



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, June 02, 2020

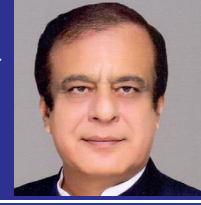
Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Alvi for joint efforts to fight pandemic: visits Parliament House

Shibli slams India for harassing Pak diplomats

China upholding its sovereignty, says Zhao Lijian



Briefs

Tajikistan takes anti-crisis measures

DNA

DUSHANBE: Tajik ministries, departments and institutions related to the development of the economy and entrepreneurship are taking anti-crisis measures due to COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has completed a two-day webinar on crisis marketing and planning during the economic crisis for domestic entrepreneurs, which was attended by representatives of the business community from all regions of Tajikistan.

The event was aimed at developing export potential, creating jobs, logistics and promoting economic cooperation between entrepreneurs of Central Asia. The webinar was led by an international expert on strategic planning and marketing Vitaliy Kirichek.

PM okays 12 more national parks

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has given go-ahead for launch of "Protected Area Initiative", which involves establishment of 12 national parks in the country with the aim to preserve and protect wildlife and plantations. He was talking to Advisor on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Khan in Islamabad today.

This initiative is being taken under the umbrella of "Green Pakistan" program. The Prime Minister directed that all the provinces be taken on-board for this initiative at the highest level such as Chief Ministers. He further emphasized that such initiatives provide employment opportunities in wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Lockdown eased; tourism sector opened

PM urges people to abide by SOPs; warns virus shall further spread; calls upon people to show maturity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan in a live televised address apprised the nation on the decisions made regarding the lockdown in Pakistan to contain the novel coronavirus during the National Coordination Committee (NCC) meeting held on Monday.

The prime minister urged people to abide by SOPs that was the only way to

avoid contracting virus. In its meeting, the NCC decided to maintain a complete lockdown on weekends to curb the coronavirus and to not change shop timings. It also eased the restrictions for Fridays, sources told Geo News. Chaired by PM Imran, the meeting discussed whether or not the countrywide lockdown should be extended or relaxed, as coronavirus cases continue to surge across Pakistan.

The meeting discussed and formulated effective coronavirus prevention strategies and reviewed treatment provided to coronavirus affectees along with the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and other resources required by medical centres. In this regard, NDMA officials also provided a report on available masks and other medical equipment including the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in Pakistan.

Shibli slams India for harassing Pak diplomats

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz said on Monday the RSS-BJP government in India, targeting minorities, especially Muslims, for racist and violent acts, has launched a campaign of baseless and false allegations against the staff of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi.

In a statement, the minister said under the international law, preventing the Pakistan High Commission from discharging its diplomatic duties and

arresting and torturing diplomatic staff was a heinous and highly reprehensible act.

The aim of vicious campaign, he said, was to cover up its crimes, to avoid global stigma against its treatment with minorities and divert attention from state terrorism against unarmed Kashmiris in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The international community should take note of India's actions and hold New Delhi accountable for its violations of diplomatic and international laws. India is guilty of aggression against all its neigh-

bours in the region, said Senator Shibli Faraz. Indian mischief and expansionist mindset had forced even a peace-loving and progressive country like China to deploy its army on Indian border.

He said similar news were reported in the media regarding Nepal. Shibli Faraz said unilateral and illegal Indian action in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, an internationally recognized unresolved dispute was a clear violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international laws and a charge sheet against New Delhi.

Flights for Saudi Arabia doubled: Zulfi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari Monday said the government had augmented number of repatriation flights for Saudi Arabia to airlift maximum number of stranded nationals from the gulf country under the current phase.

"We have nearly doubled

flights and capacity to bring back stranded Pakistanis from Saudi Arabia specially Riyadh-planning it with bigger aircrafts to accommodate dead bodies," he tweeted while sharing the complete repatriation schedule for those citizens who were to be repatriated from Saudi Arabia between June 1 and June 10 (Current Phase).

"Logistical management between two countries during a pandemic is a great challenge, I am grateful to OPs for the patience," he added

to his tweet while expressing gratitude to the stranded Pakistanis for their endurance amid the global pandemic (COVID-19). The SAPM also shared number of flights, arranged in previous and current phases to bring back the nationals from Saudi Arabia. According to the details, the government has airlifted 1,780 stuck nationals from Saudi Arabia through eight special flights, operated between May 23 and May 31.



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour meets Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid at Ministry of Railways. – DNA

'Indian action violation of norms'

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Charge d'Affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office for a strong demarche, conveying Pakistan's condemnation of the Indian decision to declare two officials of the High Commission for Pakistan in New Delhi persona non grata and rejection of all baseless Indian allegations against the High Commission officials.

It was conveyed that the Indian action was in clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the diplomatic norms.

Law minister resigns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Farogh Nasim has tendered his resignation to represent the federation in the Presidential Reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the Supreme Court. In a statement issued on Monday, he said he has great respect for the honorable judges and the judiciary. Farogh Nasim said he has no personal vendetta with any person, judge, Bar Council or a lawyer, not even with Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Sunnis shrines in Syria

Iran not involved in destruction

Publication of such fake news is an attempt to create divisions among the followers of Islamic sects and to provoke public opinions, feelings and emotions; this only benefits the international Zionism and enemies of the Muslim world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the news of the destruction of the holy shrines of the Sunnis in Syria and its connection with this Islamic Republic as a vicious scenario and a pre-planned conspiracy, and strongly rejects it. Undoubtedly, the publi-

cation of such fake news is an attempt to create divisions among the followers of Islamic sects and to provoke public opinions, feelings and emotions; this only benefits the international Zionism and enemies of the Muslim world. It is emphasized that any disrespect to the graves of the deceased and historical sites has no place in

the school of Islam. The perpetrators of this crime certainly do not have a correct understanding of this heavenly religion and must be held accountable before God. All journalists and members of the media are urged to refrain from spreading any rumors, based on their responsibility to provide professional information.

Virus cases decrease in Tajikistan

The heads of health departments and heads of hospitals reported on the current state of detection

DUSHANBE: The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population held a meeting of its COVID-19 Prevention Commission. Minister Jamoliddin Abdullozoda, his Deputies Saida Umarzoda, Mirhamuddin Kamolzoda, heads of health departments, and heads of hospitals of cities and districts attended the meeting. Initially, the heads of health departments and heads of hospitals reported on the current state of detection, examination and treatment of COVID-19. According to the data, the daily number of people infected with the virus is gradually reducing. The meeting also focused on the issues relating to the treatment of COVID-19 patients with moderate symptoms, and providing doctors with protective equipment and antiviral medications. – DNA

'Russia to hold reforms vote on July 1'

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that a delayed vote on constitutional reforms allowing him to potentially stay in power beyond 2024 would be held on July 1. "We will carry out the national vote on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation on July 1," Putin said in a video-call with election officials, after the vote was delayed from April because of the coronavirus pandemic. – APP

'PTI govt taking care of masses'

Petrol prices have been slashed by 37 rupees: Gill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill has said the government has reduced prices of petroleum products up to 56.89 rupees per liter on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan during the lockdown.

In a tweet on Monday, he said petrol prices have been slashed by 37 rupees per liter, high speed diesel 42 rupees, kerosene oil 57 rupees, and light diesel 39 rupees during the last two months.

China upholding its sovereignty: Zhao

We have unimpeded communication channels and we believe through dialogue and consultation; terms US action against black community uncalled for

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China was committed to upholding its national sovereignty and security as well as stability along the border with India, Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson on Monday said in response to a question on Indian defence minister's remarks in the backdrop of China-India standoff.

"We have been committed to upholding our national sovereignty and security as well as stability along our borders," Zhao Lijian said in his regular briefing held here while responding to a question on Indian Defence Minister Singh's remarks that India will

not allow its dignity harmed in the border issue.

The spokesperson said that the Chinese side had been implementing the consensus between the two country's leaders. Now the overall situation in China-India border areas was stable and controllable.

"We have unimpeded communication channels and we believe through dialogue and consultation, we can properly resolve the relevant issues," he added.

The border standoff between China and India was triggered by India's construction of roads and air strips in the region. On May 5, the Chinese and Indian military personnel clashed with iron rods, sticks and even



resorted to stone-pelting in the Pangong Tso lake area in which soldiers on both sides sustained injuries. The Chinese and Indian troops have engaged in a growing number of brawls and other low-level clashes on their sprawling bor-

der, including a recent standoff at the Naku La Pass which connects China's Tibet and the Indian state of Sikkim.

Nearly 150 Indian and Chinese military personnel were engaged in a face-off near Naku La Pass in the Sikkim sector on May 9. At least 10 soldiers from both sides sustained injuries. China still claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory under New Delhi's control.

Meanwhile, China called racism "a chronic disease of American society" on Monday as protests spread across the US following the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of police. The unrest shows "the severity

of the problems of racism and police violence in the US", foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a regular press briefing in Beijing.

Meanwhile Beijing warned Washington Monday of retaliation after President Donald Trump announced restrictions on Chinese students in the US in protest over a new national security law in Hong Kong.

"Any words and actions that harm the interests of China will be met with counter-attacks on the Chinese side," said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, following Trump's move to also strip a number of Hong Kong's special privileges with the US.

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Briefs

PNCA concludes live show

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: PNCA concluded its eight-day marathon daily live program through which the council remained active during all the Eid holidays and beyond via a daily online live program featuring big names of Pakistani entertainment industry.

"Series of these online engagements began as a four day program bringing known artists as guests to people's homes with the title of "Eid ke Mehman. Since due to corona-virus, people could not visit each other on Eid, we wanted to make sure we brought Eid guests to people's homes" said DG PNCA Dr Foza Saeed in her live Facebook Session. Legendary actors of the country such as Mohammad Qavi, Irfan Khoosat, Qavi Khan, Khalid Ahmad and Shahid M Nadeem have been featured in the live interviews who brought smiles for people stranded in their homes for Eid.

Infinix Launches Hot 9 play

ISLAMABAD: Infinix, the premium smartphone brand known for its innovative and state-of-the-art devices, has just launched the addition to its best-selling Hot 9, the Infinix Hot 9 play. The new phone comes with huge 6000 mAh to treat power users, a 6.8" HD+ cinematic display, dual rear camera with AI, and ample storage. The Hot 9 play has, 2GB/32GB with dedicated micro SD card slot and will be available at an affordable price of Rs. 15,999 in markets across Pakistan. The device would be seen in four attractive colour options; Violet, Ocean Wave, and Quetzal Cyan and Midnight black. The Infinix Hot 9 play is fitted with a 6.8-inch HD plus cinematic display, designed to enhance the consumer's viewing experience. The phone runs Android 10 with XOS 6 on top and features a massive 6,000mAh slimmer battery, with 34-day standby life. On the front camera, the buyers get an 8 MP primary camera with flashlight, and on the rear, there's a 13MP AI lens with triple LED flash light. - DNA

Local LPG price decreased

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday issued a price-revision notification of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for the month of June decreasing the locally produced LPG price by Rs 24.59 per cylinder of 11.8 kilogram. According to the notification, the authority said after the revised prices, the cylinder would be sold in open market at Rs 1,298.31, which was available for Rs1,322.90 during the month of May. Whereas, the per Metric Ton (MT) LPG rate has been fixed at Rs 110,027.44 for the current month. The commodity sale price per MT was Rs 112,110.63 during the month. - APP

E&P COs plant 561,090 saplings

ISLAMABAD: Oil and gas Exploration & Production (E&P) companies have so far planted 561,090 saplings in different parts of the country under the Prime Minister's Clean and Green Pakistan campaign. Petroleum Division, being an important stakeholder, is actively participating in the tree plantation drive of the federal government through E&P operators, a spokesperson for the Petroleum Division said in a news release on Monday. "Till date, as many as 561,090 number of trees have been planted by 12 operators cumulatively at their own expense, out of which 148,017 have been planted during tenure of the current government," he said. The ENI and Mari Petroleum companies stood top contributors by planting 50,000 plus saplings and 34,457 trees respectively during tenure of the current government. APP

PTI to revive drama industry

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Senator Faisal Javed Khan said on Monday that Prime Minister Imran Khan believed that drama would pave the way to revive the industry in Pakistan. Turkish drama serial "Ertugral" is a gift from Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan to prime minister Imran Khan, both are deeply concerned to teach young generation about the real Islamic heroes and values, talking to a private news channel he mentioned. He said that he considered it a huge opportunity for Pakistani drama industry as it would compel the industry bigwigs to change the substance of stories from typical to educational and motivational. "Unfortunately book reading has been declined totally and quite a few people read history books, so the television is the only best mode to teach our upcoming generations regarding our true values and cultural norms," he stated. - APP

Water inflow in rivers jumps

ISLAMABAD: Water inflow in major rivers has significantly surged owing to the rainy spell besides shooting up mercury level and on Monday it stood at 271,700 cusecs against outflow of 280,700 cusecs. According to the data released by Indus River System Authority (IRSA) water inflow in the Indus River at Tarbela was recorded as 105,000 cusecs against outflow of 108,300 cusecs. The water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1445.36 feet, which was 59.36 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Similarly, water inflow in the Jhelum River at Mangla dam was witnessed as 57,700 cusecs against outflow of 70,000 cusecs. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister Malik Amin Aslam and World Bank Country Director Illango Patchamuthu witnessing exchanging documents after signing ceremony of agreement of US\$ 188 Million Hydromet and Ecosystem Restoration Project between Ministry of Climate Change and World Bank. - DNA

IEP-RIC continues online lectures' series in wake of COVID-19

Chairman IEP-RIC, Engr. Hafiz M. Ehsan ul Haq Qazi hoped that the people from the engineering profession will take benefit of the online lectures, during the crisis period in wake of coronavirus

SAIFULLAH BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Institution of Engineers, Pakistan, Rawalpindi-Islamabad Centre (IEP-RIC) continued its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities during the lockdown period of COVID-19. As many as seven lectures were delivered online during the recent days by Vice Chancellor Karkarum International University, Gilgit-Baltistan Engr. Prof.

Dr. Attaullah Shah who is also vice chairman of the local chapter of IEP.

It was announced here on Sunday that the IEP intends to continue this online courses till the effect of COVID-19.

According to Secretary IEP-RIC Gp Captain (r) Engr. Najamuddin the series are aimed at professional development and capacity's building of the engineers, enabling them to play their positive and effective role in the country's socio-economic development. Dr. Attaullah Shah pointed out that Covid-19 pandemic has forced a sudden economic shift from physical to digital. There have been different topics of the lectures that include environmental impact assessment on sound



decision-making in carrying out a specific project. In this connection, Dr. Atta also talked about major environmental components. He also highlighted the matters relating to project planning and controlling in

public sector. Chairman IEP-RIC, Engr. Hafiz M. Ehsan ul Haq Qazi hoped that the people from the engineering profession will take benefit of the online lectures, during the crisis period in wake of coronavirus. The Center will continue to serve the cause of engineering community, mainly through various professional development activities, he assured. He prayed that the nation may get rid of the deadly virus at the earliest.

President terms doctors 'heroes'

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday termed the doctors as heroes who lost their lives in fight against coronavirus, saying the nation acknowledged their sacrifice. "Nation thanks them, who have sacrificed their lives and health professionals who are at increasing risk," the president tweeted on death of pathologist Dr Aurangzeb and pediatrician Dr Muhammad Azam Khan due to COVID-19 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The President offered condolences to the families of the deceased doctors and said, "They are our heroes". Dr Arif Alvi said, "But as we recognize them, we must insist that we practice SOPs. Wear masks, wash hands and keep social distance everywhere." - APP

1,150 teams engaged in killing locust

ISLAMABAD: As many as 1,150 joint teams of community, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Provincial Agriculture Departments and Pakistan Army have been engaged in conducting locusts control operation in across country affected districts. According to National Locust Control Centre (NLCC) official, the spraying of 2,743 sq kilometre areas of Balochistan, 1,489 of Punjab, 394 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 294 sq kilometre areas of Sindh has so far been carried out by the joint teams. Some 4,151.2 litre high-intensity insecticide spray was sprinkled directly on the huge swarms of locust in 49 sq kilometre areas of the country by the joint teams in the last 24 hours. While the survey of 3,633 sq kilometre areas was conducted during the same period. The surveillance of 234,904 Sq kilometre has so far been carried out while the operation has been conducted in 492,000 hectare areas to kill the locusts. The joint teams had the support of spraying machines, tractors, spray planes and helicopters to combat the locust. - APP

RCCI welcomes decrease in POL prices

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has welcomed the reduction in prices of petroleum products by the government and said that it would reduce transportation costs. However, diesel prices should be further reduced. The effects of lower prices should be brought on other utility items as well. In a statement, RCCI President Saboor Malik said that fares should also be fixed on a monthly basis on the basis of increase or decrease in petroleum products. It has been observed that when petrol and diesel went up, the fares go up but when price fell down, the fares are not reduced. He further said that we demand immediate relief from the government in terms of fuel adjustment in electricity bills and also reduction in per unit price. The government should activate price control committees via district administration to reduce transport fares and prices of other commodities, he suggested. The price of CNG should also be regulated to maintain a competitive atmosphere. Crude oil is currently available in the international market at very low price. The government must avail this opportunity and provide maximum relief to masses.

AIOU to accept web-based results also

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: AIOU has announced that it will accept web-based provincial certificate (result) to facilitate its students taking admissions in Spring, 2020 semester. As per the announcement, the eligible students could apply for admission for MA, MSc, M.Ed, B.Ed, BS, BA, BBA, Associate Degree and Post Graduate Diplomas till June 5, along with the required documents. Recently declared results have been placed at the University's official website and simultaneously, result intimation cards were issued to the students at their postal address.

11 Gamblers arrested

MUNIR FAISAL

ATTOCK: As many as 11 gamblers were booked besides recovering bet money amounting Rs 36,000, 08 cell phones, from their possession and arrested during raids at their gambling dens in various parts of attock on Monday. Spokesman of police informed that in a crackdown against the anti social elements Attock Bather police got information that some people were busy in playing gambling in the area during course of action police arrested the Seven gamblers identified as Abdul Rasheed, Rafaqat Khan, Ghulam Saifder, Muhammad Amtaz, Hamza Shoukat, Babar

Khan and Gullab Khan besides recovering Rs 10,900 and Four mobile phones from their custody. Basal Police raided at a gambling den and arrested four persons while gambling identified as Pervaz Akhtar, Muhammad Ali, Naseeb Khan and Ghulam Hussain besides recovering Rs 25,100 and 04 mobile phones from their possession. During crackdown, the police seized bet money worth thousands of rupees, cell phones and gambling tools. Police have registered separate cases against all of them under gambling act. District Police Officer (DPO) Khalid Hamdani appreciated the performance of attock police team.

AIOU to enrol students till June 5

The installment facility will be open for the students who apply online through admission portal on the University website on or before the extended date of admissions June 5

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced that it will enroll students for its Post-Graduate and Bachelors-level programs (Semester Spring 2020) up to June 5. Applications for admission will be accepted only for MA, MSc, M.Ed, B.Ed, BS, BA, BBA, Associate Degree and Post Graduate Diplomas. The details and eligibility criteria along with admission forms to apply in these programs is available on the University's website www.aiou.edu.pk. Fresh and continuing students of the AIOU are encouraged to

apply Online through admission portal. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum had extended the date for the admissions till June 5, in order to facilitate the students of AIOU, hoping that the current crisis situation in wake of COVID-19 will not stop their pursuit to get higher education. He had further stated that the

AIOU will take every possible step to facilitate its students who are eager to obtain and continue their education for the uplift of their families, society and the Nation. Meanwhile, the AIOU has decided to help its new and continuing students by giving them option to pay their semester fee in two installments.

The decision was taken by the Vice Chancellor due to the crisis situation. As per the decision the new and continuing students of the University are being provided the optional facility to pay their fee for the admissions in MA, MSc, M.Ed, B.Ed, BS, BA, BBA, Associate Degree and Post Graduate Diplomas in two equal installments. The date for first installment has been fixed as June 5, while the date of second installment will be July 17. The installment facility will be open for the students who apply online through admission portal on the University website on or before the extended date of admissions June 5.



New hardships

WORK done over years and even decades to reduce child poverty and hunger could be undone very rapidly by the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Unicef and Save the Children. The agencies warn that the pandemic could push as many as 86 million children into poverty by the end of 2020 according to a new joint study. This would bring the total number of children affected severely by poverty to 672 million, an increase of 15 percent over last year. Nearly two thirds of the children currently in poverty live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. But new poverty is expected mainly in Europe and Central Asia.

The suffering of families around the world is in fact expected to be immense. The UN World Food Programme has warned that in Latin America, which is currently being ravaged by the coronavirus, up to 14 million people could go hungry. This is the result of jobs disappearing in a continent where there is a large informal labour workforce.

The WFP projections are frightening. While 3.4 million experienced severe food insecurity in 2019, that number could quadruple this year in Latin America, one of the world's most vulnerable regions. The WFP also points out that this data is based on the 11 countries where it works and that the precise situation in other nations such as Venezuela where one in every three people faced hunger last year is not known.

Currently, Brazil ranks second, after the US, in the number of coronavirus infections, where numbers are rising. They are also increasing rapidly in Peru, Chile and Mexico and the WFP fears that 130 million people could be pushed to the brink of starvation. Heads of families say they are no longer able to cope and there are red and white flags on more and more roofs in the continent denoting people who are seeking food help.

Save the Children has warned that in any situation where hunger rises, children are among the most vulnerable. The UN and other agencies have urged governments to do more to invest in social protection and alter fiscal policies to create employment alongside labour interventions. It has already been noted by experts that countries with stronger welfare policies and infrastructure have fared better in fighting the crisis.

The UN has warned that quality healthcare and family-friendly policies are essential at this moment. The WFP also states the problem being confronted is in many ways a unique one and will need collective work and thinking to try and rescue people.

This can obviously only happen if governments put people first of all and are willing to cut other expenditures to support those who have been pushed into poverty and with it hunger.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

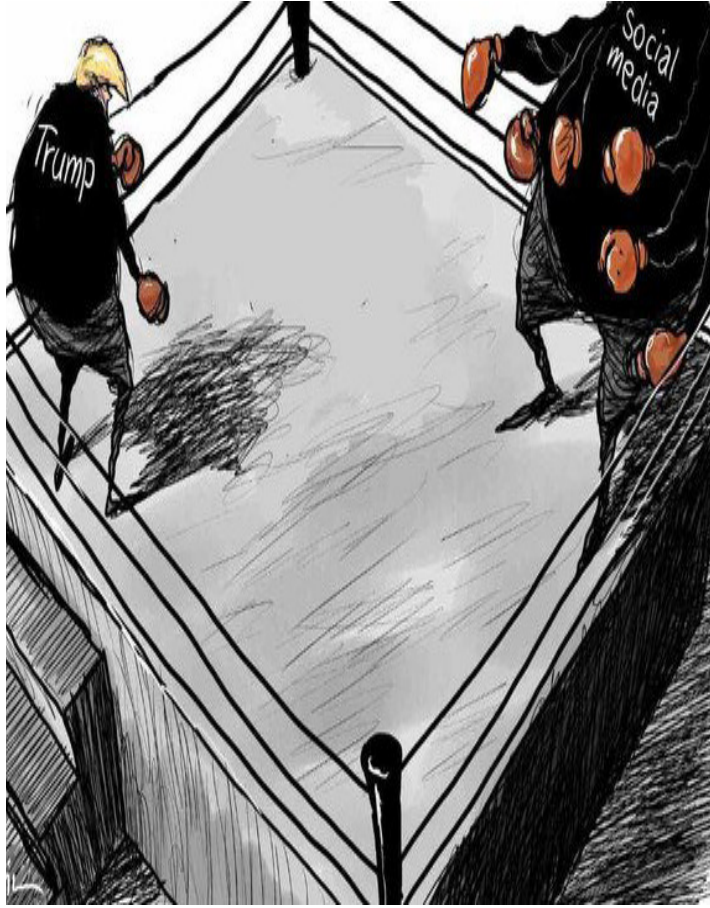
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 60

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Technology times

WHILE there is speculation around the world on how the coronavirus pandemic may change the pattern of life itself, it is obvious that the problem with the long lockdowns necessitated by it in many countries has brought forward the significance of technology in our age. As a result, people who had never used a laptop or a tablet before have turned to it to meet work or social needs.

By the time Covid-19 goes away, if at all, we will have an expanded population of persons who are expertly able to use technology ranging from forums such as FaceTime and Skype to interact with family members they cannot meet to other programmes which allow complicated data to be shared to the workplace, allowing giant corporations, banks and also small businesses to run smoothly and effectively.

The finding by large companies that technology can aid them in this fashion has also meant persons who are disabled or are retired on the basis of ill health or age are able to rejoin the workforce.

Karachi-based organization NOWPDP has facilitated people with physical challenges to use their computers to get back into the job market and also take advantage of the greater demand for work completed online during the Covid pandemic which has emptied out offices and other places of work. We could then see in the future many people who are currently out of the workforce including senior citizens, those with mobility issues or even those who lack transport find a way to re-enter work and earn livelihoods.

This could have a huge impact on workspaces, on the job market and on earning ability. There have also been discoveries about just how effective social media can be for those seeking to start small businesses. Of course, the sheer amount of time they have on their hands because they have lost their jobs may be a factor in this.

But students, the unemployed, the elderly and others have in many cases adapted simple apps such as Instagram to market goods they manufacture at home ranging from edible goodies to decorative items, masks or home appliances which are cheaper than those available in the market. All this means that we will indeed see change in the future.

There are also those who argue that the manner in which we have leaned on technology may also help us find a balance between using it constantly, for example on our mobile phones and going back to older ways of communicating around family dinner tables or through games played with boards and cards. The future will be fascinating. We hope of course that it will not be long before lives return to some kind of normalcy, but precisely how this 'normalcy' will be framed remains something of a question mark.

Uzbek Ambassador Furqat Sidiqov's valuable services

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan Furqat Sidiqov had a fruitful meeting at the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad during which both sides expressed their desire to enhance trade relations between the two countries, establishing joint ventures in the fields of agriculture, textile, pharma, tourism and construction

potentials which ambassador SIDIQOV successfully explored and untapped for the betterment of bilateral relations of both the countries.

Diplomacy is a sensitive job which requires height of professionalism and human traits and Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV is the ideal combination of both the arts through which he revolutionized the nature, composition, utility and prospects of Uzbekistan-Pakistan bilateral relations. He has been an innovative, purposeful, and result oriented diplomat in Pakistan who successfully demonstrated real beauty and economic potential of his beloved country, Uzbekistan, the land of human wisdom and knowledge.

He has been pioneer of cultural, people, commercial, digital and last but not least military diplomacy in Pakistan. He has been a living wire even in diplomatic community in Islamabad who always institutionalized true colors of Uzbekistan's diversity, rich culture, heritage, traditions, civilization, humanity and hospitality in national receptions, seminars, conferences and events.

Many prominent experts of modern diplomacy pinpoint three important benchmarks to evaluate overall performance of an ambassadorial slot i.e. close political affiliation/consultation or better understanding, rise to bilateral trade volumes, business and commerce activities, rise to commercial diplomacy and last but not least cultural ties and Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV undoubtedly, achieved a grand success in all these fields of diplomacy and professional career during his stay in Pakistan.

Uzbekistan-Pakistan bilateral relations were further strengthened during ambassadorial tenure of Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV because of the better political understanding, improvement in bilateral trade volumes, phenomenal rise to tourism and last but not least joint efforts to bring peace and harmony in the region especially in Afghanistan.

According to latest statistical data of Board of Investment and finance ministry (March, 2020), trade turnover of Uzbekistan with Pakistan reached more than 122 million dollars in 2019. In 2018 the volume was estimated at 98 million dollars while in 2017 it was just 36.6 million. Through rigorous commercial diplomacy of Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV bilateral trade may reach to US\$300 million in the days to come. Thanks to his immaculate qualities of commercial diplomacy, trade & commerce and people-to-people connectivity, the Republic of Uzbekistan has now become one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan in Central Asian Region (CAR). Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's passionate persuasions of commercial diplomacy, close consultation and motivation with interested Pakistani businessmen, investors and of course partners, Uzbekistan has succeeded to seek investments in restaurants, hotels, trade companies, textile and pharmaceutical factories, and chemical industries of Uzbekistan.

He successfully institutionalized concept of "Uzbek-Pakistani Joint ventures" as well as establishment of trade representation in Tashkent, which both countries ac-

knowledgeable beneficial for further development of mutually valuable trade and economic cooperation as one of the key priorities in bilateral relations. As a true serviceman of his country and expert of international marketing he introduced the Uzbekistan's agricultural-machinery in Pakistan with the possibilities of exporting the output to contiguous countries expanding from year to year. He arranged various "Road-Shows" for the projection of Uzbek agricultural machinery in different cities of Pakistan i.e. Multan, Karachi and Sialkot.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's had urged Pakistani farmers to explore possibilities of importing Uzbekistan manufactured high quality tractors, agriculture machinery, heavy duty trucks and buses that would help in improving agriculture productivity and transportation facilities in Pakistan. Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's has been staunch supporter of greater socio-economic integration and regional connectivity. He always showed his country keen interest to be part of the CPEC, reaching Pakistani sea ports Gwadar and Karachi.



Most recently, he signed a meaningful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood to establish a 'Joint Working Group' for trade and investment. Being pioneer of bilateral, trilateral or cluster trading propositions, he assured the Uzbek support to join Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA).

Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan Furqat Sidiqov had a fruitful meeting at the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad during which both sides expressed their desire to enhance trade relations between the two countries, establishing joint ventures in the fields of agriculture, textile, pharma, tourism and construction.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan also agreed on greater utilisation of the institutions like Inter-Governmental Commission and Joint Business Council for giving impetus to Government to Government and Business to Business cooperation.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV established Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Council which instrumented to realize mutual untapped potential and will of business circles of both the countries towards further enhancing trade & investment cooperation, economic coordination, investments, tourism and cultural collaboration as well as to

bring private sectors' active interaction.

For the further strengthening of bilateral relations, the Business Council proved a game changer and organized more than 30 bilateral business visits to Uzbekistan and Pakistan as well as organized 63 Pak-Uzbek business forums in the cities Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Karachi, Multan, Rawalpindi, Swabi and others. Moreover, 200 Pakistani companies visited Uzbekistan in order to hold negotiations on the matters of export and import of wide range of goods and to realize joint investment projects.

Due to his assiduous advocacy Pakistani importers showed their interest in Uzbek textile yarns, petrochemical products, 100% natural and healthy fruit-vegetables, red & white kidney beans, green mugs, peas, pure Uzbek silk products and agricultural machinery. On the other hand, Uzbek importers got interested in Pakistani ready textile and leather garments, pharmacy, sugar and potatoes as well as mango and kinnows. As a result of this, in 2018-2019 years Uzbekistan became main trade partner of Pakistan in Central Asian states.

It is worth mentioning that he separately worked out establishment of trade houses of five cities of Pakistan which deemed to project trade & commerce potential of Namangan province of Uzbekistan. Through these trade houses volumes of import-export of Uzbekistan-Pakistan would be further increased.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV was the pioneer of religious diplomacy in Pakistan and introduced "Ziarat tourism" which achieved a grand success. He institutionalized the initiative of Uzbekistan's president to develop "Ziarat Tourism" for foreign pilgrims. He developed religious tourism quickly and created the most favourable conditions for tourists.

His sincere efforts showcasing his country religious treasure to rest of the world and especially Pakistan motivated them to pay homage to great Islamic scholars and thinkers such as Al-Khorazmi, Al-Beruni, Imom Al-Bukhari, Bahouddin Naqshbandi, Al-Motrudiy, At-Termiziy and others.

He truly projected greatness and holiness of ancient and precious cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez, Kokand and Namangan among Pakistani tourists which has been geared up having direct flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan (Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent in April 2017).

Because of his untiring efforts, direct flights from Tashkent to Lahore and from Lahore to Tashkent were resumed. Annually 12 thousand passengers of Pakistan use this direction. It served as an only bridge connecting Pakistan with Central Asian countries.

He has been center of gravity in terms of greater socio-economic integration, high bilateral trade volumes, regional connectivity, booming commercial diplomacy, military ties, tourism, cultural activities and last but not least, close liaison of political understanding. The CGSS, Pakistan wishes him great success in all his future ministerial commitments.

Besides Pakistan, India's Dangerous Strategy against China and Nepal

Sajjad Shaukat



Indian fanatic rulers are escalating tensions with Pakistan to divert attention from the drastic situation of the IoK and other internal matters like failure of Modi's economic policies

IN his book, 'The Prince', Machiavelli advises the rulers to have a lion-like image outwardly, and act upon the traits of goat inwardly. He also suggests them, the use of terror to obtain their goals and foreign adventures to divert the attention of public from internal crises. In his sense, a good ruler should be a good opportunist and hypocrite. It is regrettable that since Narendra Modi, the leader of the ruling party BJP, became Indian prime minister, he has been following the discarded tactics of Machiavelli in the modern era of renunciation of war, peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development. Taking the risk of nuclear war, besides Pakistan, Indian extremist Premier Modi is acting upon the dangerous strategy against China and Nepal.

In this regard, PM Modi, BJP, RSS and VHP are acting upon ideology of Hindutva (Hindu Nationalism). Indian extremist rulers' various moves such as abrogation of the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir to turn Muslim majority into minority in the Occupied Kashmir (IOK), continued lockdown in the IOK, martyrdom of thousands of the Kashmiris there, introduction of new domicile law against the majority of Kashmiris to completely end any sort of dialogue with Islamabad to settle the Kashmir dispute, persecution of religious minorities especially Muslims, anti-Muslim laws-CAA/NRC, under the guise of coronavirus, discriminatory policies against the Muslims, assaults on Muslims by the fanatic Hindus, blaming Indian Muslims and Pakistan for spreading of

this novel virus in India and imposing various restrictions on the Muslims are notable.

Implementing the August 5 announcement of last year, Indian central government issued a notorious map on October 31, 2019. In accordance with it, Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and identifies Pakistani side of Azad Kashmir as well as certain areas of Gilgit-Baltistan as an Indian territory. In this respect, Pakistan Foreign Office has said in a statement that Islamabad "rejects these political maps, which were incompatible with the United Nations' maps....no move by India could change the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir...India's expansionist intention has manifested itself in another dangerous move of formally annexing Indian-held Kashmir." China also objected to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories as "unlawful and void", adding that India's decision to "include" some of China's territory into its administrative jurisdiction "challenged" Beijing's sovereignty.

While, Indian fanatic rulers are escalating tensions with Pakistan to divert attention from the drastic situation of the IoK and other internal matters like failure of Modi's economic policies and have continued shelling inside Pakistani side of Kashmir by violating the ceasefire agreement in relation to the Line of Control (LoC).

Meanwhile, on May 5, this year, tensions escalated between India and Nepal and India and China, which resulted into loss

of face for India. In this connection, thousands of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops moved into sensitive areas along the eastern Ladakh border, setting up tents and stationing vehicles and heavy machinery in what India considers its territory. China's actions have been in response to India's construction of roads and airstrips adjacent to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which will improve connectivity and enable easier mobility for Indian troops in the area.

Besides, two skirmishes between forces of the two countries on 5 and 9 May in the border areas of Pangong Lake and North Sikkim in Ladakh injured more than 100 soldiers from both sides. In response, the Indian army has moved several battalions from an infantry division usually based in the Ladakh city of Leh to "operational alert areas" along the border. Meanwhile, Zhao Lijian, Chinese spokesman for ministry of foreign affairs said: "China is committed to safeguarding the security of its national territorial sovereignty, as well as safeguarding peace and stability in the China-India border areas." In this context, Chinese official newspaper Global wrote: "Long Xingchun from Beijing Foreign Studies University said the latest border friction was a planned move by New Delhi...India in recent days has illegally constructed defence facilities across the border into Chinese territory in the Galwan Valley region, leaving Chinese border defence troops no other options but making necessary moves in response, and mounting the risk of escalating standoffs and conflicts between the two sides."

Briefs

Merkel declines Trump invite for in-person G7 summit

DNA

BERLIN: A German government spokesman has confirmed that Chancellor Angela Merkel will not attend an in-person summit of world leaders that President Donald Trump has suggested he will host in the United States despite concerns over the coronavirus. Leaders from the G7 had been scheduled to meet by videoconference in late June after the pandemic scuttled plans to gather in-person at Camp David, the US presidential retreat. Trump last week, however, indicated that he could hold the huge gathering after all, "primarily at the White House" but also potentially parts of it at Camp David, in Maryland state.

QAU among top 500 best Varsities

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has been ranked at 454 in top 500 universities of the world in 2020 by The Times Higher Education, a world university rankings institution. QAU remarkably improved in the ranking from 511 to 454 in the last 15 months at global level while it has also achieved 79 position in Asia. It is worth mentioning that QAU is the only university of the Pakistan who ranked among top 500 by all best ranking agencies of the world like, world times ranking, QS ranking and United States times and world news ranking agency. The university spokesman while talking to APP said it was really an excellent news with the start of the semester. He also congratulated to all dedicated faculty members, students, staff, alumni and of course the worthy Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Ali, who as a leader facilitated, motivated and provided such an conducive environment to make such things happened.

Court extends remand of Mir Shakil

LAHORE: An accountability court on Monday extended judicial remand of Editor-in-Chief of Jang Group Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman (MSR) in illegal plots allotment case till June 15. Accountability Court Judge Syed Jawadul Hassan conducted the case proceedings. The court adjourned the matter after a brief hearing, wherein NAB Prosecutor Asim Mumtaz and defence counsel Chaudhry Auranzaib appeared. However, the jail authorities did not produce Mir Shakil before the court due to COVID-19 protocol. Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman was taken into custody following his appearance in the anti-corruption watchdog's office in Lahore on March 12 after he failed to give satisfactory answers during interrogation. - APP

Saudi Arabia confirms Yemen donors' conference with UN next week

Millions of people need aid in Yemen, whose government was removed from the capital, Sanaa, by Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in 2014. The next year, a Saudi-led military coalition intervened to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power

DNA

DOHA: Saudi Arabia has confirmed it will host a virtual donors' conference next week for Yemen together with the United Nations, which has said the conflict-riven nation risks being overwhelmed by the coronavirus. The state-run Saudi Press Agency cited a directive from King Salman confirming Tuesday's donor conference with which the UN aims to raise \$2.4bn in one of the biggest aid oper-

ations so far. "If we don't get the funding we need and if more isn't done to suppress the virus, COVID-19 could engulf Yemen," Lise Grande, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, said in a statement.

Millions of people need aid in Yemen, whose government was removed from the capital, Sanaa, by Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in 2014. The next year, a Saudi-led military coalition intervened to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power. Yemen has reported nearly 300 infec-

tions and 55 deaths so far, amounting to a fatality rate of 20 percent, compared with a global average estimated by the UN at seven percent.

Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), last week said aid workers in Yemen were forced to turn people away because of a lack of medical oxygen or sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. Meanwhile, questions have been

raised over Saudi Arabia's involvement in the donor conference, given that it has been accused of war crimes in Yemen. Laerke said the UN had voiced concerns "forcefully and vocally" over alleged abuses committed by all the sides in the five-year war. He, however, added that Saudi Arabia was also the largest humanitarian donor to Yemen in recent years. "They gave very large amounts of money. They gave it unconditionally, no strings attached," he said, adding that the billions in Saudi donations

had helped fight cholera outbreaks and looming famines.

War-ravaged Yemen, whose malnourished population has among the world's lowest immunity levels to disease, is divided between the Saudi-backed government based in Aden and its foe, the Houthi group in the north. The war has left tens of thousands of people dead, most of them civilians, and the UN says around 24 million Yemenis - more than two-thirds of the country's population - rely on some form of aid.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi visiting Parliament House to review arrangements for the forthcoming session on June 01, 2020. - DNA

Visits Parliament House to review SOPs

Alvi for joint efforts to fight pandemic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for proper implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) against coronavirus in the Parliament House during the upcoming budget session. During a visit to the Parliament House building to review arrangements for the budget session, the President stressed for effective steps in Upper and Lower Houses to contain the spread of COVID-19 during the important session. The President has already summoned the Senate session on June 5, which will coincide with the budget sitting of the National Assembly that has already been

convened to meet the same day.

For the budget session, the President urged for taking necessary measures such as social distancing, wearing masks and frequent hand-washing.

Dr Alvi said it would also convey an effective message to public about their representatives taking proper precautionary measures against the virus.

He stressed for putting in-place SOPs for media coverage, both in press gallery and in the outer premises of Parliament House and also proposed an option of video-link for journalists.

The President said he was monitoring the cases of coronavirus in the country on daily basis and had observed a spike

in diagnosed cases and deaths in last few days.

He stressed for coordinated efforts of the nation to fight the pandemic effectively.

Secretary National Assembly Tahir Hussain briefed the President about the safety arrangements in the Parliament House during budget session.

The President was apprised that SOPs on coronavirus were properly adopted in the previous session of National Assembly as well and the SOPs for budget session will be discussed in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser on the occasion said there was a need for raising more awareness in public about coronavirus.

1 mln virus cases in Latin America

BUENOS AIRES: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Latin America passed one million Sunday, according to an online statistical source.

Worldometer reported that the number of infections had reached 1,013,538 while a total of 51,202 people have died so far.

In Brazil, the epicenter of the outbreak in the region, there are over 514,000 cases with the death toll nearing 30,000.

Mexico has reported 90,664 cases and Peru has 164,476 cases. Cases in Chile are near 100,000 and over 39,000 in Ecuador. In Colombia, the number of confirmed cases is over 27,000, while Argentina has over 16,800 confirmed cases. - APP

WB to provide USD 188 mln for eco system

WB has conveyed its willingness to the government of Pakistan for providing funding support for an ambitious five-year US\$ 188 million 'PHERS' project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank will provide 188 million dollars to Pakistan to support Islamabad's disaster resilience and ecosystem restoration initiatives. In a press release Sunday, Spokesperson of Ministry of Climate Change Muhammad Saleem said that the financial assistance will help to improve reliable and timely weather forecasting, disaster risk management and to tackle growing environmental challenges.

"The World Bank has conveyed its willingness to the government of Pakistan for providing funding support for an ambitious five-year US\$ 188 million

Coronavirus losing potency, top Italian doctor says

DNA

ROME: The new coronavirus is losing its potency and has become much less lethal, a senior Italian doctor said. "In reality, the virus clinically no longer exists in Italy," said Alberto Zangrillo, head of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan in the northern region of Lombardy, which has borne the brunt of Italy's coronavirus outbreak.

"The swabs that were performed over the last 10 days showed a viral load in quantitative terms that was absolutely infinitesimal compared to the ones carried out a month or two months

ago," he told RAI television. Italy has the third-highest death toll in the world from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, with 33,415 people dying since the outbreak came to light on February 21.

It has the sixth-highest global number of cases at 233,019. However, new infections and fatalities have fallen steadily in May and the country is unwinding some of the most rigid lockdown restrictions introduced anywhere in Europe. Zangrillo said some experts were too alarmist about the prospect of a second wave of infections and politicians needed to take into account the new reality.

Pakistan's soybean may move towards self-production with Chinese tech

DNA

CHENGDU (CHINA): China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology has attracted a lot of attention after a recent media's report highlighted two Pakistani students from Sichuan Agricultural University are using and popularizing this technology in their hometown. This technology is universally applicable all over Pakistan. It can boost maize yield as well as create an additional soybean harvest to reduce Pakistan's soybean imports and improve the country's food security," Yang Wenyu, the professor of Sichuan Agricultural University who develops this technology and provides generous support for the two students, said in an interview with Gwadar Pro. "There's a lack of soybean production in Pakistan. Pakistan

is China's iron brother. We are willing to offer support to help Pakistan bridge the gap between domestic production and imports," Yang Wenyu said. It's he who initially formulated the idea of introducing this technology to Pakistan. His team has been supporting the two students Muhammad Ali Raza and Sajad Hussain to make demonstrations in Pakistan both technically and financially the whole time since 2018. The application of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan has theoretical and practical basis. First, Pakistan has a large population while the area of arable land is limited. It has the demand to develop intercropping to grow two crops together.

Second, Pakistan enjoys ample sunlight, which is a favorable natural condition for soybean's growth. Moreover, in the intercropping fields, maize can shade



soybean to reduce high average temperature's impact, and nitrogen fixation by soybean can promote maize's growth in return. The crops in this model are like close partners that cooperate with each other to create bumper harvests. Forecasted by Yang Wenyu, by using maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, the yield of maize can reach 10,500 kg per hectare with an additional 1,350 to 1,650 kg/ha soybean production in Pakistan's irrigated areas. In rainfed areas, the production of maize and soybean can rise to 6,000 kg/ha and 4,500 to

1,500 kg/ha respectively.

At present, maize is grown on an area of about 1.3 million hectares in Pakistan. In this way, the nation's maize yield can be guaranteed and greatly increased. More importantly, Pakistani farmers can harvest considerable soybean meanwhile. That will definitely generate sizeable economic benefit for Pakistani people. At first there were some doubts about the technology's performance because many local farmers hadn't seen this kind of farming model before. "As long as they follow our technical instructions to plant the two crops, this technology is sure to work out," Yang said with confidence. "Actually many countries are researching into intercropping. But across the globe our maize-soybean strip intercropping may be the only mature intercropping system that is well-equipped with all-around technologies of field

configuration, fertilization, pest control, etc. and promoted on such a massive scale." Furthermore, this technology has realized mechanization from sowing seeds, crop management to harvest.

It should be noted that after 18 years' research and development, in February, 2020, Yang Wenyu's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology was included in China's "No. 1 Central Document" of top-priority by CPC Central Committee and the State Council of the People's Republic of China to be promoted vigorously and widely in more regions of China. Besides Pakistan, it also has been introduced to Africa and Europe such as Ghana and Sweden. Yang Wenyu's team is working with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to promote the technology in European countries.

India reports highest spike of 8,392 COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI: India's federal health ministry Monday morning reported 230 new deaths due to COVID-19 and 8,392 more positive cases during the past 24 hours across the country, taking the number of deaths to 5,394 and total cases to 190,535. This was so far the highest single-day spike in the cases. According to officials, 91,819 people have been discharged from hospitals after showing improvement. "The number of active cases in the country right now is 93,322," reads the information. - APP