

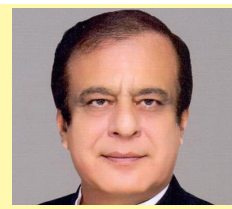


Monday, May 18, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**AIIB will support
Uzbek healthcare
system: Jin Liqun**
**China donations
enhance Pakistan
ability: Naghmana**

**'Selective
lockdown policy
to ease burden'**


Pak students from Wuhan return today

All the passengers will bear travelling expenditure for the special flights and after arriving in Pakistan will be subject to relevant procedures for containing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will arrive in China to repatriate the first batch of Pakistanis - mostly students - from Wuhan on Monday. "All the arrangements have been finalized to airlift Pakistani students from the city hit by COVID-19

through a special flight to be operated by the national flag carrier on May 18," according to official sources here on Sunday. All the passengers will bear travelling expenditure for the special flights and after arriving in Pakistan will be subject to relevant procedures for containing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Around 1,300 Pakistani students were study-

ing in different universities in China's Hubei province, including 800 students in Wuhan, epicenter of novel coronavirus outbreak, when the Chinese government decided to impose a lockdown in the city as well as the province. Although, the Pakistan government has decided to bring all Pakistanis back at this stage; however, due to certain limitations, the

return of laid off workers or those Pakistanis whose visa have expired would be prioritized. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmi, in a recent interview, said Pakistan government took a difficult decision of not repatriating its students from Wuhan and Hubei province after a lockdown was imposed by the Chinese government on January 20.



KABUL: The Political Agreement between President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah has been signed. Dr. Abdullah will lead the National Reconciliation High Council and members of his team will be included in the cabinet. The agreement is likely to ease political friction in the country. – DNA

Briefs

Chinese envoy found dead

JERUSALEM: The Chinese ambassador to Israel, Du Wei, was found dead at his residence on the outskirts of Tel Aviv on Sunday, police said. The envoy, who had arrived in Israel in mid-February, was found dead in his Herzliya home, spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told AFP, adding that police were investigating. Du's wife and son were not with him in Israel. Du, 57, had previously served as ambassador to Ukraine, according to his biography on the embassy's website. – APP

Sh. Anser to challenge his suspension

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ex. Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz has termed his suspension as an act of victimization on the part of sitting PTI government adding he would challenge the decision in the court of law. Giving reaction to his suspension orders issued on Sunday, the Mayor said the issuance of orders on holiday was a clear manifestation of govt's ill will. He said govt had not followed legal course.

Chinese docs serve locals at Gwadar Port

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese medical team sent by the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is on duty 24 hours at Gwadar Port to serve the local people amid spread of COVID-19. The team is providing medical services since the outbreak of the pandemic in Pakistan, reports Gwadar Pro. The medical team has compiled and released a work program to control and prevent COVID-19 for Gwadar port, which has in-



Gwadar Pro

team has also arranged anti-pandemic materials to prepare for the outbreak here.

The medical team's head Chen Gang said, "Though we are not doctors on infectious diseases, we can deal with the treatment of patients with slight symptoms and guide people how to protect themselves."

Chen added that the team would like to use their professional medical knowledge and experience to serve well the development of Gwadar port.

Spraying disinfectants harmful: WHO


**World Health
Organization**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spraying disinfectant on the streets, as practiced in some countries, does not eliminate the new coronavirus and even poses a health risk, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Saturday. In a document on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces as part of the response to the virus, the WHO says spraying can be ineffective. "Spraying or

fumigation of outdoor spaces, such as streets or marketplaces, is not recommended to kill the COVID-19 virus or other pathogens because disinfectant is inactivated by dirt and debris," explains the WHO.

"Even in the absence of organic matter, chemical spraying is unlikely to adequately cover all surfaces for the duration of the required contact time needed to inactivate pathogens." The WHO said that streets and pavements are not considered as "reservoirs of infection" of COVID-19, adding that spraying disinfectants, even outside, can be "dangerous for human health". The document also stresses that spraying individuals with disinfectants are "not recommended under any circumstances". "This could be physically and psychologically harmful and would not reduce an infected person's ability to spread the virus through droplets or contact," said the document.

Ghani, Abdullah sign deal

DNA

KABUL: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Dr Abdullah Abdullah on Saturday signed a power-sharing deal to end a months-long political stalemate that has hampered progress towards peace, Ghani's spokesman said on Sunday.

1,352 new cases in Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The nationwide tally of Coronavirus cases has soared to 40,151 with 1,352 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. Overall 14,584 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 15,590 in Sindh, 5,847 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,544 in Balochistan, 527 in Gilgit Baltistan, 947 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 11,341 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 873 with 39 new deaths reported during the last twenty four hours.

AIIB, ADB to support Uzbek healthcare

Jin Liqun announced the Bank's firm intentions to accelerate the implementation of projects to support the healthcare system of Uzbekistan, increase the potential of the private sector

DNA

TASHKENT: Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov, in a videoconference, discussed with the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Jin Liqun the state of implementation of joint projects, as well as prospects for cooperation to mitigate the effects and negative impact of the global crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic on the economy of Uzbekistan. "During the talks, Jin Liqun announced the Bank's firm intentions to accelerate

the implementation of projects to support the healthcare system of Uzbekistan, increase the potential of the private sector and develop basic infrastructure in the regions," the press service of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade said. In particular, AIIB, together with the Asian Development Bank, developed a project concept to support the healthcare system and the sanitary-epidemiological service in Uzbekistan for a total of \$200 million. Also, in order to support the sustainability of business entities and preserve

jobs in the context of the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the bank's management plans to channel additional resources through the allocation of new credit lines to commercial banks of the republic. The government of Uzbekistan appreciated the bank's leadership for the approval by the AIIB investment committee last week of a special loan in the amount of \$156 million within the framework of the first stage of a large-scale project to modernize the infrastructure in the Bukhara region (the total amount of the project is \$1.3 billion).

'No distinction between Taliban and ISIS'

DNA

KABUL: The First Vice President of Afghanistan Amrullah Saleh said the confessions of the detained ISIS leaders leave no room for illusions regarding Taliban and ISIS, apparently gesturing that there is no distinction

between the two groups. Speaking during a gathering in Nangarhar province, Saleh said certain 'strangers' claim that a specific group carried out the attacks in Kabul and Nangarhar on Tuesday. However, Saleh said the confessions of Aslam Farooqi and Abu Omar, the two top leaders of ISIS, leave

no room for any question regarding the Taliban and ISIS. Saleh accused the Taliban group of the deadly attack on a maternity ward in Kabul city, emphasizing that the group would not be able to seize power by force. He also added that the Taliban inked a peace deal with the foreigners but the group is still killing the Afghans.

UN's R2p an interim remedy for Kashmir

COMMENT

**By Justice ®
Ali Nawaz Chowhan**


THE mass atrocities in Kashmir are a daily routine. An indefinite curfew keeps people incarcerated with the help of hundreds of thousands military and security forces. The five basic crimes against humanity are committed with impunity. These are: Rape, genocide, ethnic, cleansing and crime against humanity. At the line of control our innocent civilians including women and children are killed and

soldiers martyred while in defence. In the vocabulary of international law it is an international conflict involving a disputed territory. The constitutional change by an executive order while the assembly of the state was not in session is all farce and a bluff. what is the peaceful remedy.

The state of Pakistan seems reluctant in taking the human rights issue to the ICJ unlike what The Gambia has done successfully. The other remedy which comes to mind is R2p or responsibility to protect. Jimmy carter of the USA while addressing the General assembly in 1977 stated: "no member of the UN can claim that mal-treatment of its people is solely its responsibility." In the absence of a world sovereign a need was felt to address issues of human rights violations by states. The concept of absolute sovereignty of states pinned in the west Phalia declaration called for a revisit. Otherwise crimes like genocide, ethnic cleansing etc committed in Rawanda, and the Balkans would have gone un-

noticed. The Rome statute was one answer. But acceptance by states for invoking jurisdiction is an impediment for Pakistan who did not ratify the Rome treaty. Anyway we are left with R2p. In its 65th session of the general assembly the largest gathering of heads of states and Government, which included Mr Man Mohan Singh of India and Mr Samroo of Pakistan, made the millennium declaration and established the international norm to halt the massive atrocities as a collective responsibility of nations. It called for timely and decisive collective security council action when national authorities manifestly fail to protect its populations from aforesaid crimes. The UN resolution 1674 affirmed the declarations of the 2005 world summit outcome document and asked the Security Council to act and protect civilian population in armed conflict. A global centre for R2p was created and a strengthened Human Rights council. This council has its head quarters in Geneva. It has already given

its reports on Gaza, Lebanon conflict Rohingya Muslims. It even hosted Hamas So the mechanism was established. And we have to use it. I have seen in Geneva how active groups agitate and they are heard. We should involve the special rapporteur office in this context as well. Unlike in the case of the ICJ where states can only invoke jurisdiction I do not think such a locus standi condition is manifestly stated. It therefore has a more flexible approach to a complex problem. Like in the case of Universal progressive review and alternate reports by non govt bodies. I therefore think groups of citizens can also agitate the HR issues. Even if we do not succeed against the influential India in first attempt we can steadfastly make more. The purpose is to draw attention and expose India recurring. Presently the state efforts seem dormant. Intensive lobbying is needed. Another contemporaneous way is to use the NIHR (National institutions of human rights) in around 170 coun-

tries for conveying Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Our own NCHR is made dysfunctional and the Kashmir committee is without experienced leadership to effectively carry the awareness forward and win support. The support from most of the Muslim countries too is scant. This bespeaks of the state of our foreign affairs. We are also not making the government of Azad Kashmir active propagandist. Their kith and kin are suffering. Kashmiri have not been successful in getting recognition for the UN like the Palestinians. It now falls to common citizens to take the lead and start agitation before the council and the High commissioner human rights in Geneva. **Justice (r) Ali Nawaz Chowhan is Ex-Chairman, National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan. Formerly: Chief Justice Of The Gambia International Judge Of The UN at The Hague. Co-Chairman, UNESCO Appeal Board-Paris, France.**

Inside...

**Covid-19 Crisis:
No women
specific policy
in action**

– Page 02

**Parts of a
Circle: History
of the Karabakh
Conflict**

– Page 03

**Envoy Moin
holds a virtual
meeting with
Pakistan
Diaspora in
France**

– Back Page

Briefs

Raids against hoarders

RAWALPINDI: Under a campaign launched by Rawalpindi District government against profiteering and hoarding, 1197 raids were conducted in seven Tehsils of the district during last 24 hours and fines amounting to Rs 343,000 were imposed against 200 violators while two FIRs were also registered. According to a District Administration spokesman, the District Administration constituted teams to check profiteering, hoarding, display of rate lists of daily use items and on the recommendations of the teams and on their report two cases were registered. He said, the administration under vigorous campaign against profiteering and hoarding conducted total 22,130 raids during May while the violators were imposed fines amounting to over 6.7 million rupees. – APP

Appointment of principal urged

ISLAMABAD: Female teachers of federal government colleges have demanded appointment of the principal of Federal Government (FG) College of Home Economics and Management Sciences F-7/2 on seniority basis. According to an official source, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) got back the administrative control of the Federal Government College of Home Economics and Management Sciences F-7/2 recently. Earlier, the administrative matters of the college were divided between the FDE and Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. The seniority and promotion cases of the teachers were dealt by the FDE and the matters relating to the grant of leave to teachers, appointment of principal and others were settled in the Ministry. Teachers said it was a good decision of the Ministry that all the educational institutions in Islamabad to be under one umbrella. – APP

Flour mills facing problem

DNA

ATTOCK: Flour mills were facing problem of meeting the demand of the market as purchasing wheat directly from open market was not allowed to the mills' owners. Member Punjab Flour Mills Association Attock Haji Rehmat talking to newsmen said that flour mills need a stock of wheat for at least three days to timely meet demands of the market but this was not possible because of the policies of the government. He said if these policies will be towed by the government then there will be shortage of flour in the market and certainly its price will also go up. He demanded that wheat as per the quota must be provided to the mill owners to keep the mills smoothly running. Haji Rehmat said that so far mills had not been closed by if government will not show any relaxation then the situation will be out of control.

CDNS achieves target of Rs185 b

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved collection net target of Rs185 billion of current fiscal year (FY) by May 15, 2019-20. The CDNS has set Rs352 billion annual collection target for the year 2019-20 as compared to Rs324 billion for the previous year 2018-19 to enhance savings and promoting saving culture in the country, senior official of CDNS told APP here on Sunday. The directorate has also revised and increased the gross target of Rs1,570 billion for fiscal year 2019-20, he said. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had collected Rs410 billion by June 30, exceeding the target of Rs324 billion set for the year while during the preceding year of 2017-18, the CDNS collected Rs155 billion. The total savings held by the CDNS stood at Rs1,150 billion by June 30, while the directorate had Rs774 billion savings by the same date, a year ago, he said. – APP

COMSTAS calls for Int'l Youth's Response to COVID-19

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Around 50 participants from over 15 countries came together to deliberate on applying youth's potential to help deal with current coronavirus pandemic and looming global threats and challenges to sustainability, such as climate change. Youth from Azerbaijan; Botswana; Cameroon; China; Egypt; Ghana; Greece; Jordan; Kenya; Norway; Pakistan; Switzerland; Tanzania; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; United Kingdom; and Zimbabwe participated in a webinar titled "Role and Challenges of Youth in Global Crisis – COVID-19", organized by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). Moderated by a Kenyan



Women leaders demand immediate financial support to businesswomen, home workers

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Participants of the virtual seminar on 'women's vulnerabilities in the Covid-19 crisis' urged the government to take urgent steps to financially support and facilitate the women in small businesses, trades and those who are home-based workers such as craftswomen, home-chefs and tailors. Before the Covid-19 crisis,

they were self-supportive and financially over the poverty line. So they don't fall in the destitute women criteria being served by the E-saas Programme. Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) and DTN organized its weekly virtual seminar. Rani Atiqa Ghazanfar said the mountain women are more vulnerable to the crisis. Locked down at their homes, they unable to

take part any economic activity to share the burden with their men who are mostly daily wagers too. The government has collected the applications online but the financial assistance is not seen anywhere. Most of the beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) have received their pending dues under the Ehsaas programme but the rest of the people are still waiting for any support.

She said tourism and handicrafts were the main source of income for the mountain communities. Both are suspended due to pandemic situation, leaving communities to starve. There is no adequate health system support from the federal government to test the natives coming back to their homes. Focus has been shifted to corona infections while the patients of other diseases are becoming more vulnerable due to no

treatment at all. Samina Fazil said the IWCCI has reached out to Deputy Commissioner to Prime Minister to put up the case of women whose small businesses are shut down. Most of them are independent, single bread-earners for the families. Many are out of cash to pay the rent of their houses, shops and fees of their children. It seems both sides of the power corridors are play-

ing politics on the crisis. Lockdown or no lockdown, women shall be the priority of the government. She it is strange that many business are open even the barbershops have been granted permission to open their shops but the beauty parlours and boutiques. Women owned shops should be facilitated to open their outlets with necessary equipment to take precautionary measures.



ISLAMABAD: MCI staff administering anti-bacterial spray in various sectors on the Capital on the instructions of Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz. – DNA

COVID-19: AIOU-SDPI call for broader policy dialogue

HEC and the universities have to work together to achieve the shared goals and its quite heartening to know that the universities across Pakistan are accepting the challenge to avoid disruption in the learning

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Senior academia and educationists across Pakistan have termed Covid-19 as an opportunity to align the entire higher education in the country with the future socio-economic realities. The situation resulted by the global pandemic therefore demands a total paradigm shift and a broader academic policy dialogue is the need of hour to ensure the quality and future-oriented education. They shared these views here with the audience at online 'Post Covid-19 Scenario - Challenges and Options for Higher Education Institutions' organized

by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in coordination with Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Dr. Nadia Tahir, Managing Director, Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, said that the universities across Pakistan have been tasked to develop SoPs and Learning Management Systems (LMS) to ensure quality online learning to students. She said that the universities would now have to set the targets for the progress as Covid19 has changed the entire landscape of the education. She says HEC and the

universities have to work together to achieve the shared goals and its quite heartening to know that the universities across Pakistan are accepting the challenge to avoid disruption in the learning. The conventional teaching system now needs to be replaced with 'equip and empower students' approach. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI, said as predicted by the UN, we would have to live with the pandemic from now onwards for quite a longer period or permanently. He called for the need to grab opportunities out of the Covid 19 challenges by applying a proactive approach.

"Eliminating digital-divide must be ensured while introducing online learning as we cannot afford to leave anyone behind," Dr Suleri said. He said that HEC would have to ensure that the new learning provided by the universities is compatible with rapidly changing job market. To respond to critical need of bridging research-policy gap, he ensured the participants that SDPI would be there to provide all out support and facilitation in this regard. Forming Education Advisory Council would be one of the suggestions for the government to respond to emerging challenges in the field of education, he contented.

Retired teachers demand scale

ISLAMABAD: A number of retired principals and teachers of educational institutions run by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) have demanded from the concerned authorities to grant them their due right of time scale through filing representations (appeals). According to an official source, these teachers and principals claimed

that the Ministry of Education and Professional Training has forfeiting their benefits unlawfully. Retired teachers are of the view that they felt mistreated by the decision of not granting time scale from the actual date of its implementation resulting in sheer loss of legitimate and lawful financial benefits. – APP

Mobile phone imports increase

ISLAMABAD: The import of mobile phones into the country has witnessed an increase of 62.59 percent during the ten months of financial year (2019-20) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan imported mobile phones worth US \$ 1027.578 million during July-April (2019-20) as compared to the imports of US \$ 632.002 million during July-April (2018-19), showing growth of

62.59 percent, according to the latest data issued by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). On year-on year basis, the import of mobile phones witnessed decreased of 36.35 percent in April 2020, as compared to the imports of the same month of last year. The mobile imports during April 2020 were recorded at US \$ 47.619 million against the imports of US \$ 74.814 million in April 2019. – APP

Rs1087.392 m distributed

RAWALPINDI: In Rawalpindi district, 90,616 persons have been provided Rs12,000 each under Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government to meet the financial sufferings of the downtrodden segments of the society amid lockdown in the wake of COVID-19. According to Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt (r) Anwal ul Haq, total 92,800 persons had applied for Ehsaas financial assistance while the administration had provided cash amounting to Rs1087.392 million to 90,616 persons. He said 26 centers were set up for Rawalpindi district including tehsil Gujar Khan, Taxila, Murree, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Kotli Sattian. He said 14 centers were set up in Rawalpindi city, two in Gujar Khan, three in Murree, two in Kallar Syedan, one each in Kahuta, Taxila, Wah Cantonment, Kotli Sattian and Karor. – APP

MAY 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centreline.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
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



Bigotry in India

THE harassment of Muslims by the Indian government is continuing, and has been noted by the US Commission for International Religious Freedom. The prestigious commission has already listed India as a country of ‘particular concern’ in its 2020 report, essentially on the basis of anti-Muslim laws. The commission has also tweeted that Muslims protesting the country’s Citizenship (Amendment) Act have also faced arrests. The writers of the report say it is obvious this trend is continuing. The report has been posted on the official site of the Statement Department and sent to the Secretary of State and Congress for further action. In certain cases, a nation designated to be one of ‘particular concern’ can face economic sanctions. The commission has also said that such action against Muslim activists has continued during the Covid19 crisis, and has reminded India that this is certainly not the time to do so. In addition, the USCIRF has specifically mentioned Safoora Zargar, a Muslim activist arrested in New Delhi in April following mob attacks on Muslim protesters. She was three months pregnant at the time and a research fellow at the Jamia Millia University Delhi. It is clear that the BJP government backed by the militant RSS is in no mood to change its policies. The USCIRF report has also commented on the excesses in Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir and the restrictions on basic freedoms in that territory. Muslims also continue to be prevented from attending prayers and religious ceremonies, although Hindus are allowed to do so. Naturally, there is an equal risk of the spread of Covid-19 at Hindu gatherings as at Muslim ones. The discriminatory politics of the BJP government can no longer be hidden. One crime after another has been committed against the 20 million Muslims of India. The taking up of the matter by the USCIRF so strongly is a positive step. It may help draw world attention to the problem and remind leaders everywhere that the human rights record of the country and its democratic credentials need to be examined given the manner in which it is treating its Muslim population.



Exam concerns

AS the government has decided to promote all school and college students to next grades without any exams at least for the time being, there are mixed reactions from students. It is good that the government has taken a timely decision in this regard and has announced that the promoted students will not appear for any composites exams but will only take the final exam next year. Keeping in mind the concerns for children’s health, perhaps this was the best decision to take. The federal minister for education has also announced that special exams will take place between September and November this year for students divided into categories. The minister also announced that schools will remain closed till July 15 and final exams for classes ninth, tenth, and intermediate would not be held this summer. But there is some confusion as in Punjab 10th grade students have been exempted from the no-exam policy as they had already appeared for the exams before the Covid-19 pandemic hit Pakistan. Their practical exams are remaining. There is even more confusion with the pending exams at universities across Pakistan. There has already been much talk about the problems of internet connectivity for students who do not have high-speed internet facilities. Many private universities that charge huge fees have upgraded their facilities for online classes but the same facilities are not available to most students at their homes. The HEC has been forcing all universities to not only conduct and continue with online classes, but has also asked them to administer online exams. This has created more problems for university students than solutions. There has to be a better way to deal with this situation. As many qualified educationists know, there are other more appropriate methods of testing students than written exams. In modern education practice and theory, universities employ multiple ways of assessing student performance. They may include more assignments, reports, research projects, and individual vivas with students that can be recorded for quality control purposes. Some universities are imposing a highly complicated software on students and teachers. This is not fair to all students and teachers as it takes a while to master it. In the first place, the HEC has no jurisdiction over provincially chartered universities.

Parts of a Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



International law is a complex and complicated discipline which pursues in accordance with the existing universal legal principles and norms where decisions/judgments are made on witnesses, solid documentary proofs and examination of bilateral or trilateral treaties to resolve any conflict and fabricated

FASCIST Armenia has been trying to mislead the international community about its past which is full of ethnic cleansing, genocide and state sponsored terrorism against innocent and civilized Azerbaijanis by distorting the hard facts through different means. The release of Parts of a Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict is another systematic attempt to disseminate its falsified interpretation of history, causes of Nagorno-Karabakh massacre, national identity, socio-political and cultural affiliation with the native land. Conciliation Resources released a 76-minute documentary “Parts of a Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict that tries to address the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict 26 years after the ceasefire. Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS I totally reject one-sided Armenia version of the film which tries to manipulate its script and pollutes the minds and souls of general masses. It has numerous serious inaccuracies and omissions. Human psychology is a complex phenomenon whereas criminals tend to make castles of their purity, decency, civility, and humanity through fabricated stories, false fictions, unreal folks, poisonous deeds and last but not least, venomous traits and new film “Parts of a Circle: History of

the Karabakh Conflict” is another attempt to deceive the regional audience and international community about the real cause of its illegal occupation on the 20 percent territories of Azerbaijan by using brutal power. In other words, this film is an international project of Armenia so-called justification of the unfolded stories of callousness, unkindness and prosecution towards Azerbaijanis. This film is pathbreaking collaboration between Armenian and Azerbaijani filmmakers made with the support of Conciliation Resources, a London-based NGO, showing each side’s perspective on some of the conflict’s most controversial and painful events. It features interviews with the people who were there both in leading political roles and as ordinary citizens as well as previously unseen archive footage. Production of the film started in 2011. It consists of three parts which tell the story of the conflict outbreak in the late 1980s, the war, and the negotiation process. The published film is a shorter, summarized version of the three parts and lasts a little over an hour. The trilogy was finalized in early 2016. However, it was further delayed due to outbreak of war between Azerbaijan and Armenia in April. After the April War, a final decision was made to disseminate the documentary carefully and gradually. In recent years a number of screenings of the documentary for invited audiences were held in Stepanakert, Yerevan and Baku. Despite, opinions about various events are expressed by ex-President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov, ex-President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and ex-President of the NKR Arkadi Ghukasyan. However, it has flaws and is badly lacking realism and sobriety. Presentation of conflict is not balanced and badly lacking hard facts and bitter realities about human survival and inordinate slavery perpetuate by Armenian against real owners of the land, Azerbaijanis. Narration of the causes of conflict is not neutral either. It postulates Armenia’s propaganda mission wherein Armenia dramatized as victim not vicious villain, supporter of ethnic unity not scoundrel and proponent of progression/prosperity not partner of evil propositions which depicts height of virtual misappropriation of history full of horrendous crimes committed by Armenia, the ultimate aggressor and enemy of helpless humanity. Unfortunately, the film deliberately negates the existence of notorious nationalist and expansionist greater Armenia project which was one of the most important elements of the conflict. Moreover, legal aspects of the looming conflict is consciously ignored, otherwise, it can completely dismantle fortress of falsified attributes of Armenia. Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS I evaluate that some parts of the documentary facts are absolutely indistinct or could not illustrate the objective history of the conflict. Even basic principles of international law mainly, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity of states, use of peaceful means for conflict resolution, importance of diplomacy, dialogue and development are intentionally overshadowed through self-delusion of Armenians. Balancing act/approach and equilibrium of point of view as claim by filmmakers are factually incorrect and needs rectification. From the ancient court of Romans to modern day presidency of the US, grief, sorrow, pain, injustice, holocaust, aggression, butchery and genocide cannot be equat-

ed with gratification, supremacy, pleasure, just-fullness, hope, association, brotherhood and generosity. It is the basic essence of even modern human civilization that aggressors and invaders must be distinguished from victims but said film intentionally tries to establish so called balancing approach and functional correlations between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis, simply a height of intellectual dishonesty and distortion of bitter realities. Armenia has been aggressor and badly indulged in series of ethnic cleanings against innocent Azerbaijanis during 1905- 1918 and illegally occupied territories of Azerbaijan. There is a justification of every wrongdoing as upheld by a German jurist in famous Hollywood movie “Judgment at Nuremberg” is a self-defeating approach because distressing and contemptible past of anybody does not pardon him/her from ultimate wordly accountability and punishment from the law of nature. International law is a complex and complicated discipline which pursues in accordance with the existing universal legal principles and norms where decisions/judgments are made on witnesses, solid documentary proofs and examination of bilateral or trilateral treaties to resolve any conflict and fabricated and distorted of history achieve nothing but more isolation, condemnation and marginalization. Filmmakers seem to be biased and prejudiced in their approaches towards the exploration of very conflict Nagorno-Karabakh. They intentionally try to form equilibrium between the conflicting parties through the help of virtual reality inject the invader’s narrative into the movie in order to justify the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh region from Azerbaijan and the occupation of the surrounding districts. Moreover, root cause of the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh i.e. nationalist idea of Great Armenia which was one the main reasons of this unforgettable human tragedy, completely ignored in the said film. Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS I, fear that tall claims of filmmakers about relevancy of this film towards conflict resolution will be dashed into the ground because it lacks perfection, preciseness, and true presentation. Incorporation of some cadres on Khojaly massacre and Azerbaijani IDPs reconfirm my stance against so called balanced approach of the filmmakers. In the documentary filmmakers tried to establish economic disparity, social discrimination and political oppression against Armenia were the driving force to wage war against real son of the land i.e. Azerbaijanis. It is not based on any official statistics thus slanted towards Armenia. Furthermore, most of the important historical events relating to Armenian nationalists are covered-up with causal narration of events/interviews. The plight and pain of the thousands of displaced Azerbaijan were resembled with “dead man walking” but it was just purposefully omitted. Even sad incident of black January tragedy and brutal massacre of helpless Azerbaijanis was misreported in the film thus filmmakers showed their disrespect to departed souls of hundreds of ordinary people/Azerbaijanis fighting for freedom, national dignity and pride who fought bravely against military aggression of Soviet troops and ultimately liberated Baku and rest of the country. Producers of the film did not show uncivilized activities

of the aggressors in other districts outside of the Nagorno-Karabakh region i.e. Lachin, Gubaty, Zengilan, Jabrayil, Fuzuli and Aghdam. People were slaughtered like animals. People were slain like poor sheep. Blood was everywhere and enemies of humanity, civility and even nature were free to complete their bloodbaths against docile Azerbaijanis. The film also casually surpassed the importance of the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 as projected if all of them were the same and adopted on the same date. Moreover, producers tried to form the strategic justification of occupation of Azerbaijan territories from Armenian perspective, as if the occupation of Azerbaijani territories should be treated as a normal state of things. The filmmakers tried to sabotage incident of Khojaly by interviewing Vitally Balasanyan who was one of the main perpetrators for the mass murder of Azerbaijan civilians. It is like giving knife to monkey for persuasion of so called justice. It seems that producers do not have any knowledge about history which is full of self-confessions of Armenians terrorists, separatists, smugglers and paddlers like Serj Sarkisian, Markar Melkonian and Monte Melkonian who deliberately assaulted on the civilian population belonging to Azerbaijanis. Ironically, no interview was conducted with the survivors of Khojaly genocide. The producers also did not include Azerbaijanis from different parts of Nagorno-Karabakh, Shusha, Khankendi, Khodjaven, Aghdere and etc. The film also did not invite the official representatives of Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh region, those once who lived with Armenians together and those who are supposed to determine the common future of the region with their Armenian cohabitants. The film is totally silent about the series of terrorist attacks against civilians in different parts of Azerbaijan in the very early 1990s. It thoroughly discusses the “Operation Ring” by the Soviet law-enforcement agencies in the Nagorno-Karabakh region during 1991. It badly fails to discuss the process of arming of the Armenian militias in the region and their terror against the Azerbaijani population. The film “Parts of a Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict” has missed another golden opportunity to portray true facts of the history of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Most important causes mainly, Armenian historical fascist attitude, hegemonic inspirations, conspiratorial engagements and complexity pertaining to international law are badly missing or otherwise underreported in the film. Paradoxically, producers tried to equate villain with valiant and aggressors with victims and illegal occupation was justified too. Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS, I term the film “Parts of a Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict as biased and prejudiced. I request to producers of this movie to please rise above their self-fabricated notions of neutrality, equality, balancing approach because history is not a “comedy of errors” but full of bloods, sacrifices, martyrdoms, collateral damages and spirits of bravery, chivalry and unfolded stories of true patriotism, nationalism and of course heroism. Azerbaijan stands for peace whereas; Armenia has already been stigmatized as dragons. Azerbaijan speaks about humanity and harmony whereas Armenia.

What do I know about Azerbaijan

Furqan Ahmad

Tourism is an important part of the economy of Azerbaijan. The country was a well-known tourist spot in the 1980s. However, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the Nagorno-Karabakh War during the 1990s, damaged the tourist industry and the image of Azerbaijan as a tourist destination

AZERBAIJAN is a country located in Caucasus region with an area of 86,600 km2. Neighbouring countries include Russia, Georgia, Iran and Armenia. Azerbaijan is a transcontinental country located in both Asia and Europe. The Azerbaijan Republic proclaimed its independence in 1918 and became the first democratic state in the Muslim-oriented world. The country was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1920 as the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. The modern Republic of Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence on 30 August 1991, prior to the official dissolution of the USSR in December 1991 after the disintegration of former USSR. Following the politics of glasnost, initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev, civil unrest and ethnic strife grew in various regions of the Soviet Union, including Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region of the Azerbaijan SSR. The disturbances in Azerbaijan, in response to Moscow’s indifference to an already heated conflict, resulted in calls for independence and secession, which culminated in the Black January events in Baku. Later in 1990, the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR dropped the words “Soviet Socialist” from

the title, adopted the “Declaration of Sovereignty of the Azerbaijan Republic” and restored the flag of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic as the state flag. As a consequence of the failed coup which occurred in August in Moscow, on 18 October 1991, the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan adopted a Declaration of Independence which was affirmed by a nationwide referendum in December 1991, while the Soviet Union officially ceased to exist on 26 December 1991. Three physical features dominate Azerbaijan: the Caspian Sea, whose shoreline forms a natural boundary to the east; the Greater Caucasus mountain range to the north; and the extensive flatlands at the country’s centre. Azerbaijan is home to a vast variety of landscapes. 9 out of 11 existing climate zones are present in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan succeeded in establishing diplomatic relations with six countries, sending diplomatic representatives to Germany and Finland. The process of international recognition of Azerbaijan’s independence from the collapsing Soviet Union lasted roughly one year. The most recent country to recognize Azerbaijan was Bahrain, on 6 November 1996. Full diplomatic relations, including mutual exchanges of missions, were

first established with Turkey, Pakistan, the United States, Iran and Israel. So far its holds membership in 38 international organizations. Two-thirds of Azerbaijan is rich in oil and natural gas. The history of the oil industry of Azerbaijan dates back to the ancient period. Arabian historian and traveler Ahmed Al-Belaururi mentioned about the economics of Absheron peninsula in the ancient times, oil lands, also, white and black oil in Absheron. Tourism is an important part of the economy of Azerbaijan. The country was a well-known tourist spot in the 1980s. However, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the Nagorno-Karabakh War during the 1990s, damaged the tourist industry and the image of Azerbaijan as a tourist destination. It was not until the 2000s that the tourism industry began to recover, and the country has since experienced a high rate of growth in the number of tourist visits and overnight stays. In recent years, Azerbaijan has also become a popular destination for religious, spa, and health care tourism. Baku, the capital and largest city of Azerbaijan is very expensive, as a tourist. If you are thinking about any trip just go and visit Azerbaijan beautiful places. Great people with great hospitality.

Briefs

Razak for exploiting trade potential

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has stressed the need for making preparations to exploit the economic and trade opportunities expected in the wake of post COVID-19 pandemic. "We perceive and expect more opportunities to promote bilateral trade and strengthen linkage with potential markets including Central European Union, China, Asian States, Middle East and African region besides promoting regional trade in post pandemic environment," he said in an exclusive talk with APP. He said the pandemic would bring a paradigm shift, hence create great opportunities adding the coronavirus had changed the world and now the business processes would be completely different. "Such difficult period always brings out new opportunities, new products, and new ways of thinking," he opined. — APP

Italy to reopen borders for tourists in early June

ROME: Italy will reopen to tourists from early June and scrap a 14-day mandatory quarantine period, the government said on Saturday, as it quickened the exit from the coronavirus lockdown. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte enforced an economically crippling shutdown in early March to counter a pandemic that has so far killed more than 31,500 people in Italy. The shutdown halted all holidaymaking in a country heavily dependent on the tourism industry. Although Italy never formally closed its borders and has allowed people to cross back and forth for work or health reasons, it banned movement for tourism and imposed a two-week isolation period for new arrivals. Beginning on June 3, all visitors will be allowed in with no obligation to self-isolate. Italians will also be able to move between regions, though local authorities can limit travel if infections spike. — APP

‘Pakistan gets 99 ventilators from China’

ISLAMABAD: A plane carrying 20 tonnes of medical supplies from China has arrived in Islamabad, on Saturday. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, the Chinese government has sent Pakistan 99 ventilators and over 260,000 N95 masks. This is the eighth consignment that Beijing has sent to Islamabad since the coronavirus outbreak. The number of known coronavirus cases in Pakistan has exceeded 36,000. The virus has so far claimed 855 lives in the country. — APP



WASHINGTON: An attractive view of thick clouds hovering over the skies of the city. — APP

PM praised for making SAARC Anti-corruption forum

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman United Business Group (UBG) Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday while congratulating the Prime Minister Imran Khan for making SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum a real success said Pakistan has proved itself as a role model for South Asian countries in stamping out menace of rampant corruption. In a statement issued here, Iftikhar Ali Malik said Pakistan, under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, was the only coun-

try who's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) according to Transparency International Report has been decreased. He said it was honour for Pakistan that the NAB which would now head the SAARC anti corruption forum was one of the world best investigation agencies, which has been prescribed for efficient, effective and expeditious disposal of all cases, including white collar crimes, in a maximum limit of 10 months from complaint verification-to-inquiry-to-investigation and finally to a reference in the accountability court.

Envoy Moin holds a virtual meeting with Pakistan Diaspora in France

The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque briefed the community members about services provided to them during the lockdown, including continuous availability of Embassy officials, ration distribution scheme for the needy, operation of special flight to take back home stranded Pakistanis, and catering to all emergent consular issues

MUBASHAR BHATTI

PARIS: The virtual meeting held in Paris yesterday was aimed at strengthening the link between the Embassy and community, take stock of the situation and problems being faced by the community in the ongoing coronavirus crisis in France, and seeking community's views on further improving consular

services for them. The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque briefed the community members about services provided to them during the lockdown, including continuous availability of Embassy officials, ration distribution scheme for the needy, operation of special flight to take back home stranded Pakistanis, and catering to all emergent consular issues.



While thanking the community for its contribution to ration distribution scheme, he urged them to donate generously to the Prime Minister's Covid 19 Relief Fund. He also urged the community to keep the Kashmir issue alive in these testing times and continue expressing their solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The community members

expressed their satisfaction over the role of Embassy during the coronavirus lockdown and offered their services for Embassy's various projects in promoting Pakistan's national interest abroad. In conclusion, the Ambassador stressed that Pakistani community should follow the guidelines of the French government to keep themselves safe from the coronavirus pandemic.

China donations enhance Pak ability

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmi has thanked Chinese government and all sectors for providing a large amount of medical supplies and materials to Pakistan and said that these donations have enhanced Pakistan abil-

ity to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. "We thank the Chinese government and all sectors of society for the large amount of medical supplies and materials provided to Pakistan. The Chinese people concern for the health and well-being of human compatriots not only reflects a kind character but it also made me deeply feel

the peculiarities of the peace and benevolence of Chinese civilization", she said in an interview with China Economic Net. Ambassador Hashmi said that Pakistan has received medical supplies worth several million yuan from various levels of government, enterprises, private organizations and individuals of China.

Trump fires State Dept watchdog

DNA

WASHINGTON: A government watchdog fired suddenly by Donald Trump was investigating Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, said a Democratic lawmaker who accused the president of committing a potentially illegal act of retribution. The State Department confirmed the late Friday dismissal of Inspector General Steve Linick without giving a reason for his departure. Eliot Engel, who heads the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he had learned that Linick had opened an investigation into Pompeo. "Mr. Linick's firing amid such a probe strongly suggests that this is an unlawful act of retaliation," the congressman said in a statement.

Pakistan opens Pak-Afghan border round the clock

DNA

PESHAWAR: The government has announced opening of Pak-Afghan border at Torkhem and Chaman posts round the clock for six days per week, a notification issued by Ministry of Interior on Friday (yesterday). The border was closed on March 27 last month as a precautionary measure taken to contain spread of COVID-19 virus. Later it was opened for three days a week in April. According to notification, decision about opening of border was taken in the meeting of NCOC (National Command and Operation Center). Both the borders will remain open 24/7 for six days except from Saturday which will be reserved for pedestrian

move only as per procedure already in vogue. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as applicable for air passengers, will be implemented for pedestrians as well, adds the notification. The decision has been hailed by business community terming it as a milestone in promotion of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In a press statement issued here on Saturday, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Anjum Nisar, Former President FPCCI and General Secretary of Businessmen Panel, Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President FPCCI, Qaiser Khan Daudzai and Coordinator Regional Office Peshawar, Sartaj Ahmad Khan, said the decision will give impetus to commercial activity in the region.

‘Future of Sharif brothers bleak’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed said Sunday that political future of both Sharif brothers was bleak. In a statement, the minister said that Shahbaz Sharif should learn from the mistakes of elder brother and provide answers of the questions of National Accountability Bureau (NAB). He asked Shahbaz Sharif to advise his elder brother to return looted money of the nation. He said that Nawaz Sharif was hiding in London whereas his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif was hidden in Pakistan under the pretext of quarantine. The federal minister said that the elder brother committed corruption and money laundering with the help of Ishaq Dar while younger Sharif used the class mates of a son and personal employees as frontmen for whitening looted national wealth.

BOI invites French Investors

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment of Pakistan, Atif R. Bokhari in his key note speech, invited the French entrepreneurs, investors and businessmen to invest in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) 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. — APP

WB provides over US\$370 mln to Central Asian countries

DNA

TASHKENT: The World Bank has provided more than US\$370 million to Central Asian countries to combat coronavirus (COVID-19). Funds were allocated as part of the global emergency response package, as well as reallocated from projects currently being implemented in these countries with the financial assistance of the World Bank. "The World Bank has quickly mobilized funds to counter the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with the governments of Central Asian states, we are also reviewing our investment portfolio in the region for a total of US\$9.7 billion to provide additional funds to strengthen health systems and miti-

gate the economic impact of COVID-19 for these countries," said Lilia Burunchuk, Regional Director World Bank in Central Asia during an online briefing organized by the World Bank. Assistance from the World Bank will enable a wide range of activities to increase the effectiveness of national health systems and primary health care, improve epidemiological monitoring and reporting, and train health workers interacting with infected patients. The funds provided will also be used to procure important medical equipment, including test kits, laboratory reagents, equipment for intensive care units, as well as personal protective equipment for medical workers. In addition, depending on the priorities of specific Cen-

tral Asian countries, funding will allow their governments to expand programs to provide social protection to the most vulnerable segments of the population, establish a distance education system and solve other priorities as part of the mitigation of the pandemic. "The global economy is experiencing an unprecedented crisis in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, we are on the verge of the worst economic crisis since the Second World War," said Iyavlo Izvorski, World Bank lead economist in Central Asia during an online briefing. "To mitigate the consequences of COVID-19, countries in the region need to act quickly, starting with planning a way out of the crisis and identifying clear measures and

structural reforms to restore economic growth." As of 14 May 2020, the World Bank Central Asia response package to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 includes the following projects: Kazakhstan – as part of the social health insurance project, US\$10 million was allocated to purchase 236 mechanical ventilation devices (IVLs) needed to treat patients infected with COVID-19 in various regions of Kazakhstan. Additionally, US\$17 million is allocated for the acquisition of 123 mechanical ventilation devices and other medical equipment. Tajikistan – US\$11.3 million under the global emergency response package under the expedited procedure will help expand the capacity for emergency

care for the population. The funds are intended for the purchase of medical equipment for resuscitation departments, personal protective equipment for medical workers, test kits and laboratory reagents, as well as training for resuscitation staff and outreach activities to prevent COVID-19. The most vulnerable groups will be protected through temporary social support measures. Kyrgyz Republic – US\$21 million of funding was allocated for the purchase of necessary medical and laboratory equipment, ambulances, mobile equipment for emergency response teams and personal protective equipment for medical workers who are at the forefront of the epidemic. Uzbekistan – US\$95 mil-

lion will be spent on improving the national health care system, as well as supporting the poor, affected by the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic. The World Bank also provided US\$200 million to provide additional funding to the budget amid a significant reduction in tax revenues and an unexpected increase in spending as part of a government anti-crisis program to mitigate the socio-economic effects of the pandemic. In addition, US\$17 million was allocated as part of a project to improve the emergency medical care system in Uzbekistan, which will allow the purchase of mechanical ventilation devices, x-ray machines, infusion pumps, test kits, equipment for monitoring the health of infected patients, etc.