

Islamabad POST

Tuesday, June 09, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Germany to provide
4 mln Euros, says
Ambassador Bernhard**
**Duth envoy says
Embassy open
for business**
**Kenya to share
experiences to
UNSC: Omamo**


Briefs

**PM for more
funds for
development**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to reduce non-development spending and increase development expenditure in the upcoming budget. He was chairing a high level meeting in Islamabad on Sunday on the proposed budget of the Federal government, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mehmood Khan's economic teams briefed the meeting about their respective province's priorities for the upcoming budget. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan said the budget for next financial year is being presented in exceptional circumstances due to Corona pandemic.

**Khaqan
tests
positive**

DNA

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has tested positive for coronavirus, family sources revealed on Monday. It has been learnt that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who is on bail in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) case, has quarantined himself at home after contracting the virus. On the other hand, COVID-19 cases in Pakistan have passed one lac mark as 103,671 individuals have been affected by the pandemic. The country has confirmed 65 more deaths in one day and the nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,067. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,728 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours.

PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Germany to provide 4 mln Euros

Pakistan honours technical cooperation from the Government of Federal Republic of Germany and looked forward to strengthening bilateral relations in future

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Germany to provide Technical Assistance worth Euro 4 Million for the project "Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Concepts in Cities and Industries" in Pakistan. Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Noor Ahmed and the Ambassador of Germany

to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck, signed an agreement for technical assistance under the Pakistan-Germany Development Programme worth Euro 4 Million, equivalent to PKR 0.7 Billion, said a statement issued by Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs here on Monday. The technical assistance will be provide for the project "Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency Concepts in Cities and Industries" which are well aligned with the priority areas of the Government of Pakistan. Development Cooperation between Pakistan and Germany dates back to 1961, with the funding volume to date totaling more than Euro three billion. Ambassador expressed his desire to enhance the economic cooperation with Pakistan in the future.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Noor Ahmed and the Ambassador of Germany Bernhard Schlagheck, signing d an agreement for technical assistance under the Pakistan-Germany Development Programme. – DNA

**Ireland
hails
Pak 'debt
relief' steps**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday telephoned his Irish counterpart along with the Vice President of Ireland to discuss a plethora of issues of mutual importance. The exchange mainly focused on the coronavirus situation in the two countries along with the world while also underscoring matters pertaining to debt relief. The dignitaries discussed how coronavirus pandemic was one of the biggest threats to global well being and economy in this century and emphasised on the need for a united effort to tackle the issue.

**Cache of
narcotics
recovered**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have recovered cache of narcotics during a joint search and combing operation in last 48 hours conducted along with ANF in various areas of the Capital, a police spokesman said on Monday. According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar khan has directed to launch an effective operation against those involved in menace of drug smuggling. – DNA

Pakistan rubbishes Indian MEA stance

Indian Ministry of External Affairs' statement of 5 June 2020 is continuation of their desperate campaign

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected India's malicious assertions based on complete distortion of facts to advance its false and self-serving narrative. Even the remarks of the Prime Minister of Pakistan have been completely twisted. This mischievous attempt is highly condemnable. According to Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooque, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs'

statement of 5 June 2020 is continuation of their desperate campaign to divert international attention from India's state-terrorism in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) and its continuing crimes against the Kashmiri people. Pakistan has been the principal victim of terrorism, including terrorism perpetrated against our people from across the border. Tens of thousands of our citizens have lost their lives, while thou-

sands of our valiant law enforcement personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice in Pakistan's resolute fight against terrorism. Pakistan's sacrifices and contribution in combating the scourge of terrorism have been recognized by the international community. Senior Indian officials and other Indian commentators have frequently boasted about destabilizing parts of Pakistan and of their nefarious designs to use terrorism as state policy against Pakistan.

**'Dutch embassy
open for business'**

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Netherlands Wouter Plomp has said that both the Netherlands and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations. In a Twitter message he said economic ties between the two countries are progressing steadily. He said in last year they participated in many trade exhibitions and trade missions for which they were grateful to government of Pakistan for making all our efforts successful. He said as we know COVID-19 has hit us hard. We at the embassy are strictly observing all SOPs which mean we will continue working from home. While working from home we are still open for businesses. He said they had a strong economic team at the embassy which was there to assist all those seeking any information regarding businesses.


**Rehman
Malik sues
Cynthia**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and senior PPP leader Senator Rehman Malik sent US blogger Cynthia D Ritchie a Rs500mln defamation notice in response to her allegations that he had raped her. In the legal notice, Malik strongly rejected Ritchie's allegations, saying that the entire episode was a fight for Benazir Bhutto's prestige. He paid tribute to Bhutto by saying that the slain former prime minister was considered a leader of impeccable repute by the entire country. In his notice, the former interior minister said that he would expose the faces behind Ritchie's allegations at the appropriate time. Malik said that he was constantly receiving threats of being sent to jail or killed.

**Over 35,000
Pakistanis
brought
back: NA**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed to day [Monday] that over thirty five thousand stranded Pakistanis have so far been brought back to the country from different parts of the world. Speaking in the National Assembly today, Minister for Communication Murad Saeed pointed out that there are over 1, 22000 overseas Pakistanis who want to return to the country. – DNA

Khalilzad meets Baradar in Doha

DNA

QATAR: The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad and Commander of US forces in Afghanistan General Scott Miller met with the deputy leader for the Taliban Mullah Ghani Baradar in Doha. Suhail Shaheen, the political spokesperson for the Taliban tweeted that the two sides discussed the kick start of the long-awaited intra-Afghan dialogue. "Both sides talked about the speedy release of the prisoners and commencement of intra-Afghan negotiations," Shaheen said. A Taliban official also reported that Taliban leadership, known as Rehbari Shoura,



has approved the commencement of the intra-Afghan talks. Majority of the council members, who met during the month of Ramadan, opined that if parts of the peace agreement with the United States, particularly the release of Taliban prisoners, were implemented then there was no harm in starting the dialogue, a Taliban official familiar with the process has told.

NZ free from corona

WELLINGTON: New Zealand lifted all domestic coronavirus restrictions on Monday after its final COVID-19 patient was given the all clear, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern revealing she danced around her living room when told about the milestone. While strict border controls will remain in place, Ardern said restrictions such as social distancing and limits on public gatherings were no longer needed. "We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now," she said in a televised address, saying Kiwis had "united in unprecedented ways to crush the virus". The South Pacific nation, with a population of five million, has had 1,154 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths. – DNA

Chinese non-govt sector supports Pakistan

Through BGTEA's active endeavours, several medical companies donated supplies to Pakistan. Amidst them, Beijing Anngeen Technologies has donated 5000 COVID-19 test kits worth more than Rs. 18.4 million

DNA

BEIJING: China's non-governmental Associations have been on forefront in supporting Pakistan to combat COVID-19, since the epidemic situation deteriorated there. In order to go through such a difficult time, lots of Chinese non-government associations have donated funds and medical supplies spontaneously. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, last month, Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association (BGTEA) has launched a series of activities to finance for Pakistan epidemic prevention.

Through BGTEA's active endeavours, several medical companies donated supplies to Pakistan. Amidst them, Beijing Anngeen Technologies has donated 5000 COVID-19 test kits worth more than Rs. 18.4 million. Besides, Beijing Shenzhou Hanfang Pharmaceutical Technology has donated 5 therapeutic apparatuses worth 1.5 million Yuan (more than Rs 34.5 million). China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) has also given all-out support to Pakistan. According to CNIE's report, there was a supplies handover ceremony held by this organization in Pakistan Embassy in China.

On this occasion, a batch of supplies including 300,000 surgical masks was received by ambassador Mrs. Naghmana Hashmi. Meanwhile, joining Beijing Dragon Design Foundation, CNIE has initiated "Green Ribbon Action" which builds a connection between global nongovernmental associations. Under "Green Ribbon Action", more than 50,000 masks were donated to Pakistan. Dr. Atta Ur Rehman, Science and Technology Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan in China, attended the material handover ceremony and thanked those organizations. Deputy Director General, China Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan has taken part in an online conference held



by Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC). During the conference, Chinese experts have shared their experience in fighting COVID-19. The lecture based on both theories and practices to describe the diagnosis and treatment plan of COVID-19. China Family Planning Association (CFPA) donated a batch of supplies to Pakistan Family Planning Association (PFPA). Including N95 masks, surgical masks, medical protective clothes and infrared thermometers, this batch of supplies are worth more than 11.5 million Rupees.

Xinjiang Region has continued to provide assistance to Pakistan in fighting against the epidemic. In May, Xinjiang Merchants Charity Foundation (XMCF) collected more than 100,000 masks and more than 1,000 protection suits to support Pakistan. This batch of supplies already reached Gilgit-Baltistan Province. A principal, Xu Aijie said that if Pakistan needs more in future, we will continue to donate. Besides Xinjiang, Chongqing city is on the move as well. Chongqing Federation of Industry and Commerce (CFIC) has organized private enterprises and Guangcai Foundation to help Pakistan.

Inside...

**Sikhs pay
homage to
the victims
of operation
Blue Star**

– Page 02

**Kenya set to
contribute its
experiences
to UNSC**

– Page 03

**CGSS,
Azerbaijan
embassy
discuss further
cooperation**

– Back Page

Briefs

JKNF condemns massacre of youth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Condemning the massacre of Kashmiri youth by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) Monday paid rich tributes to the nine Kashmiri youth, who were brutally martyred by Indian occupation force in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Sunday.

In a statement issued here on Monday JKNF spokesman said that the massacre of youth at the hands of Indian occupation forces was a challenge to world conscience. He said that it was quite unfortunate that the world conscience was in deep slumber while Kashmir bleeds incessantly. The spokesman regretably noted that the world community's indifference towards the unending sufferings of Kashmiri people was the main reason for the continued bloodshed.

Urging the international community to play its much needed role to end the bloodbath of innocent people in the disputed region he said that it was high time that the world should shun its policy of indifference towards Kashmir and play a constructive role to resolve the deadly conflict peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions.

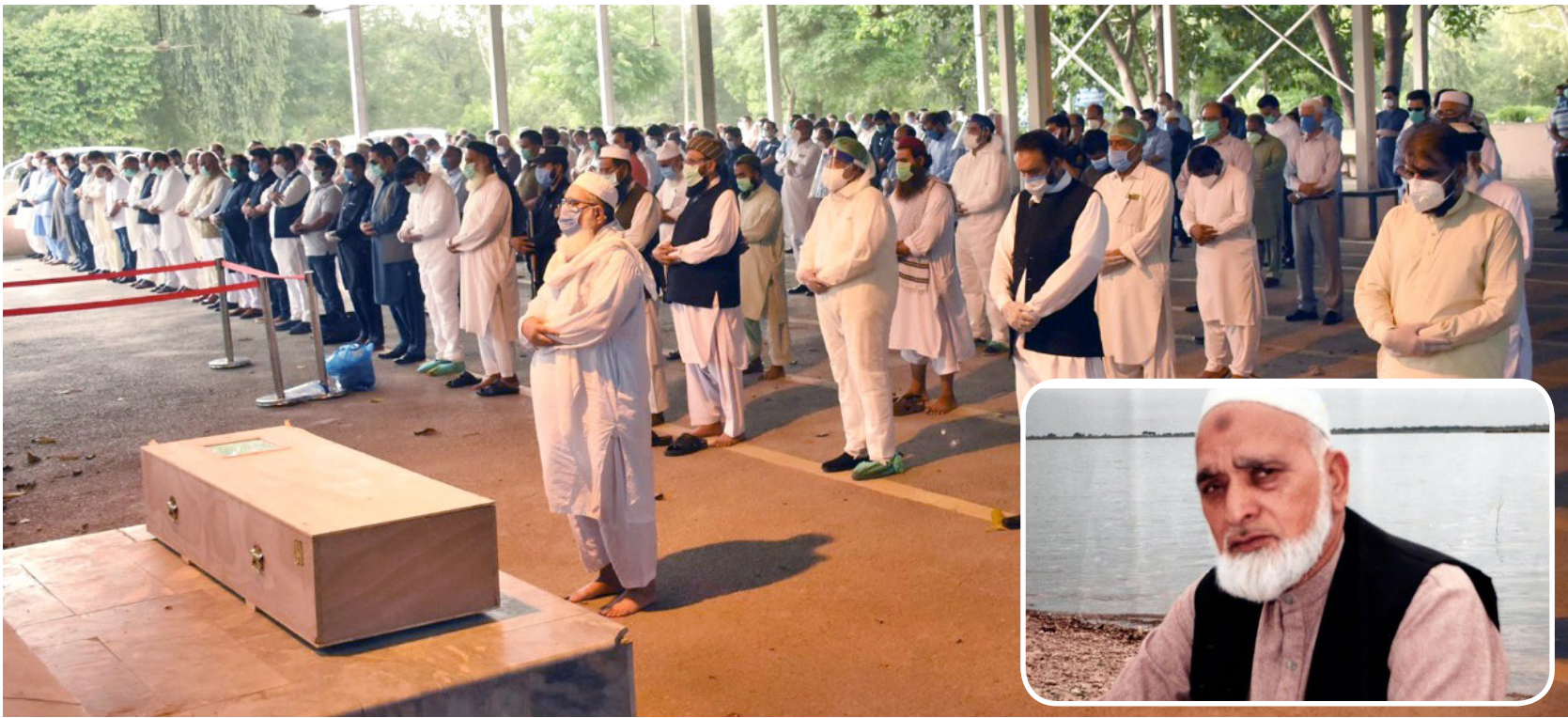
PAL to distribute Wheel Chairs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of letters (PAL) has planned to distribute Wheel Chairs among all its writers and intellectuals in country who are physically handicapped. The PAL is making every effort to cooperate and facilitate all those associated with the language and literature field. All writers and intellectuals who are physically handicapped are requested to submit their complete information by June 20 on the given email address mentioned below, an official told APP on Monday. He said after completing all the formalities PAL will contact selected applicant by June 30.

He said that the PAL would be thankful for your cooperation as its working in the best interests of its well-wishers who are associated with it. PAL is working for promotion of Pakistani Literature and for welfare of writers' community, he stated. – APP

Women MPs role stressed

ISLAMABAD: Women Parliamentarians have always been played an important role in strengthening democracy in the country. Senator Najma Hameed told APP on Monday that women political empowerment was essential for the progress and prosperity of the country, adding that women parliamentarians were raising awareness on gender sensitive legislative reforms. Senator Najma Hameed said women parliamentarians would continue to make efforts collectively towards women empowerment in all fields through legislative process. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Namaz-e-Janaza of Haji Ghualm Nabi Bakhtawari being offered at H 8 Graveyard. People hailing from various walks of life attended Namaz-e-Janaza. – Qamar Bashir

Sikhs pay homage to the victims of operation Blue Star

“Sikhs can never forget 1984” and condemning the Sikh Genocide 1984. The protest was symbolic in nature due to SoP issued by the government and local administration in wake of COVID- 19

DNA

ATTOCK: The Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak committee (PSGPC) along with other Sikh representative bodies staged a symbolic ‘registered protest on attack on Golden temple” amid COVID-19 outbreak, to pay homage to the victims at Gurdwara Punja Sahib Hassanabdal on Sunday.

On the 36th anniversary of Indian army attack on the

most sacred and important Gurdwara for the Sikhs “Darbar Sahib” - known as the Golden Temple in June 1984, PSGPC leaders along with other members of Sikh community staged protest in solemn solidarity with the Sikh community and families of the victims at Gurdwara Punja Sahib Hassanabdal. The Sikh community was carrying placards inscribed with different slogans like “Never forget 1984”, “6 June- we

want justice”, “Sikhs can never forget 1984” and condemning the Sikh Genocide 1984.

The protest was symbolic in nature due to SoP issued by the government and local administration in wake of COVID- 19. The protesting Sikh leaders also raised pro-Khalistan slogans during this protest.

“We are undertaking a genocide remembrance protest against the Indian government for attack-

ing and demolishing the supreme Sikh throne Sri Akal Takht Sahib and to pay homage to the people who fought and to tell the government of India that we have not forgotten the bloodshed of thousands of Sikhs including women and children during operation Blue Star”, Said Pardhan of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Sardar Satwant Singh while addressing to protesting Sikhs. He added that “We are ob-

serving the protest on the call of Sri Akal Takht Sahib- highest religious body of Sikhs”.

Sardar Ameer Singh- Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee said the sacrifices of the thousand of Sikhs for their sacred caused would not go in vain and the struggle they launched would be carried forward till the logical conclusion.

During speeches, the leaders of the Sikh community also paid rich tribute to

their slain freedom-fighting leader Sardar Jarnail Singh and his hundreds of followers who were ruthlessly killed by Indian troops in the first week of June 1984 at Golden Temple and Sri Akal Takhat Amritsar in ruthless operation Blue Star.

Later, the protesters later also performed Ardas (rituals) in the memory of those who perished during the heinous attack on Sikh religion followers in year 1984 in India.

Mayor inspects Rawal Dam wet land project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz , alongwith Director Sanitation Sardar Khan Zimri and Media Coordinator Syed Mohsin Sherazi reached the Rawal-Dam wet land project as a surprise inspection.

The Mayor expressed his deep concerns on rising pollution dropping in the Rawal-Dam from local

Nullahs and waterfalls , for which Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad on the instructions of Supreme Court of Pakistan has already established two wet land project at Barimam and Banigala respectively.

These wet land barriers are acting as filters against locally flooded and transmitted pollution and saving the Rawal Dam from all types of pollutions.

The Mayor Islamabad

further stated that these experiments shall be extended all across Islamabad based Natural Nullahs and streams, starting from Rose & Jasmine Garden stream, to flourish the idea for a clean & green Islamabad.

Mayor Islamabad also emphasized and desired establishment of multiple water filtration plants , preferably starting from Koran Bridge, fir wide-spread results ahead.



Pindi admin imposes Rs 1.9 mln fines

RAWALPINDI: Under a vigorous campaign launched by Rawalpindi District government against profiteering and hoarding, fines amounting to over Rs 1.9 million were imposed on 5567 shopkeepers during last seven days.

According to a Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Anwar ul Haq the administration was conducting raids against hoarders and profiteers and strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the violators.

He informed that fines were imposed on the violators in seven tehsils of the Rawalpindi district during June.

The Administration had constituted teams to check profiteering, hoarding and rate lists of daily use items while on the recommendations of the teams, several cases were also registered. – APP

Get an appointment before visiting E&T office

RAWALPINDI: The citizens have been advised to get appointment before visiting Excise and Taxation (E&T) Office, opened here the other day after almost two and half months lockdown period.

According to an E&T spokesman, the citizens wanted to get their vehicles registered or transferred should get appointment through Appointment Management System (AMS).

He said that the department had launched AMS through a mobile application (App) to prevent overcrowding in the office and ensure social distancing to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The application (excise appointment Punjab app) can be downloaded through Google play store or the department's official website ttp://www.

excise-punjab.gov.pk can be visited.

The citizens will be able to avail the facility for new registration and vehicle transfer by taking appointment from the mobile application. They will visit the designated office and meet the assigned official.

Talking to APP, Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer (AETO) Sohail Shahaz said that on the directives of Director E&T Rawalpindi, Chaudhary Muhammad Sohail Arshad, all the E&T officials had been directed to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government and general instructions besides taking precautionary measures to protect themselves from coronavirus. The vehicle token tax can also be paid through online service of E-Pay. – APP

AIOU strengthens its library network for Online academic support

The library has thousands of print and non-print materials to provide academic facilities to the students and teachers. It provides internship facilities to students as well to get themselves aware of the library working

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has decided to further strengthen its library network to meet the academic needs of its students, particularly in wake of COVID-19.

According to the University's Chief Librarian Sahibzada Shah Farrukh, hundreds of digitalized

Text books and other research-based material of various programs were being made available through the University's website.

As per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, it is being ensured that national and international academic Online resources should be available not only for the students of the AIOU,

but others as well.

The University is also actively engaged in increasing its digital collections for enabling the students of various disciplines to meet their academic needs through their access to its library network. The Central Library has been updated to promote research culture in the country, through the use of new technology. It has facilitated access to na-

tional and international digital resources, and also help the students to update their thesis with use of its online and digitalized resources.

It has recently set up an Information literary Desk to guide the students for collecting their required relevant material.

The library has also updated its PHd lab, by installing the latest software for providing qualitative and

qualitative data to the students for conducting their research work.

The AIOU has been linked with its Central Library with modernised and automation system and it provides best possible facilities to the readers through online automatic digital network.

The library has thousands of print and non-print materials to provide academic facilities to the students

and teachers. It provides internship facilities to students as well to get themselves aware of the library working.

Meanwhile, the University is also strengthening its library network at the regional level.

Each library at its regional office are being provided textbooks and other relevant reading material for the students' use and their guidance.

Haji Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari passes away

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent activist of Tehreek-e-Pakistan and gold medalist of Tehreek-e-Karkunaan-e-Pakistan, Haji Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari passed away in Islamabad today on 8 June, 2020. He was 96 years old.

He was the father of Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Bakhtawari & Abid Bakhtawari.

He was the grandfather of Ahsan Bakhtawari, Waqar Bakhtawari, Uzair Bakhtawari, Bilal Bakhtawari, Haris Bakhtawari and Salman Bakhtawari. He was laid to rest at H-8 graveyard in Islamabad.

111,788 persons provided cash

RAWALPINDI: As many as 111,788 persons have received Rs 12,000 each cash here in Rawalpindi district under Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government on the directives of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to provide financial assistance to the deserving families.

According to a district administration spokesman, the administration has provided cash amounting to Rs 1341.456 million to 111,788 persons in the district under the programme.

He said, 26 centers were set up for Rawalpindi district including tehsil Gujar Khan, Taxila, Murree, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Kotli Sattian.

He said, the poor families received cash from 26 points in Rawalpindi district while the cash was disbursed among the deserving families affected by the lockdown. 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

Teachers express annoyance

ISLAMABAD: The teachers promoted by Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in the month of April are still deprived of financial benefits due to inordinate delay in their posting on vacant seats by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). According to an official source, the promotion notification of 36 teachers was issued by the ministry on April 30, 2020 however, they were not posted on their respective seats.

In a meeting of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) held at the ministry on February 26, 2020, the promotion of 36 teachers from BPS-17 to BPS-18 was recommended. Later on the Ministry of Education and Professional Training notified the promotion of teachers on April 30, 2020.

Those who promoted include 13 female and nine male assistant professors of federal government colleges while nine male assistant professors and five assistant headmistresses of model colleges of Islamabad. A female teacher of a college, on the condition of anonymity said, “Issuance of posting orders is a matter of a day or two but FDE could not issue the same after lapse of six weeks”. – APP

Loans and plans

HERE have been a couple of developments in terms of actions and agreements to get more loans from the international donor community. In the first development, Pakistan has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to receive a loan worth \$300 million. The loan will be used to strengthen public health response to the coronavirus pandemic and help the poor in their fight against Covid-19. The loan is likely to enhance the government of Pakistan's capabilities to meet the basic needs of the vulnerable segments of society. With the second development, Pakistan has prepared and submitted an action plan to international donor agencies requesting for billions of dollars in loans stretching over the next couple of years so that Pakistan can mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic and its resultant effects on economy and society. The Planning Commission has been spearheading these efforts to prepare and present the National Action Mitigation Plan (NAMP). The government is planning to launch a mitigation programme amounting to Rs100 billion that will be used to implement small schemes, and the remaining amount of the requested multibillion-dollar package will help the government in meeting its balancing requirements. An interesting aspect of this episode is that the government is not likely to support any unapproved projects in the coming budget's development plan. Some multilateral creditors such as the IMF, the World Bank and the ADB have been kind enough to have already started providing support to Pakistan for its immediate need. But the economic and financial mess Pakistan is in requires much more than meeting its pressing needs for now. The government needs to revive the economy and for that the only thing the present economic managers can think of is seeking support from international partners. These partners appear to be generous at the moment but the question is: how long can the government depend on the largess of these partners who may not be as selfless as the government would like us to believe? Pakistan is already at the top of the ADB borrowers list with \$12 billion outstanding in 2019. In fact, Pakistan had the unenviable distinction of being one of the top three borrowers from the ADB last year. Its outstanding loans – just from the ADB – are equivalent to the value of nearly half of Pakistan's annual exports. It is no consolation for Pakistan that the other two largest borrowers from the ADB are China and India, which owe over 17 billion dollars each, which is negligible if you compare it with their huge annual exports. Last year, Pakistan also became the first country to approach policy-based lending service of the ADB which was a new window for budgetary support to avert balance of payment crisis, even after the IMF loan agreement was signed. Now, our economic planners have also reportedly asked the donors to evaluate the losses suffered by the Pakistan economy.



Environmental reminders

THIS year, in a curious twist of fate, the lockdowns imposed by Covid-19 brought nature to life in many places. Birds and animals returned to spaces they had not been seen in for years. And, with a fall in vehicular and industrial pollution, plant species bloomed with new life and colour. The events, however short-lived they may be, were a reminder of the extent to which humans have through their activities destroyed nature over the decades. The UN's World Environment Day marked this past Friday celebrated biodiversity and its significance. This significance is not recognized often enough. This is the case around the world, on a globe from which more and more species are disappearing. The world's last male Northern White Rhino died last year; the species is essentially now extinct. Countless other species are under threat, including bees, great apes, giraffes and many others. Insect populations have declined by over 45 percent in the past four decades, posing huge risks to plant pollination essential for food production. We will only realize what we have lost when it is no longer available to us. In Pakistan, human actions such as the destruction of mangrove forests and the pollution of oceans, lakes, rivers and streams present huge risks to biodiversity. The death of one species can trigger a catastrophe that affects the food chain and thousands of other species including man. The realization of this needs to be created in a country where poaching and hunting still continues and where timber mafias destroy even more of the limited forest cover of Pakistan. The destruction of habitats for animals as the human population expands naturally puts them at risk. The UN recommends that a country should have at least 12 percent forest cover; Pakistan has only five. Perhaps the 'Billion Tree Tsunami' promised by the prime minister will bring results. But every tree that is cut down takes years to be replaced. With its felling, bird life, insect life and the life sustained by these creatures vanishes as well. The chain is one we need to first understand better and protect more. World Environment Day is a reminder of this. Like many around the globe, we have effectively destroyed biodiversity and with it life on the planet which supports us. It is time we work to give back life to our planet, with the coronavirus pandemic in some ways acting as a reminder of this as nature bloomed once again as human life disappeared from outdoor spaces in hundreds of countries around the world – at least for a brief moment.

Kenya set to contribute its experiences to UNSC

Amb. Raychelle Omamo



The 'building bridges' agenda resonates at the domestic level in deepening our democratic credentials while securing the peace during political transitions and elections. This agenda is particularly relevant today as the world needs multilateral consensus the global COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects

IN just under a month, Kenya will be on the ballot for one of the five vacant slots reserved for non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Kenya's bid follows a resounding endorsement by the African Union in August 2019; a reaffirmation of the trust the Union has in Kenya's leadership to pursue the continent's interests in the Council. Kenya is renowned for many things: it is the archaeological cradle of mankind; its galaxy of middle and long distance runners have dominated the world athletics scene for decades; and, its tourist attractions, that includes the great annual wildebeest migration, the Great Rift Valley, the Maasai Mara, the expansive beaches and mountainous landscape, are, probably, unrivalled. In addition to these and many others is that the country stands out as a global thought leader and a champion for galvanizing regional and global consensus on matters of international concern. Following its endorsement as African Union's candidate, Kenya has run a campaign based on a "Ten Point Agenda". The Agenda focuses on regional and global concerns that the country champions, namely: building bridges; peace keeping and support operations; regional peace and security; countering terrorism and prevention of extremism; women, peace and security; youth empowerment; humanitarian action; justice, human rights and democracy; environment and climate change; and, sustainable development goals. The 'building bridges' agenda resonates at the domestic level in deepening our democratic credentials while securing the peace during political transitions and elections. This agenda is particularly relevant today as the world needs multilateral consensus the global COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects. President Uhuru Kenyatta who is the current President of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and a member of the Bureau of African Union Heads of State and Government has been at the forefront engaging world leaders and institutions in proffering solutions for concerted response measures. During its tenure in the UNSC, Kenya will pursue an approach that ensures the achievement of world peace, security and sustainable development. Kenya has played a leading role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Africa and beyond. It co-facilitated with Ireland the post-2015 Development Agenda Process leading to adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Domestically, Kenya has made substantial progress towards the achievement of SDGs, also developed under its co-chairpersonship, recognizing that sustainable development and peace and security are mutually dependent. In Africa, Kenya is an anchor state and guarantor of regional peace and security. Kenya made immense contributions in the process leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement also known as the "Naivasha Agreement" in 2005 between the Government of the Sudan the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. It also played a key role in the Somali peace process and continues to support South Sudan and Somalia in their peace and state building efforts. Additionally, Kenya has taken part in peace missions across 40 countries and runs one of the largest and oldest peacekeeping training centers on the continent; the International Peace Support Training Center. Further, Kenya stands out as an excellent example for the progressive achievement of gender equality in peace keeping, having one of the highest percentage of female officers serving in peacekeeping missions. Kenya intends to vigorously pursue the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda during its tenure as non-permanent member of the UNSC.

Over the years, Kenya, which was home to the late Prof. Wangari Maathai - the first African Woman Nobel Peace Laureate - has a long and distinguished tradition in conservation and environmental protection. It is the first East African nation to establish a legal framework on climate change with laws against high carbon development and a ban on single-use plastic. Kenya will leverage on her experience and position as host country for the United Nations Environmental Programme to give a fresh momentum and support to the global environmental agenda. On humanitarian action, Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to standing for peace by providing a haven for over 600,000 refugees fleeing conflict and instability in Somalia, South Sudan and other parts of Africa and indeed further afield. By the same token, the 2010 Kenyan Constitution is one of the most transformative and progressive documents on the African continent based on its guarantees of basic human rights and the power it gives citizens to determine how they are to be led. One of the most significant threats to Kenya's security has been terrorism and violent extremism. Apart from counter terrorism measures at the domestic level, Kenya has been an integral part of regional and global efforts particularly in putting in place punitive measures to dismantle terrorist networks wherever they are. Kenya will vigorously pursue this agenda in the Council with a view to creating an environment for the achievement of long-lasting and sustainable peace and development. With this set of credentials, it is evident that Kenya has a wealth of experience that it would bring to bear as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH is the Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary

NATO's Withdrawal: Unrest in Afghanistan will Affect Pakistan

Sajjad Shaukat



Notably, Pakistan's Armed Forces and particularly Army have successfully broken the backbone of the foreign-backed terrorists by the military operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, while ISI has broken the network of these terrorist groups by capturing several militants and thwarting a number of terror attempts. So, peace has been restored in various regions of the country, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces

IN the agreement signed between the US and Taliban on February 29, this year, in Doha-the capital of Qatar, it is committed that within the first 135 days of the deal, the US will reduce its forces in Afghanistan to 8,600 from the current 13,000, working with its other NATO allies to proportionally reduce the number of coalition forces over that period-the Pentagon was to bring troop levels down from about 12,000 to 8,600 by mid-July, before withdrawing all forces by May 2021. Other NATO countries will also leave Afghanistan. As desired by the US-led NATO states, the Taliban would not allow Al-Qaeda or any other extremist group to operate in the areas they control and Afghan soil will not be used to conduct attacks in Afghanistan and on Western forces. Now, the US is considering withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan head of schedule. In this respect, The New York Times also wrote on May 29, 2020: "Senior military officials are set to brief President Trump on options for pulling all American troops out of Afghanistan...before the presidential election...a complete withdrawal by November reflects an understanding among military commanders...Mr. Trump's preferred option may help bolster his campaign". In this regard, the prisoners' exchange is part of the US-Taliban agreement as a confidence-building measure. Kabul freed around 2,700 the total number of prisoners, while Taliban have so far released 420 government prisoners. In the recent past, the Taliban announced a May 24-26 cease-fire to coincide with the Eid al-Fitr Islamic holiday. It raised prospects of an extended cessation of hostilities and the long-delayed launch of direct talks between the government and the Taliban over a permanent cease-fire and a future power-sharing agreement. Since the truce ended, the militants have observed an unofficial reduction of violence, despite staging several deadly attacks on government forces in response to the Afghan forces' strike on the Taliban. But, they did not target NATO forces, as the Taliban leaders have repeatedly made it clear. US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad who had played a key role in the US-Taliban deal appreciated these developments. Earlier, the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had rejected prisoner swap with the Taliban. Meanwhile, the political crisis in Afghanistan worsened on March 9, 2020, as Ashraf Ghani and former Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah took separate oaths as country's president. In fact, President Ghani thought that if the US-led NATO forces which are well-equipped with latest arms failed in coping with the Taliban fighters, as to how Afghan forces can encounter them. Therefore, he wants that NATO

forces should continued their presence in the country. Likewise, India which does not intend to see peace in Afghanistan and is undermining regional stability by creating unrest in Afghanistan, also desires the presence of the NATO forces in that country in order to protect its billions of dollars-investment there. However, it was due to the US pressure that President Ghani agreed to release the Taliban prisoners, while Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah resolved their differences and signed a power sharing deal on May 17, this year. In this context, Abdullah Abdullah said on May 31, 2020, "The negotiating team [of Afghanistan] is ready to begin the talks [with Taliban] at any moment. Despite all of this, the implementation of the US-Taliban peace agreement has been delayed. In this context, besides late release of the Taliban prisoners and the peace talks between the government and Taliban, which were scheduled to begin before March 10, 2020 has not been started. While setting aside the completion of various phases of the US-Taliban deal, America has started withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the US-led NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan will have drastic implications inside that war-torn country by creating further unrest which will affect the entire the region, especially Pakistan. After the departure of the US and other NATO forces from Afghanistan, international donors who are fighting the COVID-19 endemic will be unlikely to step in to replace US spending. Reduction in funding will impact on the government and its combat capabilities. Governance structures in Afghanistan consist of overlapping layers of formal, centralized de jure authorities; regional power brokers with mixed official and informal authority at the local level. So, like the past, a civil war will start in Afghanistan among various local warlords who control their own Militias. It is likely to weaken the center, resulting into the rule of Taliban who already control almost 70 percent areas of the country, will defeat the Northern Alliance and afterwards, will occupy the non-Pashtun areas dominated by other warlords. Because of this future scenario, Indian and Afghan rulers who are feeling the pinch of the US-Taliban peace agreement are trying to sabotage it for their collective interests. Notably, Pakistan's Armed Forces and particularly Army have successfully broken the backbone of the foreign-backed terrorists by the military operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, while ISI has broken the network of these terrorist groups by capturing several militants and thwarting a number of terror attempts. So, peace has been restored

in various regions of the country, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces. Undoubtedly, after NATO's withdrawal, Afghan regime will fall like a house of cards owing to the Taliban assault. Even, India would not be in a position to maintain its network in wake of the successful guerrilla warfare of the Taliban-rendering Indian proxy support against Pakistan ineffective. Regarding Indian activities in Afghanistan the then NATO commander, Gen. McChrystal had pointed out: "Indian political and economic influence is increasing in Afghanistan... is likely to exacerbate regional tensions." So, Washington must be aware of the coming developments, which could create misunderstanding between America and the Taliban, as before the NATO's departure, RAW and NDS can use some terror outfits like TTP and Daesh (ISIS) for targeting the military installations of the US and its allies to shift the blame game towards those Taliban whose leader has signed the peace deal. Even after the NATO's withdrawal, when Afghanistan will further face lawlessness and civil war owing to the negative role of these secret entities, New Delhi and Kabul could also accuse Islamabad of cross-border terrorism in Afghanistan like the past approach, because the US and Pakistan have been promoting cordial relations due to President Trump's positive approach towards the latter. In the meantime, if any terror attack occurs in the US homeland, Indian-Afghan rulers are likely to manipulate it against Pakistan by convincing Washington that Islamabad is behind it. And like other countries, coronavirus has also affected Afghanistan which has reported more than 14,057 cases, infected by this deadly virus and more than 265 deaths. In America, more than 1,861,200 cases have been recorded with more than 107,100 deaths. Besides the spread of COVID-19, the US is also not taking much interest in completion of the US-Taliban agreement owing to unending violent protests across the country over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died on May 25, 2020 in the police custody in Minneapolis. During clashes, the police killed several black people. By availing this golden opportunity, Afghan rulers may create complications which could castigate the US-Taliban deal. We may conclude that besides the whole region, US-led NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan will create unrest in that country, particularly affecting Pakistan which will, again, face the drastic fallout in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted 90,000 persons with death toll of 1,800 people.

Email: sajjad_logic@yahoo.com

Briefs

Uzbek govt social distancing steps bear fruit

DNA

TASHKENT: In the days after the first coronavirus cases were confirmed, Uzbekistan has implemented bold and early health and social distancing measures to depress the spread of COVID-19.

As observed in many other countries, the global economic slowdown and domestic containment measures have affected on households and businesses negatively nationwide in Uzbekistan.

To lessen the impacts, the government has adopted a package of anti-crisis measures to increase health spending and enlarge social and business safety nets.

In particular, the President of Uzbekistan has signed a US\$ 1 billion economic relief plan to boost the economy and aid vulnerable population groups. Severity of the current crisis requires from countries to take extraordinary responses. Several advanced countries implemented unconditional cash transfer programs that imply handing out money directly to the population.

Poland reports virus spike linked to mine

WARSAW: Poland saw a record spike in new confirmed coronavirus cases over the weekend, with most of the hundreds of infections reported by the health ministry linked to a coal mine in the country's south.

The 1,151 new cases – 576 of them registered Saturday and 575 on Sunday – marked the EU country's highest consecutive two-day total thus far.

Nearly two-thirds of those newly infected in Poland, which depends on coal to generate some 80 percent of its power, are employees of the Zofiowka mine and their family members, according to the health ministry. – APP

286 VIPs fined during ongoing year

ISLAMABAD: Remaining steadfast to one of the basic objective of eliminating VIP culture, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) fined 286 VIPs during the current year including parliamentarians, diplomats and bureaucrats. "Elimination of VIP culture and equal application of law are the operational codes of the ITP which has become the model of excellence for all law enforcement agencies in the country," SSP (Traffic) Parukh Rasheed said on Monday. He said performance of traffic police personnel is being reviewed continuously and every possible effort would be made to improve it. – APP

Uzbek govt introduces steps for jobless people

Particularly, in the agricultural sector, in the first half of this year it is planned to provide employment for 25 thousand people by putting 38 thousand hectares of land into circulation and 45 thousand people by the end of the year by developing another 51 thousand hectares

DNA

TASHKENT: The number of jobless people in Uzbekistan has also increased. In particular, according to early estimation, pandemic might impact the income of 450 thousand families. Employment provision and increasing peoples income is the priority of Uzbekistan's policy. To address these issues, the country has developed comprehensive and regional programs. Uzbekistan aims to introduce a single Social Registry by

the end of 2020. It will be based on the 4 world recognized methods of calculating the poverty line and criteria. Subsistence level and minimum consumer basket regulatory framework will be developed by October 1. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev during the event on June 3 highlighted the necessity of developing the economy of territories with high unemployment and poor infrastructure, especially in border areas. In this regard, Uzbek Leader emphasized the feasibility of developing a program aimed at increas-

ing employment and improving living conditions of the population, the development of infrastructure in lagging areas. Uzbekistan intends to use all available possibilities for reducing the poverty rate in the country. Particularly, in the agricultural sector, in the first half of this year it is planned to provide employment for 25 thousand people by putting 38 thousand hectares of land into circulation and 45 thousand people by the end of the year by developing another 51 thousand hectares. Twenty thousand hectares

of these lands will be transferred to low-income families. 120 thousand hectares released from grain will be allocated for re-growing crops. This might turn into a source of income for almost 300 thousand families. In addition, 107 projects worth 965 million dollars in cotton-textile clusters will create more than 28 thousand new jobs. The State Committee of Veterinary and livestock development will distribute breeding goats, 50 thousand families - a bird, 100 thousand families - rabbits to 28 thousand families

with low-income. 85 thousand people will also be provided jobs in construction industry thanks to 3.6 trillion soums allocated from the Anti-Crisis Fund. Credit allocation program of family business is simplified to empower people to increase their incomes. All these measures will ensure a phased increase of the well-being of people. At the same time, the state does not stop working on ensuring strong social support for vulnerable segments of the population. Currently, there are 155 thousand families in Uzbekistan that have lost

the bread-winner, 81 thousand low-income families with 5 or more children, as well as 16 thousand single elderly people. 540 thousand families with low-income received 307 billion soums assistance within «Kindness and Support» Nationwide Movement. Another 992 billion soums of additional funds allocated and the balance of 70 billion soums in the «Kindness and Support» fund will be distributed among those in need. By the end of the year, more than 235 thousand additional families will receive financial assistance.

‘Govt to add 1,000 oxygen beds in June’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umer said the federal government would provide 1,000 oxygen beds to the provinces during June to cope with the fast emerging rush in large city hospitals.

Talking to media persons at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) after chairing a meeting to review COVID-19 situation, he said more beds would be added across the country hospitals during July.

Federal government would also provide required help to the provinces. He said provinces have been provided 250 ventilators and additional beds last week. A comprehensive incentive package would be finalised soon for healthcare workers.



ISLAMABAD: Abdul Hafeez Sheikh and Hamad Azhar in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

PM meets finance team

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce and Production Muhammad Hamad Azhar and PM's Adviser on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Monday. The meeting focused on matters related to commerce and finance. The Prime Minister also held a separate meeting with his Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, the Prime Minister Office said.

Virus cases top seven mln globally

PARIS: Declared coronavirus infections topped seven million globally, some two-thirds in Europe and the United States, according to an AFP tally of official figures at 0700 GMT Monday. At least 7,003,851 cases have been officially recorded around the world, including 402,867 deaths, and Europe is the hardest-hit continent with 2,275,305 cases and 183,542 deaths. The United States has recorded 1,942,363 cases and 110,514 deaths since the outbreak first emerged in China late last year. The number of cases

reported globally has doubled in just over a month, and more than one million cases of COVID-19 have been registered in the past nine days.

The tallies, using data collected by AFP from national authorities and information from the World Health Organization (WHO), likely reflect only a fraction of the actual number of infections.

Though testing in many countries has increased since the outset of the outbreak, many nations are still testing only symptomatic or serious cases. – APP

Tajik president approves steps

DNA

DUSHANBE: In order to limit the effects of COVID-19 on the socio-economic spheres, and being guided by Article 69 of the Constitution, President Rahmon has issued an executive order that aims to alleviate the hardships incurred by individuals and businesses as a result of the pandemic. According to the order, doctors and medical personnel who come into direct contact with patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, will be provided with additional financial benefits until the situation stabilizes. Those undergoing medical treatment for COVID-19,

participants in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, recipients of social pensions, individuals with disabilities, orphans and homeless children, impoverished families, and families of labor migrants left without a breadwinner will receive one-time payments equivalent to a month's minimum wage. In order to reduce production costs, prevent inflation, increased prices for domestic products and other services, the planned increase in tariffs for electricity, water, irrigation, communication and utilities will be postponed until the end of this year. From May 1 to September 1, 2020 property tax obligations are suspended for all individuals.

Sheikh Rashid tests positive

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has tested positive for the novel Coronavirus on Monday. According to Spokesman of the Ministry of Railways, apparently, the federal minister has not shown any symptoms, however, he has isolated himself after testing positive. The federal minister will spend two weeks in self-quarantine as per advice of the doctors, the Spokesman added. – APP

COVID-19: Tajikistan launches production of spray

DNA

DUSHANBE: In May, Tajikistan launched the production of Black Cumin Mouth Spray, which can be used as an antiseptic, immunomodulator, antioxidant, and natural antibiotic. One of the important properties of the spray is the prevention of viral diseases, including the COVID-19. Its use will help to cope with pneumonia, dry and wet cough, chest pain, fever and runny nose. According to entrepreneur Sayidvali Hikmatov, who produces this spray, it can be used by both children and adults. "The spray contains more than one active ingredient and about 50 catalysts for the natural biosynthesis of cells: enzymes, hormones, polysaccharides, fatty acids, vitamins B-1, B-2, B-3, PP, K, A, E, C. All these substances contribute to the construction of new daughter

cells and the strengthening of the immune system," says Hikmatov.

"Black Cumin Mouth Spray is an effective tool that also helps to lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and helps increase appetite. Additionally, this tool optimizes the intestines, and helps

remove parasites from the body," he adds. According to him, local herbs growing in the mountains of Varzob, Romit, cumin of Zafarobod and other areas, as well as environmentally friendly and healthy honey will be used for its production.

On May 20, at a meeting with healthcare officials and workers, President Emomali Rahmon had instructed the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Academy of Agricultural Sciences to establish the production of primary medical equipment, disinfectants and medicines that are made from local medicinal herbs.

**CGSS, Azerbaijan embassy discuss further cooperation**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The senior management of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad including Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery (Retd) – President CGSS and Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS arranged an online meeting with Ali Alizada – Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan and diplomats of the Azerbaijan Embassy including, Mr. Samir Guliyev – Second Secretary & Deputy head of the Mission & Elchin Mehdiyev – Third Secretary, from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan.



The online meeting was arranged to discuss future avenues of collaboration between the Azerbaijan Embassy and CGSS.

The Ambassador appreciated CGSS efforts to strengthen Pakistan-Azerbaijan ties through various initiatives like extensive research related to different sectors of Azerbaijan. Furthermore, it is decided that CGSS and Embassy of Azerbaijan will collaborate on subjects of mutual interest for more engagement and connectivity between the students and academia of Azerbaijan and Pakistan. It is high time to strengthen the cordial relations between the two countries.

Govt releases Rs 584.9 bln for projects

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has so far authorized release of Rs 584.9 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2019-20, as against the total allocation of Rs701 billion.

Under its development programme, the government has released an amount of Rs 245.8 billion for federal ministries, Rs 194.18 billion for corporations and Rs 43.56 billion for special areas, according to a latest data released by Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

Out of these allocations, the government released Rs 49.73 billion for security enhancement in the country for which the government had allocated Rs53 billion during the year 2019-20.

An amount of Rs 97.64 billion has also been released for the blocks managed by finance division under the government's 10 years development programme.

Similarly for Higher Education Commission, the government released an amount of Rs 28.28 billion out of its total allocation of Rs 29 billion while Rs 270.47 million were released for Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority for which the government had allocated Rs 270.47 million in the development budget. – APP