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Nigerian envoy gives an emotional send off to citizens

CPEC role vital in post COVID period: Qureshi



LAC crossing: Chinese scholar warns India

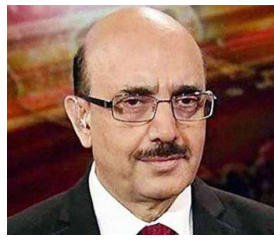


Briefs

Arab League plans meeting on Libya

CAIRO: The Arab League on Friday announced plans to hold an urgent virtual foreign ministers meeting to discuss the escalating conflict in Libya. The meeting, to be held at Egypt's request via video conference, comes as fighting continues between rival administrations based in Libya's capital and the west. "Coordination is currently underway with the current session's head (the Sultanate of Oman) to determine the meeting's date, which is expected to be next week," said Arab League deputy head Hosam Zaki. Egypt, which backs forces of eastern-based commander Khalifa Haftar, is pushing for a peace deal in Libya. Earlier this month, it proposed an initiative calling for a ceasefire and peace talks following a series of military victories for Tripoli's UN-recognised government. — APP

Defeat in Ladakh blow on India



DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: While describing the defeat of Indian Army at the hands of Chinese troops in Ladakh as a serious blow on India's hegemonic designs, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan on Friday said China has blocked India's aggression in the region by giving a befitting response. "After unleashing a reign of terror against the Kashmiri people, India had become so bold that it had invaded Galwan valley in Ladakh," he added. In an interview with a Pakistani news magazine, the AJK president said that despite India's attempts to declare Kashmir its internal issue, Kashmir has emerged an international issue as it was in 1947. He said that in spite of India's hectic attempts, neither the Kashmiri people could be demoralized nor had there been any change in Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. "India has forgotten the lesson of the history that an international issue cannot be hidden under the false propaganda or buried under the dead bodies of the oppressed people," he added.

JUSTICE QAZI FAEZ CASE

Presidential reference quashed

Supreme Court announces consensus verdict; three judges write additional note; case referred to FBR for further action

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday dismissed the presidential reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the Supreme Judicial Council and accepted his petition seeking the reference's dismissal. "[The reference] is declared to be of no legal effect whatsoever and stands quashed, and in consequence thereof

the proceedings pending in the Supreme Judicial Council against the Petitioner in CP 17/2019 (including the show-cause notice dated 17.07.2019 issued to him) stand abated," read the court's short order. The SJC had initiated the proceedings over Justice Isa's alleged non-disclosure in wealth returns of three London properties acquired on lease in the name of his wife and children between 2011 and 2015.

A ten-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Maqbool Baqar, Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Justice Faisal Arab, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed heard the case, reserving the verdict before it was announced after 4pm.

Pak expresses solidarity with Kashmiri women

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pakistan drew the world's attention to the plight of Kashmiri women in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K), who have been frequent targets of sexual violence by Indian occupation forces. In the past three decades, more than 11,000 women have been victims of rape or gang-rape at the hands of Indian occupation forces in occupied Jammu &

Kashmir. We reaffirm our complete solidarity with these Kashmiri women and their families. Women in IOJ&K have frequently been targets of violence and aggression as a means to punishing their families and communities for standing up against illegal and forcible Indian occupation. Abduction and molestation of young women during so-called "cordon-and-search operations" has been used as a punitive tool by Indian occupation forces to punish entire communities. These repugnant acts of

violence against women are enabled through a pervasive culture of impunity, reinforced by draconian laws such as Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) that shield the Indian security forces from prosecution from their crimes of sexual violence. India's resort to sexual violence in the conflict situation of IOJ&K has been documented by the two reports of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as global media and civil society organizations.

Diamer Dam a world class project

China's ability on water conservancy construction is built on years of practices. We will do our best to live up to Pakistan's trust: Yang

BEIJING: Yang Haiyan, deputy chief engineer of Bei Fang Investigation, Design & Research Co. Ltd (BIDR), said that "Diamer Bhasha Dam (DBD) is a world class mega-hydro project. Taking part in this project is a huge challenge for them". On May 11, Prime Minister Imran Khan had urged for immediate start of the DBD's construction. On the same day, a Chinese company, BIDR signed a contract to join the consulting team of DBD in presidential palace. In an exclusive interview Yang Haiyan said, facing such a difficult work, has showed confidence. "Since 2003, we have worked for water conservancy construction in Pakistan for 18 years.

We have taken part in investigation and design of almost all of the hydropower projects in Pakistan, such as Tarbela Dam, Kohala Dam, SK, Gomal Zam Dam, NJ and so on," "China's ability on water conservancy construction is built on years of practices. With our knowledge and experience, we will do our best to live up to Pakistan's trust," Yang said. The construction of dam will create 16,500 jobs and consume a huge quantity of cement and steel, which will give boost to the local industry. The main purpose of the dam is water storage and production of 4,500MW cheap and affordable electricity for meeting the country's energy requirements. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi taking part in a webinar organized by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

Bilawal condemns attack on Rangers Pays tribute to the martyrs

DNA

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned cowardly attack on Sindh Rangers in Ghotki in which two Rangers personnel and a passer-by embraced martyrdom Friday. In a statement, the PPP Chairman said terrorism won't be tolerated anywhere and entire nation was united against it. He paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed solidarity with their families praying for the departed souls.

'Sugar report comprises not verdict'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday conducted hearing of the Sugar Mills Association case filed against the sugar inquiry commission. Legal representative of the sugar industry Makhdoom Ali Khan appeared before the IHC and argued that it should be analyzed whether the inquiry commission worked fairly or not. The counsel further said in his arguments that it must be examined whether the commission worked with an intention to draw some specific conclusion beforehand. Makhdoom Ali Khan claimed that the self-esteem of the sugar industry was damaged through media trial. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah said in his remarks that it is not appropriate to hold press conference on every matter and affirmed that let the law take its course.

CPEC role vital in post COVID period

Foreign Minister Qureshi says besides causing deaths the "COVID-19 pandemic had shaken the world and led to economic slowdown

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi while participating in the Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation: Combating Covid-19 with Solidarity, hosted by China said CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, could play an important role in boosting regional growth and recovery in the post-COVID-19 period. In that regard, he added, Pakistan and China were taking requisite measures which would help in timely completion of CPEC projects.

Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, chaired the Conference in which Foreign Ministers of a large number of 'Belt and Road Initiative' countries participated. Highlighting the dangers the pandemic had posed to social and political stability, the Foreign Minister said it was time for the world community to "demonstrate unity, solidarity, and multi-lateral cooperation to fight this pandemic." Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined that Pakistan was resolutely confronting the outbreak of COVID-19 and taking all possible measures to strengthen the

existing health system. The primary focus remained on both saving lives and saving livelihoods. In order to alleviate the sufferings, Prime Minister Imran Khan had introduced major initiatives including US \$ 8 billion relief package for the most vulnerable people and Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program to help the needy. While supporting the idea of 'Health Silk Road' mooted in the Conference by China, Foreign Minister Qureshi proposed that the COVID-19 vaccine, as and when it was developed, must be declared a "global public good" and made available on an equitable basis.

Pak signs \$1500 mln financing agreements

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday signed three financing agreements worth US\$1500 million with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank for anti-COVID response besides strengthening health and education systems. Prime Minister Imran Khan also witnessed the signing ceremony held here, said a PM Office press release. Under the agreement for COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (CARES), the ADB would extend financial support of US\$500 million with

the objective to support Government of Pakistan's efforts to strengthen the health system and mitigate socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The AIIB would extend co-financing of US\$500 million for the Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (CARES) to augment the Government's efforts to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. The third agreement titled "Securing Human Investments to Foster Transformation (SHIFT)" worth US\$500 million aims at strengthening the civil registration and vital statistics, health and education systems.

CCI to organize business moot

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said that e-commerce is the future of Pakistan. The government is working on an e-commerce policy to promote the IT sector and e-commerce. Addressing the pre-launching ceremony of the ASPIRE conference organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in Islamabad; he said that the convening of the conference was commendable. It is an important step towards Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of a digital Pakistan. The rest of the chambers should follow suit. The Governor said that in the face of the Corona epidemic, and lock down situation.

Nigerian envoy gives an emotional send off to citizens

50 Nigerians stranded in Pakistan amid corona pandemic, were evacuated through a chartered aircraft

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: As many as 50 Nigerians who were stranded in Pakistan amid corona pandemic, were evacuated through a chartered aircraft. The departure turned into an emotional farewell. The Nigeria High Commissioner to Pakistan, Maj Gen (Rtd) Ashimiyu Olaniyi Oon addressed his departing country fellows in an emotional way. He reminded them that coronavirus was a disease that was ravaging all nations across the world. All countries with no exception have adopted measures to combat this pandemic, including lockdowns which affected economies of various countries in the world including the airline operations, hence your inability to have returned to Nigeria at the end of your business activities in Pakistan. He said that today you are board-

ing a chartered Aircraft operated by TARCO Aviation which will take you to Abuja. 'I am aware of the challenges you must have experienced in the last 3 months as this pandemic caught everybody unprepared. He commended the patience and adoptivity of Nigerians during this tough period of time here in Pakistan'. He also appreciated the Government and "good people" of Pakistan for their love, compassion and generosity towards the Nigerians and their military officers who were on training at various Pakistani military institutions. He acknowledged and thanked the efforts of Pakistan Foreign Office for accommodating the movement of Nigeria nationals from Lahore, Quetta and Karachi to Islamabad through special PAF flight arrangements. He further appreciated the Pakistan Air Force leadership for

making available the aircraft that airlifted the Nigerian military officers from their places of training, and the Punjab Government

for arranging the vehicles that conveyed stranded Nigerians from Lahore to Islamabad Airport. He said that all this love

shown by Pakistani government organizations are clear indications of strong bilateral relations between our brotherly countries.

He offered special prayers for Pakistan and its People. He further asked his departing country fellows to fully adopt and follow the Covid-19 prevention protocol which includes wearing of face masks, hand sanitizing, keeping safe distance wearing of hand gloves. He concluded his address by wishing them a safe flight home. The High Commissioner concluded his address by saying Pakistan - Nigeria friendship Zindabad. A total of 50 Nigerians and one Pakistani boarded the chartered aircraft operated by TARCO AVIATION Co Ltd which took off from the Islamabad International Airport at about 1605 hrs. The High Commissioner Ambassador Maj Gen (Rtd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi and staff of the High Commission including the Defence Advisor, Consular officer were at the departure hall to see off the evacuating Nigerians.



DNA

Inside...

UNODC, UNFPA and UN Women to hold webinar on gender and shadow pandemic

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China is Here and America is There — Far Away

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Chinese scholar warns India against crossing LAC

Ties with South Africa to be enhanced: Mandviwalla

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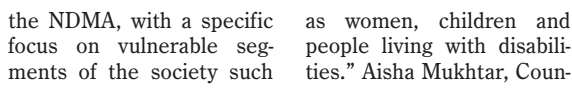
WB to support KP Information Commission

**IRSA
releases
306,500
cusecs
water**

**Dr Jumani
assumes
duties as
VP at IIUI**

Ms. Jouhaida Hanano, Criminal Justice Advisor extended a note of thanks to all on the successful conclusion of the webinar, reinforcing the commitment of UNODC and its partner agencies, UNFPA and UN Women towards supporting stakeholders to minimize the GBV risks of the shadow pandemic

vincial Police Departments. Inaugurating the webinar, Jeremy Milsom, Country Representative, UNODC Pakistan emphasized on the ominous nature of the 'shadow pandemic' that intensifies gender-based violence and said "UNODC is committed to support, strengthen and implement gender responsive policing reforms to address the magnified nature of Gender Based Violence in Pakistan." Ms. Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan remarked "Pre-existing vulnerabilities that subject women and girls to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are further exacerbated during a pandemic. In this regard, UNFPA has been actively supporting the government departments and



try Representative a.i., UN Women Pakistan highlighted, "Vulnerable populations experience the COVID-19 outbreak differently, which is likely to reinforce their marginalized position in society. Their experience of discrimination, violence and stigma further limits their access to essential support and services and increases their risk of experiencing violence. Our collective efforts will ensure that no-one is left behind in the response to COVID-19." The webinar brought together a diverse mix of eminent speakers and stakeholders, including legal policy, human rights, gender and empowerment experts. Barrister Benazir Jatoi and Gender Expert Nazish Brohi highlighted

the trends in the reporting of GBV crimes influenced by the societal power structures, traditional mindsets and challenges of pre-trial reporting on violence against women to seek justice from the criminal justice institutions. Senior leadership from provincial police departments included Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Additional Inspector General of Police, Sindh; Muhammad Ali Babakel, Deputy Inspector General of Police; Tariq Abbas Qureshi, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Punjab; Dr. Farhan Zahid, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Balochistan. Taking stock of the issues surrounding gender responsive policing, it was mutually agreed by all among other recommendations that part-

nerships with civil society, evidence-based initiatives informed by the relevant data, institutional reforms, awareness raising and sensitization, targeting the public, particularly women educating them on their rights as well as capacity building of the police as front-line responders, including induction of women police at all levels will act as a force multiplier to tackle the unprecedented nature of the pandemic.

Ms. Juhaida Hanano, Criminal Justice Advisor extended a note of thanks to all on the successful conclusion of the webinar, reinforcing the commitment of UNODC and its partner agencies, UNFPA and UN Women towards supporting stakeholders to minimize the GBV risks of the shadow pandemic.



Strategy devised to avoid flood losses

poration (MCI) unnoticed while the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has no authority to stop the undue interventions and encroachments forcefully.

Being attached with the federal ministry of climate change, the experts urged the Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change and Federal Minister Malik Amin Aslam to take lead in policy reforms leading to amendments in the legal framework for the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Development Communica-

tions Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the subject "Management of Margalla Hills National Park - the future scenario" on Friday. Hosted by the Devcom-Pakistan and DTN Director Munir Ahmed, the speakers of the webinar included Board Member of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) Vaqar Zakria, Country Programme Manager UN Habitat Jawed Ali Khan, former DG Pak EPA Asif Shuja Khan, Biodiversity Expert and Former Deputy Director General WWF Pa-

kistan Dr Ejaz Ahmed, Environment Lawyer Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Advocacy expert Momtaz Saleem, Dr Niofar Jamil and SDPI environmental expert Dr Imran Khaliid. Some young environmentalists including Jamilatul Anam Rathore, Uzair Aftab, Sabah Iqbal, Aswaraich, Nadeem Aly also spoke on the occasion. Vaqar Zakria said the National Park was being run on an ad hoc basis since its notification in 1979 under an Ordinance until a management board was formed a couple of years back.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Muhammad Afzal Friday said a comprehensive national contingency plan has been devised to avoid flood losses during the impending monsoon season. Addressing a pre monsoon conference in Islamabad, he said the plan has been finalised in consultation with all stake holders. The comprehensive strategy to deal with flooding was badly needed in the wake of COVID and locust invasion in country's various districts. — APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood Friday said the federal government was working for quality education and implementation of a uniform education system in order to ensure human resource development on modern lines. The incumbent government has taken various initiative to unify the syllabus for all students in the country, he said this in an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan. Shafqat Mahmood said unfortunately, "We have an education system in the country, which is discriminatory against most of the citizens". He explained the various systems of education were being administered in Pakistan such as the madrasa system, Urdu medium, English medium, government schools and the Oxford system. "These parallel systems are damaging the unity of the country and all these systems have separate curriculum," he said. The minister termed different education systems as class base divisions. He said, they were already doing Tele-schooling so that a large number of students could have access to education during coronavirus crisis. - DNA

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABA: Ignite National Technology Fund under the auspices of Ministry of IT & Telecom has launched "National Education Challenge 2020" through National Incubation Center Karachi.

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Amin Ul Haq in his message said "Ministry of IT & Telecom is delighted to support all innovative initiatives across various fields that can thwart the impact of this global pandemic. We believe that technology can serve as a great enabler in all sectors especially education."

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Federal Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication lauded this initiative and said.

"In times when industries and academia are locked globally, Pakistani organizations decide to solve one of the

most pressing issues of humanity i.e. provision of education and increment of literacy rate. I am hopeful that these 25 solutions generated from this challenge will be replicated by other societies.”

The Challenge encompasses schools, colleges, universities, out of school children, illiterate adults, continuing education and knowledge economy. Startups and innovators working in the education technology (edtech) space, organizations using digital and non-digital mediums, government departments making a difference, people working on access or content or technology – this is an open call to address Pakistan’s most pressing challenge with innovation and in a scalable way: make the country 100% literate and build the new knowledge economy. The grand finale featuring top 25 innovators is scheduled in the first week of July 2020.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has taken note of a statement by FAPUASA representatives to boycott online classes. It is clarified that teaching online classes is a matter between the university and individual faculty members.

Thus far, the vast majority of faculty members has treated this responsibility as a national duty, and has worked hard to prepare themselves for it. To date, 23,556 faculty members have trained themselves for online learning.

Many of them have reached out to the HEC experts in the Technology Support Committee or Content Identification Committee.

for information. This support is provided 24/7 to universities and their university members.

Much of the FAPUASA statement consists of fake news or personal attacks, which are inappropriate for those claiming to be representatives of teachers.

The issues have been discussed repeatedly with FAPUASA representatives in the past, and can be discussed again.

However, the final decisions by the Commission or its Chairman are made after considering all perspectives, and in accordance with HEC's mandate of enhancing access, quality, and relevance of education and research in the country.

This mandate represents the combined interests of students, teachers, and re-

searchers. In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, HEC has circulated a number of prudential guidelines to protect the health and safety of the students and faculty members as well as the continuity of the learning process. All these guidelines were issued after extensive consultations with Vice Chancellors of public as well as private sector, provincial governments, and accreditation councils. HEC and the universities have also initiated steps to overcome the difficulties that emerged subsequently, including the connectivity issues faced by students, and the teething problems of delivering good quality education through the new medium of online instruction.

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While Cuba helps

A Team of 85 Cuban doctors and nurses arrived in Peru on June 3 to help the Andean nation tackle the coronavirus pandemic. That same day, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced another tightening of the sanctions screws.

This time he targeted seven Cuban entities, including Fincimex, one of the principal financial institutions handling remittances to the country. Also targeted was Marriott International, which was ordered to cease operations in Cuba, and other companies in the tourism sector, an industry that constitutes 10 percent of Cuba's GDP and has been devastated globally by the pandemic.

It seems that the more Cuba helps the world, the more it gets hammered by the Trump administration. While Cuba has endured a US embargo for nearly 60 years, Trump has revved up the stakes with a "maximum pressure" strategy that includes more than 90 economic measures placed against the nation since January 2019.

Josefina Vidal, Cuba's ambassador to Canada, called the measures "unprecedented in their level of aggression and scope" and designed to "deprive the country of income for the development of the economy." Since its inception, the embargo has cost Cuba well over \$130 billion dollars, according to a 2018 estimate. In 2018-2019 alone, the economic impact was \$4 billion, a figure that does not include the impact of a June 2019 Trump administration travel ban aimed at harming the tourist industry. While the embargo is supposed to have humanitarian exemptions, the health sector has not been spared. Cuba is known worldwide for its universal public healthcare system, but the embargo has led to shortages of medicines and medical supplies, particularly for patients with AIDS and cancer. Doctors at Cuba's National Institute of Oncology have had to amputate the lower limbs of children with cancer because the American companies that have a monopoly on the technology can't sell it to Cuba. In the midst of the pandemic, the US blocked a donation of facemasks and Covid-19 diagnostic kits from Chinese billionaire Jack Ma.

Not content to sabotage Cuba's domestic health sector, the Trump administration has been attacking Cuba's international medical assistance, from the teams fighting coronavirus today to those who have travelled all over the world since the 1960's providing services to underserved communities in 164 countries. The US goal is to cut the island's income now that the provision of these services has surpassed tourism as Cuba's number one source of revenue. Labeling these volunteer medical teams "victims of human trafficking" because part of their salaries goes to pay for Cuba's healthcare system, the Trump administration convinced Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil to end their cooperation agreements with Cuban doctors. Pompeo then applauded the leaders of these countries for refusing "to turn a blind eye" to Cuba's alleged abuses



Who's afraid of Safoora Zargar?

WHEN the history of these extraordinary times is written, the BJP may go down as a 'great leveller.' It has succeeded in razing to the ground every constitutional institution and democratic tradition that India's founding fathers created. The chief of these casualties has to be rule of law. If respect for rule of law goes, everything else soon follows.

No eyebrows are raised when those peacefully demanding their rights are put in jails as terrorists and plotters of religious riots, as the Muslim students protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act have been by the Delhi Police.

Those who openly purveyed hate and threatened violence against Muslims, standing shoulder to shoulder with the upholders of the law as the BJP's Kapil Mishra did on the eve of Delhi carnage in February, find no mention in the nine charge sheets filed by the Delhi Police. Also missing is the honourable central minister Anurag Thakur who egged on his supporters at a rally right in the capital to "shoot down the traitors" (desh ke ghaddaron ko, goli maro salon ko!)

No mention of BJP MP Parvesh Verma either who warned the voters that the Muslims would break into their homes and rape their women.

Even those two men who fired at the anti-CAA protesters at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh and students of Jamia Millia Islamia in full view of men in uniform haven't made it. No charge sheet against the ABVP thugs who attacked the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus and terrorised its students and faculty on January 5.

Instead the ever-vigilant Delhi Police, reporting directly to Home Minister Amit Shah, chose to incarcerate students like Safoora Zargar, a PhD scholar at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, and numerous other activists.

How prescient the inimitable Faiz had been when he noted with characteristic irony: "hai ahl-e-dil ke liye ab ye nazm-e-bast-o-kushad/ ki sang-o-hisht muqayyad hain aur sag azad (A new order has come into being for the faithful/ Locked away are stones and bricks, and dogs are free).

By the way, Zargar is 6-month pregnant. At such an advanced stage of pregnancy, women need constant medical care and physical and emotional support. Instead, the 27-year old researcher has been condemned to the dark confines of the Tihar Jail, home to India's dreaded criminals, murderers and rapists. It is all the more dangerous at a time when India – Delhi in particular – is battling a deadly global pandemic. Zargar was first arrested on April 10 on charges of "obstructing traffic". After securing bail in that case, she was immediately re-arrested on April 13 under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 accusing her, along with others, of plotting the anti-Muslim riots in Delhi in February. She was accused of delivering "an inflammatory speech on February 23 that led to the riots in Northeast Delhi", whereas in fact she never even visited that part of Delhi in the run-up to or during the carnage. On June 4, denying the activist's bail for the third time at Delhi's Patiala House court, Judge Dharmendra Rana observed: "When you choose to play with embers, you cannot blame the wind to have carried the spark a bit too far and spread the fire".

China is Here and America is There – Far Away

Iqbal Khan

If so, then why so much of fuss? Oft referred to "Wuhan Spirit" by the Chinese side refers to the joint statement of Wuhan Summit of 2018. It was indeed a face saving given to India by China after the former's Doklam embarrassment. China strongly thinks that India has violated the "Wuhan Spirit"—Cooperation—by participating in a number of US led anti-Chinaventures like: subscription to Indo-Pacific concept; pushing ahead quadrilateral dialogue; signing of deal with Australia to get access to each other's military bases to pave the way for more military exchanges

AFTER refusing mediation by President Donald Trump, India has decided to accept Russian offer. Russian foreign minister is hosting his Indian and Chinese counter parts on June 22. India has started collecting dead bodies while the first shot is yet to be fired. Now Modi is doing another funny thing, his party is holding virtual rallies to salute his slain Coward 22.

Aura of India's big power status has evaporated into thin air. To pacify the domestic audience, a new line is being popularized by India that "Nowhere have the Chinese crossed the Chinese Claim Line (CCL).

If so, then why so much of fuss? Oft referred to "Wuhan Spirit" by the Chinese side refers to the joint statement of Wuhan Summit of 2018. It was indeed a face saving given to India by China after the former's Doklam embarrassment. China strongly thinks that India has violated the "Wuhan Spirit"—Cooperation—by participating in a number of US led anti-Chinaventures like: subscription to Indo-Pacific concept; pushing ahead quadrilateral dialogue; signing of deal with Australia to get access to each other's military bases to pave the way for more military exchanges and exercises in the Indo-Pacific; signing of "The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)" with the US; in the wake of Covid-19, encouraging relocation of American and European led Multinational industrial units from China to India etc.

A report authored by a senior figure at an influential Chinese think-tank has linked the current tensions along the Line of Control (LAC) to India's move last year to abrogate Article 370 and change the status of Jammu and Kashmir, a decision that China had voiced opposition to. Report, for the first time, described the move as a joint challenge to China and Pakistan, saying the move had "posed a challenge to the sovereignty of Pakistan and China". The article was authored by Wang Shida, who is Deputy Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR).

Ananth Krishnan for his piece for The Hindu (June 12), captioned: "Beijing think-tank links scrapping

of Article 370 to LAC tensions", reported: "Mr. Wang noted that the Chinese Foreign Minister had conveyed China's strong opposition to the move to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his visit to Beijing last year, following the abrogation of Article 370 and the establishment of Ladakh as a union territory. The week before the August visit, Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken in Parliament about taking back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Aksai Chin. Mr. Jaishankar conveyed to Beijing that the move was an entirely internal matter that did not impact India's external boundaries or the LAC with China. China had opposed the Ladakh map for including Aksai Chin". The article said the move had "posed a challenge to the sovereignty of Pakistan and China" and "made India-Pakistan relations and China-India relations more complex."

According to renowned Indian strategist Pravin Sawheny, "On 5 Aug 2019 I said China will not accept it. China has changed facts on ground, so has Nepal. And, so, will peace loving tiny Bhutan. PLA's Nakula intrusion has bypassed Indian defences from West & East in Sikkim leaving Bhutan to itself. Expect Bhutan to join BRI in a year." China and Pakistan bashing has never solved any of India's problems, nor is it likely to mitigate India's difficulties in future. Elections are contested in India by creating an anti-China and anti-Pakistan frenzy. Both mainstream parties suffer from this malice; it's only a difference of shade. This has raised the Indian public's expectation about their governments' ability to deliver severe blows to China and or Pakistan.

Indian media is in an overdrive to further raise public expectations that Indian military could quickly drive the Chinese out of recently "occupied territories." And Indian military does not have the wherewithal to prove equal to Indian leadership's tall talk. The negative fallout of this strategic folly has been that India is now stuck up with two nuclear fronts' nightmare. It is purely India's own doing. Senior PLA Colonel Zhu Bo, a familiar figure in the Chinese information war circuit and an honorary fellow in the PLA Academy of Military Sciences wrote an article for South China Morning Post in

2017, in the wake of Doklam crisis. According to Zhu, India would be the net loser of the crisis because "the disputed border was not on China's strategic radar" till the Doklam standoff. The PLA had since reconsidered its assessment of the strategic importance of the Sino-Indian border.

According to Manosh Joshi, "Betting on a quick return to status quo ante would be hazardous security." The dispute is more likely to herald a new and nervous era, "a geopolitical side-effect of the coronavirus pandemic which is racking the world". PLA is expected to give some face saving concessions in Pangong Tso only, having no tactical importance. India seems to have accepted Chinese viewpoint. So, LAC would become meaningless –that could be changed by PLA at Will. India has ceded significant strategic concessions during diplomatic level talks, to buy face saving peace—for the time being.

India has learnt its latest lesson the hard way: "China is here and the US is there— far away; and for the US India is just another tissue paper. Credible analysts have been consistently conveying it to the US, to not to bet on India in its anti-China drive. India is not a stallion, it is an ailing mule. India has disappointed President Donald Trump twice during his presidency, let's hope it's the final one!

Above all, COVID-19 has added another dimension to the global body politic.

All countries are left to fend for themselves; none has spare quality time to peep around and see what is happening, especially in distant parts of the world. Everyone is trying to avoid additional crises, what to talk of fighting someone else's war. India has missed the buss to have a face saving exit from its Ladakh standoff with China—President Trump could have done it for India. However, out of arrogance Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose to reject Trump's mediation offer. Moreover, Trump has gotten consumed in America's domestic racial quagmire.

Now there is only one thing on his mind: 2020 elections. Even containing China is a distant second on his agenda, at least till November 8.

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Respect the Folk Wisdom of Warfare!

Ehtisham Amer

A country's military force is a disciplined body with a clear chain of command, aim and objectives; it performs the tasks that have been well thought out by the best brains, during the peacetime. These plans are put to some strenuous standards of wargaming and field exercises before adoption. Once adopted, the forces quickly prepare their training doctrines and materials for etching these plans in the minds of young and not so young soldiers and officers. Plans are rehearsed in near actual operational settings as possible, with actual equipment. All possible contingencies are thought out and practised during the training

Every aspect of human life has evolved over centuries through hit and trial method. Folk wisdom is not taught; it is learned. Deviation from it can cost from loss of life to loss of face. This is true for individuals and nations, alike. An adage of the military says, "you train as you have to fight and you fight as you have been trained." These are lessons learnt through experiences of generations of soldiers over centuries and considered near gospel truth globally. Most military commanders, especially those who are well versed in history do not usually temper with lessons of folk wisdom. There are, however, foolhardy people in every walk of life, and militaries are not immune from them.

Indian army, indeed all branches of Indian armed forces are composed of professional soldiers. They train hard and perform the defence of their country in some of the most arduous circumstances and terrains. Both Pakistan and India share the same roots but Pakistan has transformed its military over some time in ways far different and far ahead especially after fighting the two decades long asymmetrical war.

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Wise Generals would like to train their armies in near similar areas and equipment to draw true value from training. It is training for a war that costs so much to the national exchequer and is annually hotly debated in parliament.

If training is not conducted as per operational dictates, it can be anything but preparing for war.

Well, all armies are not fortunate to have an abundance of resources to train with the full equipment needed. Resources are scared everywhere and ef-

fort is made to use as less operational equipment for training as is realistically possible. You cannot assume to have been well trained in tank warfare by using Qing Qis instead of tanks. This would not constitute training in the wildest of the sense. Let's jump from the theoretical framework to the world of sweat and blood. Having trained with guns and tanks, the army cannot be expected to perform tasks with clubs and stones. How can a commander worth his name and rank ask his subordinate soldiers to guard the border post at the roof of the world with a club (the preserve of a watchman and not a soldier) against well-equipped foe? It would certainly make a good comedy show, but then the armies are not meant to produce entertaining stuff at national borders. They are expected to perform the given tasks and lay their lives during the discharge of their duty if need be.

Whether the above cited age-old military adage has been violated by the Indian army in the ongoing Sino-India standoff in Ladakh is nearly unbelievable. Well, the government does give a political direction and aim to the army for the conduct of military operations.

The government has to listen to what their professional soldiers say and then arrive at a workable plan which is well within resources and political direction.

With what is available in media, it is evident that the Indian army went into this conflict badly led. It is true at the strategic as well as tactical levels. Modi government has been trying to play down the Chinese advances in Indian territory; it directed the Indian army to move in with clubs and other equipment of the non-firearm category. The government is right to set political limits to the conduct of military operations in the current conflict by keeping a lid over the escalation and avoiding spilling blood. That is the right of any political leadership.

The role of military leadership, and in there lies the catch, is to dissect the political aim and direction, weigh in the task in its entirety and come up with plans and ways to achieve the given task within the limits imposed.

If the military leadership finds that the task can-

not be achieved within given limitations, then they have to come up with suggested solutions. Political leadership has to be apprised about military capability and limitations during all phases of the crisis. Accepting political directions without questioning its serious implications tantamount to the unprofessional approach leading to the certain killing of your subordinates.

The Indian army was directed by their government to guard the Sino-India border in the face of current standoff by deploying adequate numbers, using no firearms, to manage the level of escalation.

That Indian military leadership, especially the newly created CDS, failed to apprise the political leadership that the Indian army was not a border security force and couldn't be expected to contain or push back the Chinese army with sticks and clubs. They badly misread the Chinese capability and perhaps fell prey to their propaganda of "surgical strikes" absurdity and deployed poor under-equipped soldiers against the standards of fighting a war.

The Indian army was never trained to fight without firearms (in that case, martial arts training could have been emphasized over conventional curricula) and contain an enemy advance. It looks extremely thrilling in Bollywood movies where an actor soldier, takes on the gangs of enemy soldiers barehanded, throws them all around, and wins the admiration of a pretty heroine and applauds of the spectators. Real-world is very cruel and far from the glamour of the cinema screen.

What happened is now available in public knowledge. India has admitted to losing 20 soldiers. There are rumours of more soldiers wounded and missing in action. The Chinese may have been holding some Indians POWs as well. India has not been left with a lot of options. India can choose to escalate or accept the loss of territory as a new alignment of the Line of Actual Control with China. Both options have their own merits and demerits. Failure to respect age-old wisdom can cost dearly in the modern media-savvy world. Loss of face and respect to India, which aspires for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, is topping on the cake.

(The writer is security analyst based in Islamabad)

Briefs

Emirates
adds more
flights to
Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Dubai-based airline Emirates on Thursday announced to offer scheduled flights for travellers in 10 more international cities Colombo (from June 20), Sialkot (June 24), Istanbul (June 25); Auckland, Beirut, Brussels, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (July 1); and Barcelona and Washington DC (July 15). Emirates' flights from Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Pakistan, would only carry outbound passengers to the UAE and onward destinations.

Putin
accuses
West of
'insulting'
Russia

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin has accused the West of "mean" attempts to insult Russia by re-writing World War II history as Moscow prepares to commemorate Soviet victory with a Red Square parade.

In a lengthy article in the National Interest, a conservative US magazine, Putin warned against "historical revisionism," saying downplaying the role of the Soviet Union in World War II helped undermine the current world order.

"Desecrating and insulting the memory is mean," he wrote in the article published late Thursday.

Some official declarations commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War "mention all participants in the anti-Hitler coalition except for the Soviet Union," he complained.

"Meanness can have different manifestations, but this does not make it less disgusting," he added.

An estimated 27 million Soviet troops and civilians were killed in World War II and the Red Army's triumph is a huge source of pride in Russia.

Putin was angered by a European Parliament resolution last year saying the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union helped pave the way for WWII. - APP

"Beijing
corona
outbreak
under
control"

DNA

BEIJING: New confirmed cases of coronavirus remained stable in China's capital on Friday after a public health official declared Beijing's latest outbreak under control.

The city recorded 25 new cases, up by just four from Thursday, out of a total of 32 cases reported nationwide.

"The epidemic in Beijing has been brought under control," Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a press briefing on Thursday.

"When I say that it's under control, that doesn't mean the number of cases will turn zero tomorrow or the day after," he cautioned. "The trend will persist for a period of time, but the number of cases will decrease, just like the trend that we saw (in Beijing) in January and February."

Local authorities are restricting the movement of people in the capital and stepping up other measures to prevent the virus from spreading further, following a series of local infections. Classes in the city have also been suspended and reopening plans for sports and other events are on hold. More than 360,000 tests for the virus have been carried out in recent days, according to city health authorities.

Chinese scholar warns India
against crossing LAC

India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, three of the most populous countries in South Asia with a population of 1.7 billion and a very high population density of 450, 256, and 1,265 people per square kilometer respectively mean that the COVID-19 virus will spread faster and broader than anywhere else

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong said, India must be aware of the consequences of crossing the Line of Control (LOC). He said "India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, three of the most populous countries in South Asia with a population of 1.7 billion and a very high population density of 450, 256, and 1,265 people per square kilometer respectively mean that the COVID-19 virus will spread faster and broader than anywhere else."

While China is working closely with the international community to fight the pandemic, India, also a major country in the world, should join the efforts to curb the spread of the pandemic.

However, the way that Indians perceive things is very confusing. In this critical time when all mankind faces

the pandemic crisis jointly, India on the contrary chooses to be offensive, causing troubles to its neighbors. In the west, it provokes military conflicts against Pakistan; in the north, it has encroached on the territory of China and Nepal, stirring unrest in the whole region. Although the border issue between China and India has not been resolved by far, peace and stability in the border areas have generally been maintained over the past decades thanks to the joint efforts of both sides.

In August last year, India amended its constitution and changed the status of Kashmir. In October, India announced the establishment of "the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir" and "the Union Territory of Ladakh".

The so-called "the Union Territory of Ladakh" is subject to China's territo-



ry. The Indians, tending to play smart, have always misjudged the situation and encroached on China's territory when China is in the middle of some troubles, which has resulted in military stand-offs in the border areas from time to time. Recently, China has sought to resolve some problems on the international arena. Deceiving itself as the righteous one, India has dispatched troops to Gal-

wan Valley in the western section of the Sino-Indian border to carry out illegal activities, and by establishing a bridgehead, intends to move northward and occupy more China's territory. The most serious military confrontation between China and India since the 1970s took place on June 15. After the military stand-off in Galwan Valley, which began in early May, China and India held a meeting on June 6 at

the level of corps commanders and reached "important consensus".

I reckon that the meeting basically dispelled people's concerns about the trend of Sino-Indian relations and the unexpected events along the border.

However, now it seems India has no intention to solve military confrontation through the military meeting. On the contrary, India seeks to consolidate its illegal occupation in the Galwan Valley through the meeting.

On June 15, Indian troops seriously violated the consensus reached by both sides by illegally crossing the line of actual control and carrying out provocative attacks on Chinese troops, which resulted in a severe physical confrontation between the border forces of both sides.

China has made solemn protests and serious negotiations with India on this

issue, and once again demanded that India strictly restrain the front-line forces in accordance with the spirit of the consensus, and not to cross the line of actual control to carry out illegal activities, provoke troubles, and take any unilateral actions that may lead to the complexity of the border situation.

China and India have agreed to continue to resolve relevant issues through dialogue and consultation and make efforts to ease the situation and maintain peace and tranquility in the border area.

Here, I would like to make it clear to India that China will not give up even an inch of its territory. In the early 1960s, even when China was in a very difficult situation both at home and abroad, we were able to fight back against the Indian troops who invaded China's territory. Given that China has become the world's sec-

ond-largest economy, while India's national strength is less than 1/5 of that of China, India should better abandon the thought that China could give in on the territorial issue as a result of its tensions with the United States.

That is sheer wishful thinking. All Chinese people are desperate to defend their territory from invasion.

At present, there is only one way to solve the military confrontation peacefully, which is, the Indian troops go back to where they have come from.

I hope the Indian authorities understand the serious consequences of creating border troubles. We don't want to see the 1962 border armed conflict happen again. We don't want to see such physical confrontation again. What we want to see is peace and tranquility in the border area will continue to be maintained", he added.

Facebook
pulls
Trump ads

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook has removed ads by President Donald Trump's campaign containing a symbol used by Nazi Germany, the latest move in a heated battle over inflammatory political content on social media.

The leading social network, which has drawn fire over its hands-off approach to political speech in recent months, said the campaign messages with an inverted red triangle and used in Nazi camps violated a policy against "organized hate" and were taken down.

"We don't allow symbols that represent hateful organizations or hateful ideologies unless they are put up with context or condemnation," Facebook head of security policy Nathaniel Gleicher said at a House of Representatives committee hearing. "That's what we saw in this case with this ad, and anywhere that that symbol is used we would take the same actions."

Facebook's move comes as it faced intense pressure to remove incendiary comments from the president which critics said promoted violence. Recently Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg reiterated that the platform will steer away from moderating political speech but would enforce its rules barring content promoting physical harm.

In a tweet from a "Trump War Room," the campaign contended the upside-down red triangle symbol at issue was "widely used" in reference to left-wing activist group Antifa. Watchdog group Media Matters replied with a tweet saying that is not the case. Since early this month, the Trump campaign has been running "fearmongering" ads about what it says is a far-left group called "antifa," according to Media Matters. - APP

China releases
Indian soldiers

China frees 10 Indian army soldiers following Monday's deadly clash between the two sides, Indian media reports say

NEW DELHI: China has released 10 Indian army soldiers, including at least two senior officers, it captured in a high-altitude border clash in the Himalayas which left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead, media reports said. The release follows several rounds of talks between the two sides in a bid to ease tensions after the battle on Monday, in which scores of troops from the two sides fought with nail-studded batons and hurled rocks at each other in the disputed Galwan Valley.

India's newspapers on Friday said the release took place after major-general-level talks were held between the Indian and Chinese militaries on Thursday to defuse the border standoff.

The Indian army on Thursday denied its soldiers were in Chinese custody. "No Indian troops missing in action," a statement released by the army said.

Later in the day, the Indian army said 76 of its soldiers were wounded in Monday night's clash in Galwan Valley. It added that 56 of those wounded had been cleared to return to work "within a week".

The minister termed different education systems as class base divisions. He said, they were already doing 'Tele-schooling' so that a large number of students could have access to education during coronavirus crisis. - DNA

Beijing virus
cases near 200

BEIJING: China has released genome data for the coronavirus found in a new outbreak in Beijing, which state experts suggest share similarities to European strains, as the number of cases neared 200 on Friday. Tens of thousands of people in the Chinese capital are being tested for the contagion while neighbourhoods have been locked down and schools closed as authorities seek to contain a cluster linked to the Xinfadi food market. Another 25 cases were confirmed in Beijing, taking the total number of infections since last week to 183. On Thursday Chinese authorities shared the genome data of the latest outbreak with the World Health Organization and international scientific community. Initial findings suggest it "came from Europe", but is different from what is currently spreading there, said Zhang Yong of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "It is older than the virus currently circulating in Europe," Zhang said in a report published by the Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog on Friday. - APP

Forced displacement affecting
1 per cent of humanity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency said on Friday that the year 2019 saw a sharp increase in global displacement, affecting more than 1 per cent of humanity. Every year, UNHCR releases the Global Trends report around World Refugee Day, which is marked on 20 June as a tribute to the courage and resilience of the millions of people uprooted as a result of ongoing conflicts, war



and natural disasters globally. According to this report, some 79.5 million were displaced by the end of last

year. Of them, 45.7 million people fled to other areas of their own country, while 29.6 million were refugees

and others forcibly displaced outside their country. Some 4.2 million are also awaiting the outcome of asylum requests. Eleven million people were newly displaced, fleeing wars, violence or persecution. In Islamabad, UNHCR and the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), organized a virtual event to express solidarity with those forced to flee their home and the communities that so generously host them.

Ties with South Africa to be enhanced: Mandviwalla

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla has said that Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with South Africa and desires to further expand bilateral ties in different sectors through frequent parliamentary exchanges and enhanced trade and economic linkages. He expressed these views in a meeting with High Commissioner of South Africa Mthuthuzeli Madikiza at Parliament House Islamabad. He said that both the countries share identical views on issues hampering peace and development. He mentioned with satisfaction that both sides also enjoy cooperation at international forums and continue to support each other on important issues. Deputy Chairman remarked that parliamentary diplomacy can play active role in bring the two sides closer and there is need for increasing parliamentary parleys and interactions.

He also extended invitation to his counterparts in both the Houses of the South African Parliament. He said that trade volume needs to be enhanced for the mutual benefit of the people of two sides.

"Trade delegations can facilitate greater economic cooperation between Pakistan and South Africa" said Mandviwalla.

He said that parliamentarians are representatives of the people and they can steer the development agenda in the best interest of the people.

We need to work together for common good and benefit of the people. He also called for re-activating friendship group in the Senate with an aim to further strengthen institutional cooperation and search new avenues for cooperation. Deputy Chairman expressed his well wishes to the High Commissioner and assured his cooperation in further boosting mutual ties. Convenor Pakistan South Africa Friendship group in Senate of Pakistan Senator Faisal Javed was also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Senator Saleem Manadviwalla exchanging views with Mr. Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, High commissioner of South Africa at parliament House on Friday. - DNA