was apprised about the formation's assistance to civil administration in fighting the pandemic and continued measures for socio-economic uplift of the area. During visit to Garrison Quarantine Facility, COAS appreciated the formation for arrangements and facilities established as per health SOPs and guidelines. Earlier, On arrival at Quetta, COAS was received by Commander Southern Command Lieutenant General Muhammad Waheed Ashraf.

MALAYSIAN GIFT FOR PALESTINE



KUALUMPUR: Hishammuddin Zaizi of Pertubuhan Amal THZ at the ceremony for the humanitarian assistance and donation to the government and frontiers of Palestine, at Wisma Putra, and handing over of medical supplies to the Ambassador of Palestine Walid Abu Ali. Ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Foreign Minister, YB Dato' Kamaruddin Jaafar. — DNA

Cut in gas tariff urged

KARACHI: Patron of SITE Association of Industry, Zubair Motiwala has appealed the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan to save the exporting industries in general and textile sector in particular from total collapse amid corona pandemic and subsequent severe economic crisis. — DNA

Saudi Arabia to impose curfew

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia imposed a complete lockdown and curfew across the Kingdom during Eid Al-Fitr holiday from Saturday, May 23 to Wednesday, May 27, while maintaining the necessary precautionary measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, citing a Ministry of Interior source. For the period from Thursday, May 14 until the end of Friday, May 22, the commercial activities will be allowed, as per the Royal Order issued on April 25. Moreover, eased curfew from 9am to 5pm will continue across all cities in the Kingdom, except for Makkah where a 24-hour daily curfew will continue. Residents will not be allowed to leave or enter the isolated cities and districts.

Chinese provinces donate Rs. 100 million PPEs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese provinces, demonstrating their strong support to Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19 epidemic, donated personal protective equipment (PPE) worth Rs. 100 million. The PPE articles have been donated by Chinese provinces Shandong, Jiangsu and Ningxia, reports Gwadar Pro. Chinese Counsel General in Lahore Long Dingbin

and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar received a flight carrying the equipment (PPE) at Lahore Airport. The donation include protective suits, N-95 and surgical masks, gloves and disposable medical protectors for medical professionals and janitorial staff engaged in the battle against coronavirus. The chief minister said the donation reflected strong Pakistan-China brotherly relations, adding that China had always

helped the Pakistani nation in every hour of trial. Long said Pakistan was a trustworthy friend of China. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, Pakistan and China have been supporting each other in the crucial time, reflecting the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries. Through jointly fighting against the pandemic, the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation will be further enhanced.

Australian envoy makes chana chat for Iftar

While we practice social distancing this Ramadan, it is good to find small ways to mark this holy month with family and community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw shared his love for the art of Pakistani cooking and traditional Iftar recipes. Turning to Twitter on Wednesday, Dr Shaw shared with his followers



a recipe and video of him preparing one of Pakistani's most popular Iftar dishes, 'Chana Chaat.'

"It is light and refreshing, and a perfect way to celebrate Ramadan," High Commissioner said. "While we practice social distancing this Ramadan, it is good to find small ways to mark this holy month with family and community," he added.

UK helps people return home

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nearly 5000 British travellers, on 21 special charter flights, will have returned to the UK from Pakistan - as the last currently scheduled charter flight landed in Manchester. UK Government charter flights have been operating since 21 April from destinations across Pakistan, including

Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Since the suspension of scheduled international flights from Pakistan, the British High Commission in Islamabad has worked with airlines and the Government of Pakistan to enable over 25,000 people to return to the UK from Pakistan in total. Since the 20 April, nearly 5,000 British travellers in Pakistan have returned to the UK on Government charter flights from across Pakistan.

China highly values Pakistan's support overcoming Sichuan earthquake disaster

DNA

BEIJING: The government and the people of China still remember and highly value the support that Pakistan had extended in overcoming Sichuan earthquake disaster in 2008. A report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, stated Yesterday (12th) is the 12th anniversary of 2008 China Sichuan Earthquake which has caused a total of 69,227 deaths, 374,643 injuries, 17,923 missing and it is considered as one of the most destructive catastrophe of China. On that occasion, it is Pa-

kistan that immediately reacted to support China to overcome such a disaster. In the last 12 years, friendship between Pakistan and China has been constantly sublimated. After the Sichuan Earthquake, the Pakistani government immediately responded and donated several batches of relief supplies, gross worthy over 7 million RMB (over 110 hundred million Rs.) to the disaster area. Within four days after the earthquake, Pakistan mobilized all of the transport aircrafts, invoked funds from national reserves and emptied reserves of disaster supplies to support China. On May 16th, 2008, two



Pakistani air force C-130 transport planes arrived at Sichuan China with rescue team and supplies. Zhang Chunxiang, a former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, confirmed that during the Sichuan earthquake, Pakistan has sent 22,260 tents which were entirety of war readiness inventory of Pakistan to China. Recently, Yao Jing, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, said that "The friendship between China and Pakistan has been stabilized by catastrophe again." Both Sichuan Earthquake and COVID-19 outbreak are catastrophe of China and Pakistan. Li Jingfeng, a researcher

at the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) who has studied Pak-China relations for a long term, also said that friendship between Pakistan and China has deeply rooted in the hearts of people, each disaster can be considered as a catalyst to unite two countries. "At the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Chinese audiences given the Pakistani team an impassioned standing ovation to thank Pakistan for their selfless help during the Sichuan Earthquake. The standing ovation from Chinese audiences was a concrete manifestation of the sublimation of China-Pakistan friendship," said Li.

"CPEC project initiated by China has helped Pakistan a lot in recent years. For example, the problem of power shortage of Pakistan has been alleviated and infrastructure of transportation has been significantly improved. A few months ago, a plague of locusts hit Pakistan, and China sent experts to support it. As COVID-19 is spreading worldwide, China and Pakistan have fully supported each other to combat against the pandemic," he exemplified, "All of those facts are continuation and sublimation of friendship between Pakistan and China after the Sichuan Earthquake," the report added.

Chinese envoy discusses IT cooperation with minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing Wednesday called on Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque and discussed matters of mutual interests and relating to IT. The minister said Pakistan and China were enjoying deep friendly relations and these ties would further enhance in future. He emphasized the need of boosting cooperation between Pakistan and China in IT and Telecom sector and said Pakistan wanted to get benefit from China experience in IT sector. The minister also sought China's help in training Pakistan's youth in IT skills besides starting youth exchange program between the two countries. Syed Amin Ul Haque said environment in Pakistan was conducive for Chinese companies to invest in IT and Telecom sectors in Pakistan. The Chinese ambassador lauded the role of ministry of IT regarding the promotion of IT in the country and gave assurance for enhancing China's collaboration with Pakistan in the sector. The ambassador also said that Chinese government and people would provide every possible support to Pakistan to deal with Covid-19 pandemic.

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Foundation
provides
medical
items, food
items, gifts to
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Briefs

AIOU places assignments' marks on website

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday put academic assignments' marks of its SSC and HSSC programs for the Semester Autumn, 2019 on its official website for information of the enrolled students. According to Controller Exams, Dr. Malik Tuqeer Ahmed Khan the uploaded assignment results were punched by relevant tutors directly through Aaghee portal.

In case of any error or lapse, the students may contact concerned regional office immediately through electronic mode or sending application through post, keeping in view the University's rules and regulations.. As per the standing policy, the AIOU continues to maintain quality and transparency in its whole examination process, he added.

Citizens throng city markets

RAWALPINDI: Huge crowds were seen in city commercial areas here on Wednesday, setting aside all government's instructions regarding social distancing as the citizens particularly women were trying to complete Eid shopping. Thousands of shoppers are preparing for the Eid with many flouting social distancing rules and advice to wear masks.

Most city markets were opened on Monday after a prolonged lockdown of over one and half month and the shopkeepers have also thanked the government for allowing them to open their businesses ahead of the Eidul Fitr. The citizens are happy with the decision of opening the city markets, but a large number of people have also a fear in their heart that if the disease spreads it could be devastating as the citizens here are not taking preventive measures.

Eid is approaching, Altaf a shopper said, the citizens have to buy new garments for their children. It's the responsibility of the people to comply with rules and wear safety gear. The government had warned earlier that the lockdown on businesses would be reimposed if the safety guidelines were not followed. – APP

Bilawal condemns hospital attack

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned the coward terrorist attack on a hospital in Kabul, where several mothers and their newborn babies were killed. In a statement issued by the party secretariat, he said such inhuman terrorist attacks on hospitals and funerals were appalling, which must be condemned in strongest terms.

Bilawal Bhutto expressed solidarity with the Afghan people, especially those who lost their loved ones in the two barbaric terror attacks and deeply shared their grief. He said PPP stands against terrorism anywhere in the world and would continue to raise voice despite being a worst victim of it. – APP

38 employees of KP judiciary tested positive

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday said that so far 38 employees of PHC and district judiciary have been tested positive for coronavirus. Total 109 tests were conducted in which 38 were positive, while results of six tests being awaited. Two coronavirus patients have successfully recovered while 44 were quarantine at home. Two patients were hospitalized for treatment. The PHC Tuesday notified that the principal seat and all other offices will remain under corona lockdown till May 31. It said that all offices, branches, basic health units, bar rooms, Advocate General Block, Consultation Room, Bar Library, Book shop, Service Shed of paralegal staff shall be closed except for essential staff of General Branch, Protocol, Security, Accounts Branch/ Nazir and AR(Mgt) offices. The decision has been taken in view of corona cases reported in staff of PHC and to protect lives of people. – APP

First Lady briefed on testing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr. Zafar Mirza on Wednesday briefed First Lady Mrs Samina Alvi on the Tracing, Testing and Quarantine (TTQ) policy as part of COVID-19 response during her visit to TTQ Center at District Health Office (DHO) here.

Dr. Zafar Mirza said all out efforts were being made to implement the TTQ policy and teams of the Islamabad Capital Territory health officials were working diligently in this regard. He shared that under the policy, testing for COVID-19 had been enhanced significantly, said a statement.

As many as 16 teams have been constituted for TTQ in Islamabad. These teams are visiting households and market-places to test contacts of those infected with the Coronavirus.

He said so far 3,300 contacts had been traced and tested. There were 759 positive cases of coronavirus in Islamabad of which 256 had been traced by TTQ teams, he added.

Later on, the First Lady distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits among the TTQ staff.



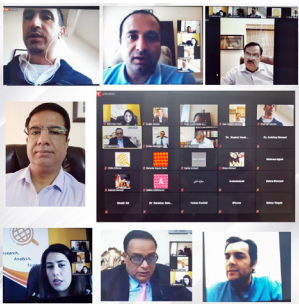
Azerbaijan govt committed to take care of its Diaspora

CGSS organizes webinar on the topic, “Working of Azerbaijan's State Committee of Diaspora and How Azerbaijan Diaspora is contributing in Nation Building”, in collaboration with the State Committee on Work with Diaspora, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vugar Mammadov - Head of Cooperation, State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan has stated that Azerbaijan leaders have aimed at strengthening the relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijanis all over the world. The efforts of Heydar Aliyev are worth mentioning in this regard. He issued the decree about the First Congress of the World Azerbaijanis to implement this great ideology, and proposed the idea of establishing a special state body to organize systematic work with our compatriots abroad and ensure the consolidation of national unity among our peoples. Mr. Mammadov also highlighted the role of Azerbaijan's State Committee of Diaspora and their multiple initiatives to support the Azerbaijan diaspora worldwide.

He expressed these views while speaking during a webinar organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) on the topic, “Working of Azerbaijan's State Committee of Diaspora and How Azerbaijan Diaspora is contributing in Nation Building”, in collaboration with the State Committee on Work with Diaspora, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The session was moderated by Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd)- Executive Director CGSS. Yalchin Elman Mammadov – Independent Consultant and Former Policy Advisor Phrenos European Commission's Contractors Event & Communication, Brussels thanked CGSS for organizing this important webinar on Working of Azerbaijan's State Committee of Diaspora & stated that Azerbaijan diaspora is multi linguistic & multi ethnic and is actively participating in the development of their country. He also said that Strengthen-



ing and supporting Azerbaijan's diaspora across the world is the priority of their government. He shared his thoughts on How Azerbaijan Diaspora is contributing in Nation Building during CGSS Online Int'l Conference. Dr. Mehmood ul Hassan – Member Board of Experts CGSS and Expert on Eurasian affairs – appreciated the efficient role of Azerbaijan state committee on diaspora, which is playing an active role in ensuring the well-being of Azerbaijan. He mentioned that Azerbaijan diaspora act as cultural ambassadors and link-

ing bridges, thereby sowing the seeds of trust, co-existence and cooperation. In the end of his speech, Mr. Mehmood suggested Pakistani and Azerbaijani diaspora to collaborate by exchanging scholars, students and think tanks especially from Kashmir, Nagorno-kharabagh committee. Ms. Mehreen Gul – Director CGSS–gave a detailed analysis of Pakistani youth Diaspora and Azerbaijani youth diaspora. She stated that Youth diaspora represent an immense richness for host societies since they bridge different countries, cultures and identities, fostering intercultural dialogue, supporting interregional cooperation and promoting social cohesion. The State Committee for Diaspora Affairs is very active for young diaspora representatives abroad. She highlighted that Pakistani youth diaspora is working in approximately 150 countries. The Pakistanis in America have

interacted with their homeland in several ways. The most profound of these influences has been in terms of the economic help the community has provided to their original homeland. Also, they are engaged in their host countries organizations to the help the home land. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed - International Relations Expert and Assistant Professor, University of Sargodha – stated that the State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan is efficiently working in energizing the Azerbaijanis across the globe. Their aim is to connect the Azerbaijan diaspora with each other and familiarize them with the rich and diverse history of Azerbaijan. The Webinar was attended by approximately 30 participants including young students from different Universities of Pakistan who also participated in the Question/Answer session.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese embassy staff distributing relief goods among needy people. – DNA

‘Government committed to end hunger’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Wednesday said that PM Imran Khan was committed that he would not let their people die of hunger and poverty and if government has extended more lockdown in country it would kill more than coronavirus. The incumbent government under sincere leadership of Imran Khan was taking concrete steps to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, she said.

ECC approves financial package

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has approved a multi-billion agriculture package to provide the farmers subsidy on fertilizers, reduction in bank mark-up on agriculture loans, subsidy on cotton seed and white fly pesticides and sales tax subsidy on locally manufactured tractors. The agriculture package is part of the Rs 100 billion earmarked out of the Rs

1,200-billion coronavirus relief package, for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the agriculture sector. The agriculture package was proposed by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research at a cost of Rs 56.6 billion but the ECC chaired by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance & Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh asked the Ministry of NFSR to rationalize it as per its share in the overall Rs 100 package announced for the SMEs and

Refugee families to receive Rs.12,000

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in collaboration with the Pakistan Post Office Department, have announced an emergency cash assistance initiative benefiting the most vulnerable refugee families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan.

The emergency cash is similar to the Federal Government's Ehsaas emergency cash programme, where vulnerable families receive Rs.12,000 to cover a four-month period. The emergency assistance will help the eligible refugee families to meet their urgent needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNHCR Deputy Representative in Pakistan, Mr Iain Hall, and the Chairman/Director General of Pakistan Post Office Department, Mr Akhlaque Rana, signed an agreement for the disbursement of the emergency cash grants.

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Recipe for disaster

SCENES from major markets in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and other cities have been broadcast on our TV screens. It is quite obvious, as people clamber over each other and crowd shops and kiosks to shop for Eid or for other items, that almost no one is following the SOPs laid down. Traders are not ensuring the use of masks nor restricting the number of people entering their shops. People themselves apparently have no concerns about the danger they are placing themselves and their families in. Experts believe this situation will lead to a sudden upturn in Covid-19 cases about two weeks from now. They warn that hospitals will be unable to cope and we may see a terrible situation emerging. Just as happened when SOPs were laid down for mosques, there has been no real effort to implement these rules. This makes the regulations essentially meaningless. Traders have been asked in Sindh and other places to improve the situation. There was also some uncertainty on which markets were to have opened under the decisions made by the NCC, but essentially all traders have opened their shops, saying they can no longer hold back given the loss of earnings. Many have also complained about the limited hours of trading from early morning to 5pm, saying that this is not the ideal time for buying. Debates on various matters related to this problem have broken out. In parliament, where Prime Minister Imran Khan did not attend the special session called to discuss the Covid-19 situation, Bilawal Bhutto offered co-operation and willingness to work together. In turn, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi accused the PPP of using the Sindh Card. This is not the best way to manage a pandemic. The number of infections in Pakistan has now gone beyond 32,000 and beyond 700 deaths. Doctors working in Covid wards and ICUs say the end of the lockdown and its replacement by what is being called a soft shutdown but which really amounts to no lockdown at all will lead to a rise in cases. Criticism has been directed the way of the government. Experts suggest that in a situation such as ours, when hunger and Covid-19 are both a threat, the best mechanism may have been to implement 'smart lockdowns', keeping areas where pockets of the coronavirus had been found strictly closed and opening up others to the public. This of course is a difficult task and seems beyond the capacity of the government, judging from the scenes seen on Monday and Tuesday. The suggestion that it may have been easier to control people entering malls rather than open bazaars has also come through, but as yet there is no change in SOPs and no way of saying if this would have worked better or made things worse.

Common wisdom

A Major study conducted in Karachi by a leading marketing and social research firm which interviewed 1,000 respondents in all six districts of the city, carried out over two phases in April, has returned interesting results. They tell us about people's attitude to the government's handling of Covid-19 and the issues it is causing. Eight out of ten people in the country's biggest city knew someone who had lost their job or business due to the pandemic lockdown, with three out of ten now needing financial assistance themselves to manage day-to-day life. It is obvious then that Karachi, and like it other large urban cities in Pakistan, has been economically very badly hit by the lockdown imposed to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus. Fifty percent of respondents were clear and fairly accurate in their belief that Covid-19 is either an old or new type of virus, while 37 percent believed this is the name of a disease. Of the remaining respondents, six percent believe that Covid-19 is simply a form of cough and flu, while two percent hold it signifies the wrath of God upon humans. Fifty-one percent of people believe Covid-19 cases are being reported with exaggeration, and 50 percent take the threat seriously. Female interviewers were more worried about themselves than their male counterparts. Forty-seven percent want a relaxed lockdown while 37 percent favour a stricter one, and most respondents who named any political party working to combat the virus identified the Jamaat-e-Islami, while others named the PPP, PTI and then the PML-N. About a third of respondents were satisfied with government performances in Sindh and by the centre, while an almost equal number expressed dissatisfaction. What is welcome news is that most people appear to have adopted a fairly balanced and objective view of the pandemic sweeping the country. Their views are on the whole fairly logical and based on the information they are receiving. The fact that only two percent believe this is a curse should be a result our clerics consider seriously. We have had senior clerics insisting the virus has descended upon us as a result of sins committed by people and particularly the immoral behaviour of women. Fortunately, the majority of people do not share this opinion. The survey is important as it provides an important insight into views regarding the virus and government performance. We need more such surveys to understand the way people think so that we are not incorrectly influenced by the claims of those spreading fake news of various kinds. As before, we find that people in our country, educated or uneducated, rich or poor, are wiser than is commonly portrayed.



COVID-19: what is the likely way out?

Mahir Ali

In whatever way, and whenever, the pandemic might end, will we carry beyond it anything more than a few popular expressions? In an eloquent essay in the Financial Times last month, Arundhati Roy described the pandemic as “a portal, a gateway between one world and the next”, which we can walk through “dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, or dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And to fight for it.”

AS a number of nations moved towards relaxing their Covid-19 restrictions this week, the old question reared its head once more: Quo vadis? Where are we headed? Is it back to the future, reverting to a distressing and mostly stagnant status quo ante? The coronavirus pandemic is being com-

pared to the Second World War in terms of its earth-shaking potential. The analogy isn't entirely absurd. State intervention in the processes of capitalism became the norm in several countries during the conflict, and in parts of war-ravaged Europe voters warmed to the idea of the concept being pursued in peacetime. What are the chances, though, that anything comparable could occur in the early 2020s? Sure, there are plenty of intelligent arguments being made about the hazards of stepping back into an extremely unsatisfactory 'normal'. At the same time, there are numerous voices, raised from platforms of relative privilege and power, demanding that the screws of neoliberalism be tightened to re-empower capitalism in the aftermath of a crisis it was demonstrably ill equipped to cope with. Exactly when or how the pandemic will end is just one of numerous known unknowns. A wide range of timescales are being cited for the emergence of an effective vaccine. Like so much else, they are based mainly on conjecture. Broadly speaking, Covid-19 has wreaked considerably more devastation among the richer nations of the global north than in the geographical south. That's an intriguing deviation from historical patterns – the so-called Spanish flu pandemic of a century ago, for instance, took its worst toll in the subcontinent. This is a very different virus, of course. But it is yet to be conclusively determined why, in countries such as Britain and the US, certain minorities are falling prey to the virus and its unevenly fatal consequences at alarmingly higher rates than the rest of the population – beyond

a level that could be explained by differences in socioeconomic circumstances. There seems to be plenty of circumstantial evidence that the elderly and those with pre-existing ailments are more prone to faring the worst once infected, yet there have also been instances of younger people without a problematic medical history succumbing to the disease, and there are indications of an alarming infantile affliction possibly linked to the novel coronavirus. Among the numerous conjectures is the proposition that the virus fails to thrive in warmer climes. One can only hope that is indeed the case, although it could be a long time before anyone knows for sure. By and large, countries that were quick to clamp down have fared better than others. It has also been observed that governments led by women – from Finland to Taiwan and New Zealand to Germany – have generally proved more effective in coping with the crisis than many others. It may seem a trifle unfair to compare the relative competence of the governments led by Jacinda Ardern, Angela Merkel and Sanna Marin with the demonstrable dysfunction of the Trump, Johnson and Bolsonaro administrations in this or any other context. But perhaps it would be equally unwise to dismiss it as a coincidence. Our vocabulary, meanwhile, has been enhanced, with terms such as 'social-distancing', 'flattening the curve', 'lockdown', 'sheltering in place', 'working from home' and 'self-isolation' entering popular parlance alongside 'PPE' – which once stood in some circles for a university degree in politics, philosophy and eco-

nomics, but today signifies personal protective equipment, whose dearth in some of the world's richest nations has cost the lives of all too many nurses, doctors and other health workers. In whatever way, and whenever, the pandemic might end, will we carry beyond it anything more than a few popular expressions? In an eloquent essay in the Financial Times last month, Arundhati Roy described the pandemic as “a portal, a gateway between one world and the next”, which we can walk through “dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, or dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And to fight for it.” I suspect she would be willing to concede that the former scenario is, sadly, far more likely. It is occasionally noted that the pandemic has laid bare the unconscionable disparities of wealth and privilege both within nations and globally. They were always there for those who cared to look, alongside the horrendous statistics spelling out the toll taken, not least on children under five, by avoidable causes ranging from cholera and typhoid to malnutrition. It's not enough to hope otherwise. In the absence of a concerted struggle for a different world, too many of us will simply wash our hands for 20 seconds and avert our gaze from the hundreds of millions of fellow human beings for whom clean running water remains a distant dream.

Article first Published in Dawn, May 13th, 2020.

Child abuse-the crime against humanity

Sahar Zareen Khan



In sexual abuse, the health issues which they normally encounter are gastrointestinal disorders, gynecological disorders and somatization, while psychological and behavioral symptoms include anxiety, low self stem, PTSD

PAKISTAN has a complex society structure which has multi dimensional issues. Over population, poverty, low literacy rate and a developing economy has given birth to many crimes in the society like extortion, human trafficking, Narcotics smuggling etc. But the most devastating part is the cruelty with children. This heinous crime of child abuse is a stigma at our country's name. Nowadays whenever any newspaper or TV channel is opened there is news of baby girls or minor boys raped by a paedophile. In recent years the ratio of such cases has horribly increased. In such incidents, some are relentlessly murdered with their body parts even mutilated. Some luckily survive but the trauma they face is so shattering that for the rest of their lives they are stuck in physical and psychological problems. In sexual abuse, the health issues which they normally encounter are gastrointestinal disorders, gynecological disorders and somatization, while psychological and behavioral symptoms include anxiety, low self stem, PTSD, cognitive impairments,

body image concerns, substance abuse, self harming and many other issues. The adult offenders target little kids because they are vulnerable. The criminals involved in such type of activities have got serious type of mental disease called pedophilia in which a person experiences a primary or exclusive sexual attraction towards children. But this disease is of such type that mostly it is unnoticed. That's the reason the in most of the cases, the offenders are either from close relatives or neighbours or acquaintances. In such type of fiduciary relationships it is very difficult to spot a pedophile. The best possible solution is to take care of your kids as it is the primal solution to save them. We need to develop a relationship with our kids which are more than a mere role of a parent or sibling. We need to educate our kids to make them realize that touching their private parts even just body touch with someone is something really serious. We need to make them understand to never allow anyone to have physical contact with them, make them realise them that never



respond to any stranger even the relatives who show extra love, care and sympathies to them and offer them chocolate or other stuff kids really love. We need to encourage them to trust us by being friendly and assure them that they are supposed to trust their parents only. We have to take precautionary measures and keep monitoring their daily routine. Just take care of your child because you definitely never want to lose them. We must remember that no authority or force can guard your kids. Only you who can save your child. We need to save our children from such evils as they are our future. *The Author is a social media activist. She can be contacted at Saharza-*

Heydar Aliyev Foundation provides medical items, food items, gifts to Thalassemia patients

After the devastating earthquake in 2005, Heydar Aliyev Foundation started its work in Pakistan and constructed a new school for girls in Muzaffarabad, by the initiative of the President of the Foundation, First Lady of Azerbaijan – Mehriban Aliyeva. Ambassador noted that during these 15 years the Foundation initiated a series of social and humanitarian projects in all provinces of Pakistan: Ambassador Ali Alizada

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada visited Sundas Thalassaemia Center of Pakistan in Islamabad and met with the medical staff of the Center, as well as the patients and their families. The Chief Administrator of the Center, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Aftab Hussain, briefed Ambassador about the facilities of the Center and patients who are being treated there. He said that Sundas Thalassaemia Center has been operating for more than 20 years, and more than 350 children from different parts of Pakistan suffering from thalassaemia and more than 60 children suffering from hemophilia are currently receiving free treatment and blood transfusion. He noted that the Center, which was the first of its kind in Pakistan and was visited by the President and First Lady of the country, also provides financial and logistical support to the families of patients. Then the Ambassador of Azerbaijan was invited to get acquainted with transfusion ward, lab, blood bank and pharmacy of the Center. Greeting the medical personnel and the patients of the Center, as well as their family members, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada on behalf of Heydar Aliyev Foundation congratulated them on the advent of holy month of Ramadan and expressed his best wishes. He mentioned that Heydar Aliyev Foundation is doing a remarkable work for the



treatment of patients suffering from Thalassaemia in Azerbaijan and abroad, and the medical equipment, masks, food boxes and gifts presented to the Thalassaemia Center, have also been provided by the support of the Foundation. Ali Alizada recalled that after the devastating earthquake in 2005, Heydar Aliyev Foundation started its work in Pakistan and constructed a new school for girls in Muzaffarabad, by the initiative of the President of the Foundation, First Lady of Azerbaijan – Mehriban Aliyeva. Ambassador noted

that during these 15 years the Foundation initiated a series of social and humanitarian projects in all provinces of Pakistan. He noted that the Foundation assisted in the establishment of Thalassaemia Center in Islamabad, donated ambulances and thousands of blood bags to various charity organizations of Pakistan, did not forget orphans and special children during Ramadan every year, organizing iftar dinners and presenting gifts to them. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to patients of the Sundus Thalassaemia Center for joining an



iftar dinner organized for orphans and special children at the Aiwan-e-Sadr last year, with the participation of the President of Pakistan and the First Lady. He added that the organization of iftar dinners were not possible this year due to the pandemic, but other charitable activities of the Foundation would be continue. Ambassador A. Alizada expressed that, the social and humanitarian projects implemented in Pakistan by the Foundation serve to further strengthen and deepen friendly and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

At the end, blood bags and medical masks purchased with the support of the Foundation, as well as food boxes and toys prepared for the patients of the Thalassaemia Center were presented. Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Aftab Hussain, Chief Administrator of the Center also stressed that the social and humanitarian projects of Heydar Aliyev Foundation are being implemented regularly in Pakistan and expressed his gratitude to the Foundation and its leadership for providing blood bags, medical masks, food boxes and gifts to the Thalassaemia Center.

Briefs

ANF seizes huge quantity of opium

DNA

KARACHI: The Anti Narcotics Force Police Station Sukkur on Wednesday arrested a member of interprovincial mafia and recovered huge quantity of drugs from his possession. According to an official of the force, the ANF intercepted a suspicious vehicle near motorway toll plaza and during its checking recovered 122.400 kg opium and arrested Fazal Maula, a member of interprovincial gang.

‘Pakistani local tractors are best’

DNA

KARACHI: Local tractor industry, amid all its efforts to modernize agriculture and promote farm mechanization, has been going through its worst ever period in terms of sales and production for the last few years. More than four tractor manufacturers in Pakistan have been operating at less than 50% of their combined capacity due to sluggish demand even before the Covid-19 pandemic which has further damaged the industry. The industry sold 70887 tractors in FY2017-18 which is the highest annual sales in this decade. It dropped to 50405 units in FY2018-19 and it stands at only 23506 units during the first 9 months of the current fiscal. Tractor industry has expressed surprise at the claim made by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in its budget proposal that local tractors have low quality and high prices.

COVID-19 situation in Tajikistan under control

DNA

DUSHANBE: The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population has assessed the country's coronavirus situation as controlled. All commissions on COVID-19 prevention are working smoothly and efficiently at all levels, reports the ministry. The government and the ministry have been taking all the necessary measures in the fight against the pandemic. There is no shortage of medical masks and antiseptics in the country,

as in some countries. All the protective clothing and masks are mainly produced in the republic. Those infected with COVID-19 are receiving proper medical care, prices of medication in pharmacies is continually being regulated, explanatory work is likewise being carried out regularly, as are large-scale disinfection works, notes the ministry. According to the ministry's chief consultant on maternal and child health affairs Sherali Rahmatulloev, 90% of those infected with COVID-19 can be cured without taking med-

ications, and most recover from it much like from the seasonal flu or SARS. Sherali Rahmatulloev, “Today there is no panic among the population, people try to live a measured life, complying with the recommendations of doctors. People have already realized the danger of the spread of coronavirus and most are wearing masks. Of course, despite all the preventive measures, unfortunately, there are those who neglect the generally accepted norms and rules of hygiene, and explanatory work will continue with them. People

should understand that if sanitary standards are neglected, the disease will spread exponentially and become uncontrollable,” notes Rahmatulloev. Because everything is being done in a timely manner, despite the claims of the opposite by some media outlets, Rahmatulloev expresses hope that the situation in Tajikistan will not be as critical as it has been in other countries. Twelve days have passed since the official announcement of the first COVID-19 case. As of May 11, the number of cases has risen to 661.

Risk still prevailing: Asad Umar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said the lockdown had been relieved but the risk of the contagion was still present which the people should realize and must take all the precautions while going outside.

He was chairing a National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) meeting on Wednesday.

EU appreciates Turkey

BRUSSELS: A member of the European Parliament on Wednesday praised Turkey for providing immediate medical supplies to coronavirus-hit EU. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Ryszard Czarnecki, an MEP and former vice president of the European Parliament, said the EP appreciates the generosity of the Turkish people. “Turkey has exhibited a significant example of solidarity with the EU by providing immediate medical supplies for the global fight against the coronavirus,” Czarnecki told Anadolu Agency.

Chinese donates COVID-19 care packages



DNA

RAWALPINDI: A large number of needy families in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and AJK received COVID-19 care packages donated by overseas Chinese in Pakistan, reports Gwadar Pro App. According to the event organizer Ma Bin, who is also the Rector of China-Pak Educational Cultural Institute, the team of Chinese volunteers has distributed over 2,200 COVID-19 care packages to the needy. Each package contains 20 kilograms of flour, 5 kilograms of rice, 3 kilograms of sugar, 3 kilograms of beans and some tea. At the very beginning Ma teamed up with Li Qiang, the President of Chinese Student Association in Pakistan, and Wang Jin, the Director of Social Service Group of Chinese Student

Association in Pakistan, to raise money and stock up aid supplies for 50 needy families in Rawalpindi. “Many voluntary organizations approached us since then,” Li Qiang told Gwadar Pro, “they wanna join us. So we decided to carry on.” As per Wang Jin, China and Pakistan are iron-clad brothers that share weal and woe. “We Chinese were overwhelmed by generous assistance of Pakistan for the 2008 earthquake affectees of China's Sichuan Province, and Pakistan helped us a lot since COVID-19 outbreak in our country. We're here to fight with our Pakistani brothers and sisters as they're troubled,” Wang noted. Wasim Saleem, the leader of Rawalpindi's First Public Welfare Team expressed his gratitude to Chinese volunteers' kindness, adding China and Pakistan are brotherly countries.

Maintain global focus Kashmir issue: Masood

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the rising tide of fascist Hindutva mindset in India is a matter of grave concern for humanity. He added that the BJP-RSS led government in India has taken a page out of the Nazi playbook by introducing rules the likes of the Nuremberg laws. The President made these remarks during a meeting with Senator Professor Sajid Mir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs

and Gilgit-Baltistan, who called on the President here at Kashmir House. The AJK President said that the Hindu-extremists in India claims to be the ultimate majority and have taken steps to marginalize the Muslim population by introducing citizenship laws that would lead to their disenfranchisement. “These zealots romanticize a Hindu-subcontinent reminisces of the Akhand-Bharat of 'yesteryears', he said. Masood Khan said that in occupied Jammu and Kashmir India have introduced the New Domicile Rules, in an attempt to permanently alter the demography of the disputed territory.

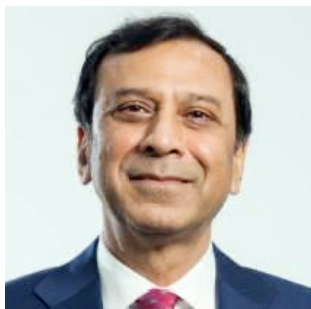
The BJP-RSS led central government has exaggerated historic records by claiming to “rebuild” almost 100,000 temples in IOJK leading to the settling of Hindus from all over India in IOJK. He said that the Indian government has through gerrymandering transformed the limits of constituencies all over IOJK in order to give an unfair advantage to Hindu candidates. Lamenting the presence of 900,000 Indian occupation forces in IOJK, the President said that under the current COVID-19 lockdown the Indian forces have intensified their repression against Kashmiris.

French investors are invited to invest in Special Economic Zones in Pakistan

MUBASHAR BHATTI

PARIS: A webinar on investment opportunities in Pakistan was held today by MEDEF, the largest business federation in France, Embassy of Pakistan in Paris and French Embassy in Islamabad. Mr. Atif R. Bokhari, Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment of Pakistan, in his key note speech, invited the French entrepreneurs, investors and businessmen to invest in Special Economic Zones established by Pakistan, especially in food processing, information technology, housing

and construction, travel and tourism and agriculture sectors and benefit from Pakistan's liberal investment regime and stable political and security situation of the country. He also encouraged the French investors and businesspersons to consider investing into the Information Technology Park being established in Islamabad. The event was attended by a large number of Pakistani and French companies. The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque and Ms. Nora SUSBIELLE, Deputy Head of the Asia-Pacific Department of the French Ministry of Economy and Finance attended from



France. Mr. Atif R. Bokhari, Chairman Board of Investment of Pakistan and Mr. Marc BARETY, Ambassador of France to Pakistan took part in the event from Pakistan. Mr. Thierry Pflimlin, President of Pakistan France Business Council

and President of Total Global Services, in his remarks said that the French and Pakistani companies should explore the emerging business and investment opportunities as both the countries restart their economies in the wake of Covid 19 lockdowns. The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque briefed the participants about the economic challenges being faced by Pakistan due to Covid 19 and the government's relief stimulus package to help business and vulnerable segment of the society. We noted that while Covid 19 has stressed the economies of the world, it has also

created opportunities. Mr. Marc Barety, Ambassador of France spoke about the huge potential that exists between Pakistan and France in further strengthening their economic and investment relations. He said that cooperation between small and medium enterprises of the two countries is among the priority areas for enhancing business ties. The webinar was part of Embassy of Pakistan, Paris efforts to sustain the momentum of bilateral economic and investment relations between Pakistan and France despite the difficulties and disruptions posed by Covid 19 pandemic.

Afghan hospital attack toll rises to 24

KABUL: The death toll in an attack on an Afghan hospital in which infants and nurses were killed has risen to 24, a health official said Wednesday. Three gunmen stormed a maternity hospital in Kabul on Tuesday as parents brought infants and children for appointments. The attackers were eventually killed in a lengthy clearance operation during which heavily armed Afghan security forces carried infants away from the scene – at least one wrapped in a blood-soaked blanket. – APP