



Islamabad POST

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Weak segments to be protected at all costs, says PM Imran Khan

India deserves punishment for crimes: Masood

German envoy greets Malala on graduation



Briefs

Saudi Arabia returns to normal life

DNA

ABU DHABI: Normal life in Saudi Arabia returned on Sunday after 91 days of lockdown, which was imposed to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus across the kingdom, Saudi media reported.

Saudi Arabia ended a nationwide curfew and lifted restrictions on businesses from Sunday morning after three months of lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The curfew was lifted at 6am (local time) on Sunday. However, restrictions will remain in force for religious pilgrimages, international travel and social gatherings of more than 50 people.

The kingdom introduced stringent measures to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus in March, including 24-hour curfews on most towns and cities.

In May, it announced a three-phase plan to ease restrictions on movement and travel, culminating in the curfew completely ending on June 21.

13 year Girl martyred in Indian fire

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Indian Army Troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation in Hajipur and Bedori Sectors along LOC last night targeting civil population.

Due to indiscriminate fire of Indian troops in Mensar village, Bedori Sector, a 13 years old innocent girl Iqra Shabbir embraced shahadat, while her mother and a 12 year old boy sustained serious injuries.

Pakistan Army troops responded effectively to Indian unprovoked firing.

PIMS ED tests positive

DNA

KARACHI: Executive Director at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad Dr. Ansar Maqsood has tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

They said the PIMS head has isolated himself at home after being diagnosed with the infection that is fast spreading among healthcare professionals at the forefront of the country's fight against the contagion. Meanwhile, an admin officer of the PIMS has also been infected by the coronavirus.

PM says weak segments to be protected

We must fight and expose every mafia. I promised the nation that nothing will be concealed and facts will be made public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, while chairing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's core committee meeting, said that he will not spare the mafias which have created crises in the country.

A detailed briefing was given to the premier regarding the legal proceedings over forensic report of the sugar crisis. The PM said, "We must fight and expose every mafia." "I promised the nation that nothing will be concealed and facts will be

made public. I will fulfill the promise," he added. The core committee expressed confidence over Imran Khan's decision.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan directed the parliamentarians of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to engage in awareness campaign for implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent the spread of coronavirus pandemic in the country. He asked the parliamentarians to encourage the people for adopting preventive measures. He said it is important to raise

the sense of individual and collective responsibility in people to get rid of this pandemic. The committee endorsed the steps taken by the federal government to cope with the coronavirus in the country.

Earlier, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Babar Awan briefed Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding legislation over novel coronavirus. The premier chaired an important meeting with his legal team to deliberate on legislation over COVID-19 as directed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and examined the progress made in health sector.

Punjab reports 1,523 new cases

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab recorded 1,523 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of infections across the province to 65,739, according to the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department.

A spokesperson for the department said, 60 more people died from coronavirus in the previous 24 hours, taking the total number of fatalities to 1,407 in the province.

The number of people recovering from the disease has risen to 18,692, said the spokesperson.

A total of 416,836 tests have been conducted in the province. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) killed 119 more people in the country over the previous 24 hours, taking the death toll from the disease to 3,501.

According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 4,951 fresh cases were detected during this period, taking the national tally of the infected cases to 176,614.

4,951 new infections were detected when 28,855 tests were conducted over the past 24 hours.

A total of 10,716,42 tests have been conducted in the country. More than 150,224 COVID-19 patients are under treatment. 67,353 cases have been detected in Sindh so far, 65,739 in Punjab, 21,444 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 9,328 in Balochistan, 10,662 in Islamabad, 813 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and 1,278 in Gilgit Baltistan.

Pakistan navy observes world hydrography day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy observed World Hydrography Day with enthusiasm and with an aim to create awareness about the importance of Hydrography and its role towards blue economy & overall national growth. Every year on 21 June, World Hydrography Day is celebrated across the world, under the auspices of International Hydrographic Organization, to draw worldwide attention towards the importance of hydrography and to appreciate the work done in this important field in support of safe navigation at open seas, ports and other protected marine areas around the globe. The theme selected for this year is "Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies" which highlights the significant role of Hydrography for optimizing use of autonomous technologies in hydrographic processes.

Autonomous platforms such as Autonomous Surface Vehicles (ASV) and Unmanned

Aerial Vehicles (UAV) equipped with Laser based hydrography systems can be used to conduct high resolution and autonomous Hydrographic Surveys.

Pakistan is blessed with over 1000 Kms of coastline and an area of around 290,000 Sq Km at sea. More than 90% of Pakistan's trade by volume and 70% by value is carried out through Arabian sea. As per Conventions on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Pakistan like other coastal states, is responsible for carrying out hydrographic surveys and production of nautical charts/ maps to provide accurate information to the mariners for safe sea passage.

In this regard, Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department is aptly fulfilling this international obligation, to ensure availability of updated information for mariners who traverse through the busy shipping lanes along Pakistan's coast round the year.



FAISALABAD: A beautiful view of solar eclipse on Sunday. – Muhammad Tahir

Solar eclipse in Pakistan

M.TAHIR

FAISALABAD: The first solar eclipse of this year in Pakistan was witnessed on Sunday. The whole city was overshadowed. However, the ring of fire did not appear.

The eclipse began at 9:26 a.m. this morning in Pakistan in which the moon began to block the path of the sun's rays reaching the earth. After 11 o'clock the eclipse reached its climax. At the height of the eclipse, 92% of the sun was hidden behind the moon. A total solar eclipse was observed in some parts of Pakistan And somewhere I saw a partial solar eclipse. People said that due to the eclipse, the evening view was seen during the day. Eclipse prayers were offered in different cities of Pakistan.

Captain, soldier embrace shahadat

During encounter with terrorists a terrorist was also killed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Terrorists fired at Security Forces's Patrolling party, 5 kms South East of Gharom near North Waziristan District and South Waziristan District boundary. During encounter with terrorists a terrorist was also killed. In exchange of fire Captain Sabih & Sepoy Naveed embraced shahadat; while 2 soldiers got injured. Later during sanitization a Terrorist's compound was cleared.

Taliban release details of Bradrar, Sadiq meeting

DNA

QATAR: The Taliban released the details of the meeting between Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the deputy political chief with the top envoy of the Pakistani Prime Minister for Afghanistan.

"Mullah Baradar Akhund, the Political Deputy-Amir, IEA and Head of the Political Office met in Doha, Mohammad Sadiq Khan, Pakistan Special Representative for Afghanistan and discussed with him problems being faced by the Afghan refugees, businessmen and travellers at Turkham, Spin-

boldsk and Ghulam Khan, urging him to provide them needed facilities. Similarly, both sides talked about the coming intra-Afghan negotiations and peace. They emphasized that peace and security in Afghanistan were in the interest of both nations and countries," Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the political office of Taliban said in his tweets.

A spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan had earlier told that Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador (R) Muhammad Sadiq visited Doha, Qatar on 16-17 June 2020. During the visit, he met Taliban leaders in-

cluding Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar to discuss peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry in a statement said, the Special Representative underlined that Pakistan will continue to play its role as a facilitator for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

In this context, he referred to the highly productive visit of the Chief of Army Staff to Kabul recently, which had imparted a new impetus to Pakistan's efforts. "The Special Representative appreciated the Taliban's commitment to implement the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement.

Govt, BNP-M talks end in stalemate

The BNP chief said that the prime minister had not made any contact

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Talks between the government and BNP-Mengal ended in a stalemate on Saturday after the latter declined to review his decision of parting ways with the ruling coalition, reported media.

Minister for Defence Perwaiz Khattak and Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar met BNP-Mengal President MNA Akhtar Mengal after Prime Minister Imran Khan tasked them to listen to the grievances of BNP-Mengal and convince him to reverse the decision, he had announced on the floor of the National Assembly the other day. During the meeting, Khat-

tak and Umar requested Sardar Akhtar Mengal to withdraw the decision but he refused to do so, and thus the meeting remained fruitless.

After the meeting, Khattak said BNP's reservations would be removed soon and there would be further meetings with Mengal. Umar said that the PTI believed that the country would not be able to make progress if every part of it was not developed and given its due rights.

The BNP chief said that the prime minister had not made any direct contact so far and that he could not violate the party's decision. "We have put our concerns before the government delegation," he maintained.

Two killed in US shooting

LOS ANGELES: A man was shot dead and another seriously injured Saturday in a police-free autonomous zone created by protesters in the US city of Seattle, where officers were prevented from accessing the victims, officials said.

The area, set up as part of the nationwide protest movement following the death of unarmed African American George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer, has been a frequent target of Donald Trump. The US president has called it a "disaster" and said people there are anarchists from the "radical left."

For nearly two weeks, protesters and activists have occupied the western city's Capitol Hill neighborhood, establishing an area described as a "no cop" zone - an urban experiment mostly carried out with a festival-like atmosphere. "Officers attempted to locate a shooting victim but were met by a violent crowd that prevented officers safe access to the victims," the Seattle Police Department said in a statement. Meanwhile, One person died and 11 more were wounded in a shooting in the US city of Minneapolis, police said Sunday.

FBISE announces results

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary education (FBISE) on Sunday announced the date for the release of SSC part-II and intermediate exam results. As per details, the FBISE will announce SSC part-II examination results in the first week of July, while the Intermediate exam results will be announced in the third week of the next month. – DNA

12 Kazakh citizens evacuated from Pakistan

The third citizen in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Procedure for crossing the State border of the Republic of Kazakhstan from May 11, 2020 for the period of quarantine restrictions and the presence of his Kazakhstan multiple entry visa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan evacuated citizens of Kazakhstan who expressed a desire to return to their homeland. This action was held jointly with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Islamabad, a special board of the Pakistan International Airlines on the route: Lahore - Bishkek - Taraz. Wherein, the departure of Kazakh citizens to Taraz was carried out with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bishkek and the akimat of Zhambyl region. As a result, 12 of our com-

patriots, including one child returned to their homeland in compliance with all quarantine measures. Together with our citizens, three citizens of Pakistan were evacuated, two of whom had a residence permit of a foreigner in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The third citizen in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Procedure for crossing the State border of the Republic of Kazakhstan from May 11, 2020 for the period of quarantine restrictions and the presence of his Kazakhstan multiple entry visa. The work of the Embassy to support citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and provide them with the necessary assistance continues.



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Pak, China's staff of CPEC project join hands to curb COVID-19

'Pak key partner of China's satellite navigation program'

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According to District Emergency Officer (DEO), Rescue-1122, Rawalpindi Dr Abdul Rehman, due to heat wave, the incidents of fire are increasing day by day, adding that people should be cautioned in using electricity gadgets.

- APP

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Curriculum, knowledge and universities

WHEN you make changes in curriculum, essentially you are making decisions about what kind of knowledge students are going to acquire or build. Of course, the level of knowledge should differ at each level of education from elementary and primary to secondary and tertiary.

But before we discuss who can make such decisions and how, we must be clear about some basic concepts that appear to be lost on those who take it upon themselves to tinker with curriculum. In one of our previous discussions we talked about the difference between development and progress. That difference can also be applied to the concepts of curriculum and syllabus. Though there is no universal agreement about standard definitions of both, one of the ways to distinguish between them can be to look at curriculum as overall development goals for students, and syllabus as a collection of educational tasks.

That means any changes in curriculum are likely to affect the development of students as both human beings and professionals. Curriculum in a broader sense influences the totality of student experiences in the educational process. Since our instructional goals should be different from schools to colleges and universities, the content and process need to be chosen with care by those who know a thing or two about them. Ideally, curriculum should incorporate the planned interaction of students with instructional content, like material and resources. The process of this interaction should become more constructive as we move from lower to higher levels of education.

The selection of content and process cannot and should not be left to those who can ex officio summon vice-chancellors and instruct them to make changes into curriculum. It is a policy decision that needs broad-based consultation with curriculum experts, educationists, employers, parents, and most all students and teachers. Educationists have identified the features of explicit and implicit curricula. Explicit curriculum is knowledge or skills-based that covers subjects to be taught, topics to be covered, or skills to be learned. Whereas implicit curriculum is what makes some fundamental changes in students' personalities.

Experience has demonstrated over centuries and across countries that implicit or hidden curriculum can bring about attitudinal alteration that ultimately determine what kind of society you are going to have in a generation or two. Whatever we did to education in the 1950s and 1960s with the likes of Maj-Gen Iskandar Mirza, General Ayub Khan, Dr Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, and the Nawab of Kalabagh, we reaped in the 1970s; and whatever General Ziaul Haq and his so-called Islamization did to education in the 1980s, we have been witnessing for the past four decades.

In between Z A Bhutto's attempts to provide almost free and universal public education were thwarted. The question is what kind of educational objectives we want to achieve. The more denominational, faith-based, prescriptive, and self-righteous we make it, the more these attitudes we will inculcate among students and in our future generations.

Covid budget

SINCE the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been Chief Minister Mahmood Khan's endeavour to ensure that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are provided with an honest appraisal of what the situation is, what it is likely to be in the coming days, weeks and months, and what the cost of the pandemic will be. The chief minister approved the annual budget on the basis of the one test that our leader Prime Minister Imran Khan and the PTI leadership demands of us: what does it do for the people?

We have tried to answer this question through a wide array of budgetary measures, but there are five that I believe will help illuminate our approach. First, this is a Covid-19 budget. We have therefore made the biggest investment in healthcare in the history of the province. What Covid-19 has exposed is the vulnerability of our society to disease.

A well-funded, efficiently-run, and evenly-spread public healthcare system is the only way to mitigate against future outbreaks. We will redouble our efforts to build a world class routine immunization programme, so our kids can be stronger from the very start. Perhaps our most important initiative in health will be the roll out of the universal health insurance programme, making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the first province in the country to offer such protection. Second, this budget creates a Rs15 billion Covid-19 emergency fund, in addition to, and separate from the overall health budget.

The priority in this fund will be to protect our frontline health workers by ensuring a steady and consistent supply of essential PPEs for all of them. We will expand our bed and ventilator capacity, and strengthen the medical and healthcare supply chain in the province. Our testing capacity has already increased significantly since the start of this pandemic, and it will be further buttressed through this fund.

Third, and I feel obligated to acknowledge this, the chief Minister has been extremely clear that the development budget is where our economic stimulus comes from, so it was not to be corroded by any other expenditure area, particularly recurring costs. The trade-off is simple. Recurring costs cannot create new jobs, or new infrastructure, and they cannot expand or enhance existing state capability. Despite fiscal constraints, and escalating costs, the PTI is pushing ahead with a development agenda focused on creating opportunity and expanding capability. Our Rs318 billion development expenditure allocation is larger than Sindh's and almost as big as Punjab's despite our constraints and much smaller population.

Perhaps most importantly, due to prudent fiscal management, we have a manageable debt profile, and will use this space to make targeted borrowing decisions to help stimulate the economy. Fourth, we have chosen to eschew new taxes. The budget contains no new taxes, no increase in tax rates, and includes the most innovative and ambitious package of tax reforms and relief in our province's history. We have removed tax duplicity by removing overlapping and redundant taxes. Sales tax on services (STS) has been reduced for over 27 categories. This is an all-encompassing reduction for sectors where the economic activity has dampened and directly impacted cash flow and liquidity.

World Hydrography Day: mapping the Oceans

Basit Ali

World Hydrography Day is being organized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to highlight the work of all the world's hydrographers and to spread worldwide public awareness about the importance of hydrography. The Day is celebrated every year on 21 June and it has become a dynamic platform which helps to meet one of the UN's sustainable development goals to ensure the health of the world's oceans. The theme for this year's World Hydrography Day is 'Hydrography – Enabling Autonomous Technologies' – a call to underscore the important role of hydrography in autonomous technologies. In 1921, the International Hydrographic Bureau was established with the purpose

HYDROGRAPHY is the branch of applied science which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of the navigable portion of the earth's surface (seas) and adjoining coastal areas, with special reference to their use for the purpose of navigation. It is the process of collecting the depth data of the water bodies and surveying them which leads to their mapping that encapsulates the shape of the seabed and all other physical features inside it, which end up into final product called a nautical chart. Besides safety of navigation, mapping of water bodies is being done in support of various marine activities including economic development, security and defense, marine resource exploitation, disaster management, scientific research, oceanographic research, environmental protection and maritime boundary delimitation between neighboring countries. The hydrographic data is being collected by using various state of the art gadgets which include satellite positioning systems and different type of depth measuring systems working on the principles of sound and laser ranging. These systems are integrated and mounted on various sea and air platforms. World Hydrography Day is being organized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to highlight the work of all the world's hydrographers and to spread worldwide public awareness about the importance of hydrography. The Day is celebrated every year on 21 June and it has become a dynamic platform which helps to meet one of the UN's sustainable development goals to ensure the health of the world's oceans. The theme for this year's World Hydrography Day is 'Hydrography – Enabling Autonomous Technologies' – a call to underscore the important role of hydrography in autonomous technologies. In 1921, the International Hydrographic Bureau was established with the purpose of providing a mechanism for consultation among world governments on matters like safe navigation, technical standards and the protection of the marine environment, however, in 1970 its name was changed to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). In 2005, the IHO came up with the idea of a World Hydrography Day and it was welcomed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in its adopted resolution on 'Oceans and the Law of the Sea'. With regards to Pakistan, Pakistan Navy is being aptly fulfilling the international obligation under IHO to ensure the availability of latest information for the mariners who navigate through the shipping routes along Pakistan's coast. Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department (PNHD) – established in 1949 – conducts hydrographic surveys of coastal and off shore waters of the country and publishes issues

nautical charts while maintaining a high standard of performance in the Hydrographic service. PNHD has state of the art hydrographic survey vessels with latest gadgetry. These are the ships which collect and process survey data of coastal and deeper areas of country's water which is subsequently utilized for production of nautical charts. After production, nautical charts become available for national/ international shipping. Besides extending the hydrography setup, PNHD is also contributing as a Coordinator of NAVAREA-IX – consists of 16 countries of North Arabian Sea region – since 1976 and therefore, coordinates transmission of all relevant maritime information regarding the safety of transiting vessels. Pakistan is endowed with diversified natural capital spanning from a long coast to the second highest mountain peak (K2) of the world. Over 1000 kilometers long coastline is shared by the coastal provinces of Sindh and Balochistan. The Continental Shelf is extended up to 350 nautical miles. It is pertinent to mention that the extension was granted to Pakistan due to the collaborative efforts of National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department (PNHD). Both submitted aforementioned claim in the UN to acquire the exclusive rights over the seabed and subsoil for exploration and use of marine resources including energy production. In addition to this milestone achievement, PNHD is regularly surveying the coastal areas and updating the new series of charts. It has conducted systematic mapping of all the sites having potential to build major sea ports along Pakistan coast. Besides this,

PNHD helped in a successful resolution of maritime boundaries with Iran and Oman. Moreover, in support to resolve maritime boundary dispute between India and Pakistan, a joint survey of Sir Creek area by PNHD and Indian hydrographic department. PNHD has also conducted various inland surveys apart from hydrographic surveys at sea. Inland surveys done by PNHD includes surveys of dams for storage capacity and River Indus (Nowshera to Dawood Khel, Mianwali). Being a member of Ministry of Science and Technology's project on Seawater Intrusion (SWI), PNHD is supporting and sharing its relevant expert opinion on the subject matter with the NIO.

As per official sources, Pakistan Navy re-affirms its commitment for the sustainable usage of oceans while endeavoring to ensure safety of the maritime shipping through innovative methods of Hydrography on the World Hydrographic Day. Pakistan Navy celebrates this year's World Hydrography Day by arranging a number of awareness enhancing activities on the theme of the Day to highlight the efforts of PNHD and the importance of Hydrography. This Day requires us to embark upon sustainable innovation techniques to modernize our sea mapping systems while focusing on maritime infrastructure, technology for offshore resource development, a strong fisheries and marine leisure sector (tourism), environment issues etc.

These are compelling reasons for Pakistan to endorse and internalize the concept of "Innovation for Autonomous Technologies" in policy.



Society faces new risks thanks to the 'new normal'

Maha Akeel



According to the World Health Organization, steps toward the "new normal" must be guided by public health principles, together with economic and societal considerations. This means that risks should be minimized in the most vulnerable settings, such as homes for the elderly, mental health facilities and in crowded places. Workplaces should establish preventive measures and communities should have a voice so that they are engaged in the transition. Although the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak are more visible in the health and economic sectors, and their impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable populations is greater

AS public life gradually returns and we come out of our cocoon after months of lockdown, reacquainting ourselves with the streets and our workplaces, adjusting to the precautionary measures of wearing face masks, which have become the new "must-have" fashion accessory, keeping our distance and washing our hands often, we are slowly adapting to the "new normal." It comes, though, with a heavy sense of wariness from being close to anyone or amid any gatherings of even just a few people, paranoia from touching anything or any signs of coughing or sneezing, and high alertness to any negative news about the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. For how long can we tolerate this and continue with these measures?

There are already reports of high levels of stress and depression. There are many factors contributing to an overwhelming atmosphere of gloom, such as the increasing numbers of infected and dead, the overburdened medical facilities and staff, the loved ones who are sick and need care or who are still in another country by choice or by lack of means for returning, in addition to job and business losses, interrupted education, and uncertainty about the future. Even the countries that had seemingly announced their victory over the virus by reducing the number of new cases to zero, lifting quarantine measures and opening up businesses are, one by one, being forced to reinstate curfews. Officials and scientists at all levels are warning of a second wave while we are not even over the first one. As long as there is no effective cure or vaccine, we remain under threat and must continue with the precautionary measures.

Nevertheless, life goes on. People are restless and want to meet their families and friends, go back to their businesses, and enjoy social occasions and public places without feeling constrained. Technology has been convenient in allowing us to keep in touch from a distance, follow our studies and work as much as possible, and provide us with entertainment during lockdown. Some of the restrictions have now

been lifted. However, there is an urgent, critical need for people, especially the young, to act responsibly and sensibly; the selfishness of a few could be disastrous for many, particularly the elderly, meaning their parents and grandparents. It is absolutely unacceptable to have groups of people, whether they are family members or friends, in close proximity to one another, some even without masks. Eid Al-Fitr should not have been an occasion to spread the virus, but an occasion to celebrate good health.

We miss the human physical contact, the hugs and kisses and even the simple handshake. We missed attending funerals, weddings and births. The cycle of life continued as we sat watching from home. We long to go to Makkah and Madinah. We miss dining out, walking along the beach or in the park, and going to movies and concerts. The longer the curfews continue, the worse our economic and social conditions become, and it is up to us to minimize the damage. The consequences of the pandemic will be with us for some time, but the better we comply with the precautionary measures to contain it, the sooner we can start addressing these consequences, especially the economic ones.

According to the World Health Organization, steps toward the "new normal" must be guided by public health principles, together with economic and societal considerations. This means that risks should be minimized in the most vulnerable settings, such as homes for the elderly, mental health facilities and in crowded places. Workplaces should establish preventive measures and communities should have a voice so that they are engaged in the transition. Although the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak are more visible in the health and economic sectors, and their impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable populations is greater, the full impact of the pandemic in terms of social relations and behaviors is still not fully understood, according to a recent study on the pandemic's socioeconomic impacts in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and

Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC). Initial studies find that social distancing will have implications for travel, out-of-home activities, public transportation patterns, and social isolation. While the lockdown was a forced opportunity to slow down, reconnect with family and appreciate the countless blessings in life, it was also, unfortunately, a ripe environment for aggravating problems, leading to higher rates of violence and abuse. The effects of that will be felt disproportionately by children and women. Meanwhile, our reliance on technology will increase. The International Telecommunications Union pointed out that a new digital society came into our lives because of the forced social isolation of lockdown. The emerging digital process will impact OIC countries in one of two ways, according to SESRIC. Those countries with broad access to digital technologies will resort to online communication both in the ongoing outbreak stage and afterward. In contrast, OIC countries with limited access to online platforms will be divided from their social networks – possibly leading to either increased physical interaction or an increase in anxiety, depression and loneliness due to the experiences of disconnect. SESRIC warns that digitization will bring new risks that need careful attention, especially with regards to children. Limited physical contact may pave the way for psychological and social issues, such as a loss of values, breakdown of social cohesion, and exclusion of those without access or, for others, digital addictions. Overall, it concludes, the required social distancing responses to the pandemic, combined with the changing relations of people to their work, family and friends, have resulted in novel trends and norms. Digitization has played a leading role in this process. The future of social relations and their constructive and healthy development will depend on the social policy responses of governments and communities alike.

Maha Akeel is a Saudi writer based in Jeddah. Twitter: @MahaAkeel1

Briefs

Pak death toll jumps past 3,500

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Confirmed cases in the country climbed to 176,617 after new cases were reported in Islamabad and AJK. According to the national dashboard, 98 new cases were recorded in the federal capital while 19 new cases were detected in AJK. The country's death toll also jumped to 3,501 deaths. Worldwide, at least 8.75 million people have been confirmed to have the coronavirus, more than 4.3 million have recovered, and more than 464,000 people have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. Nearly 50,000 people have died from the coronavirus in Brazil.

German envoy greets Malala

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck has congratulated Malala Yousafzai, the female education activist and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, for completing her graduation degree in the discipline of Philosophy, Politics and Economics for the Oxford University. It was a big achievement and a moment of pride not only for Malala, but also for her parents, he said while talking to APP. The education of both the mind and the heart of a person were the most powerful tools to change the world and serve the humanity, he said, adding he was wishing the best of luck for her future goals from her homeland. "A new chapter of life starts after graduation and hopefully she will do better in future," he added. — APP

Spain reopens to foreign tourists

DNA

MADRID: Spain is today re-opening its tourism industry by lifting travel restrictions for foreign visitors. Visitors from the EU and Schengen zone countries and Britain will not have to isolate on arrival. Face masks still have to be worn in public spaces where social distancing is not possible.

3 slain in stabbing at UK park

DNA

READING: Three people were killed and another three seriously injured when a man went on a stabbing spree in a park in the southern English town of Reading on Saturday, though police said they were not currently treating the incident as terrorism. Witnesses said a man went on the rampage at around 18:00 GMT in Forbury Gardens, stabbing people at random who had gathered in the park on a sunny summer evening in Reading, which is about 65 kilometres west of London.

Beijing reports 22 new virus cases

BEIJING: China's capital reported 22 new cases of the coronavirus on Sunday after a mass testing effort that has collected more than two million samples in a race to contain a new outbreak. The fresh cluster in Beijing has raised fears of a resurgence of the virus in China, which had largely brought the disease under control over recent months. Dozens of communities have been sealed off in the city to contain the spread, with residents told to avoid non-essential travel and schools closed. The new infections reported Sunday include a nurse — the first health worker to test positive since the re-emergence of the illness just over a week ago. — APP

Pak, China's staff of CPEC project join hands to curb COVID-19

Sponsored by CGGC, a Chinese construction and engineering company, SK Hydropower Project is a run-of-the-river project being established alongside the Kunhar River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China's staff of CPEC projects have joined hands to vigorously implement SOPs to curb COVID-19, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. As per China Gezhouba Group Co (CGGC), the construction of SK project has now reached a critical point. With over 2,700 Pakistani employees and 650 Chinese employees joining hands to curb the pandemic, no confirmed case of the novel coronavirus was detected in the project so far. In order to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire SK project site was divided into more than 400 working areas. Each

working area was equipped with a safety coordinator like Akhbab Sharif and some other personnel from Pakistan and China. They were in charge of the daily epidemic prevention work in his/her own working area. "We are going through a difficult time here," Akhbab Sharif said, "it is my duty to ensure the safety of every employee in the working area. I should do my part to prevent the epidemic." "Safety first," noted Akhbab Sharif. Facing the combined pressure of the epidemic prevention work and the critical juncture of project progressing, Akhbab Sharif, along with his colleagues, checked the construction site every single day to ensure the safety of workers.



With an infrared temperature gun in his hand, Akhbab Sharif carried out epidemic prevention activities, conducted dis-

infection measures, and recorded everybody's temperature and health data every day. At the same time, he did

his best to remind on-site operators to wash hands frequently, keep a safe distance, keep their dormitories clean all the time and

open the window often. Sponsored by CGGC, a Chinese construction and engineering company, SK Hydropower Project is a run-of-the-river project being established alongside the Kunhar River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is also one of Pakistan's largest private sector power development projects and is being constructed as part of CPEC's "Early Harvest" projects. The construction of this project will greatly help Pakistan to overcome the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. It creates job opportunities, improves the living standard of local residents and increases the tax revenue of Pakistan, the report added.

'Pak key partner of China's satellite navigation program'

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan is one of key and important partners of China in its satellite navigation program and both the countries are cooperating with each other in the training, application systems besides performance monitoring and assessment. "We perceive a better cooperation perspective with Pakistan in the field of satellite navigation system," said, RAN Chengqi, Director General of China Satellite Navigation Office (CSNO) and Spokesman of Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS). Pakistan became the first foreign country to use China based GPS system made by Beidou Satellite System. Beidou, or Compass, has also set up network in Pakistan. The two friendly countries have signed bilateral agree-

ments to strengthen cooperation in satellite navigation system, he told media during a visit to Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan Province. Beidou, China's largest space-based system and one of the four global navigation networks, along with the United States' GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo, began providing positioning, navigation, timing and messaging services to civilian users in China and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region in December 2012. At the end of 2018, Beidou started to provide global services. RAN said services provided by the Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) are wide-ranging and would benefit the entire world through more international cooperation. He informed that enterprises of over 200 coun-

tries have so far applied for BDS based technology. The products manufactured by the Chinese companies are being exported to over 100 countries. "The users of the countries along the Belt and Road region will be our target and we will provide our service to South East Asia, South Asia and African," he added. The BDS services are used in various fields including transportation, agriculture, fishing, disaster reduction and relief. The services are available in more than 70 percent of smartphones in China, making people's lives smarter and more convenient, he added. It may be mentioned here that during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's trip to Pakistan in May 2013, the two sides reached a consensus to create a new pattern of strategic cooperation. A joint statement on deepening comprehensive co-

operation between the two countries highlighted eight areas including new fields like inter-connectivity, maritime cooperation, and aviation and aerospace. Regarding aviation and aerospace cooperation, the two sides signed an agreement to introduce Beidou Satellite Navigation System to Pakistan, making Pakistan the first country in the world to sign an official cooperation agreement on BDS. By covering Karachi and its surrounding areas with the high-precision navigation network, the project has helped basic geographic surveying, land management and port dispatching with reduced costs and enhanced efficiency. Cooperation involving BDS will be expanded to Thailand and Sri Lanka in future, and later on to the rest of Southeast Asia in a bid to go global.

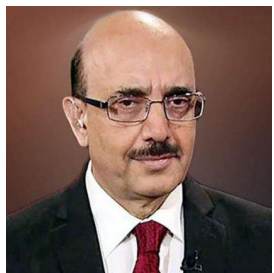
Govt allocates Rs26bn to fight locusts

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday announced it was allocating funds amounting to Rs26 billion to fight the locust outbreak in the country, reported media. Minister for National Food Security and Research Fakhar Imam said desert locust situation in Pakistan has found a new corridor and were now entering Pakistan from Afghanistan to Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan. "The federal government will spend Rs14 billion and provincial governments will contribute Rs12 billion to counter the locust," Imam said while addressing the 5th meeting of the National Locust Control Centre. The locust plague has affected farmers across the country and is feared to create food shortages. Pakistan declared a national emergency after the first swarm invaded the country from the UAE in mid-2019. Another wave is expected to soon arrive from Iran. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimated \$2.5 billion worth of losses to winter crops and \$2.8 billion to summer crops. The threat coincides with the coronavirus crisis that already crippled the economy and growth prospects. Economic growth is expected to contract 0.4% this fiscal year from 1.9% in the last fiscal year. Crop losses have been reported in several areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in Dera Ismail Khan district, from where these locust swarms were entering Punjab. The food minister said locusts attack has been minimised by combined efforts in majority areas. The teams on the ground were sent out at night to spray and destroy locust when it rested, he said. "Federal and provincial governments, district administration and farmers are coordinating to tackle the locust attacks," he said. — DNA

India deserves punishment for crimes: Masood Khan

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that China by erecting a barricade against India's aggression in Ladakh region has provided us an opportunity to convince the international community that China-India clash in Ladakh was not the real issue but the Kashmir conflict is the root cause of all problems in the region. "India has capitulated to China in Ladakh but the evil minded Indian rulers may carry out any misadventure against Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in order to divert attention from Ladakh fiasco," he said. In an interview with Canada-based Omni TV through video link from here on Saturday, the AJK president said that the United States which is engaged in its domestic issues, has not come up with clear support to India on Ladakh issue. He said that tension certainly prevails between China and the United States, but the two coun-



tries are big trade partners as well. Therefore, the United States would never sacrifice its economic interests just to appease India. Sardar Masood Khan said that India which had arrogantly moved into Ladakh, after facing humiliating defeat and losing vast area, is now shamelessly claiming that the Chinese Army had not entered in any area under its occupation though the Indian media and some Modi government officials had been crying a few days back that the Chinese Army had captured 60 square kilometres area in Galwan valley. After facing defeat on the military front, India on one hand talking about slashing its trade volume with China, while on the other, it has intensified brutalities against the de-

fenseless people in occupied Kashmir in order to divert attention. He warned that reduction to trade with China will be suicidal for India because in case of tension China may shift its 2.5 billion dollars' investment from India to some other country. Throwing light on the background of China-India tension, the AJK president said that China considers repeal of articles 370 and 35-A and reversal of the special status of Kashmir by India as a danger to its security and sovereignty. "We are thankful to China for shattering India's arrogant expansion policy that had indirectly helped the Kashmiri people and facilitating Pakistan to convene three informal UN Security Council sessions on Kashmir," Khan said. To a question, he said that India has always used the bilateral talks as a time buying ploy and has used it to stabilize its occupation of Kashmir. Now that the issue has been once again internationalized, we should stick to our stance of resolving Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Resolutions.

OIC to hold FM level virtual meeting

ISLAMABAD: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir would hold an emergency foreign minister level meeting via video conference on Monday (June 22, 2020) to discuss the latest situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The meeting will bring together the foreign ministers of the member states of Jammu and Kashmir Contact Group including Azerbaijan, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s said. OIC Secretary General Dr Yousef Al-Othaimen said the meeting was part of a series of continuous Jammu and Kashmir Contact Group meetings to address the Kashmir issue. The meeting has been summoned in wake of the unabated extra-judicial killings of Kashmiri youth by the Indian occupation forces in IOJK and persistent other human rights violations in the territory.

Uzbek foreign trade turnover \$12.98 bln

DNA

TASHKENT: According to the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, in January-May 2020, the foreign trade turnover of Uzbekistan reached US\$12.98 billion, which, compared with the same period of last year, decreased by US\$2.44 billion. Exports reached US\$5.14 billion (a decrease of 15.6% was recorded in January-May 2019), and imports reached US\$7.84 billion (a decrease of 16.1%). A passive balance of foreign trade in the amount of US\$2.69 billion was recorded. Uzbekistan has trade relations with more than 150 countries of the world. The largest foreign trade turnover was recorded with China (17.9%), the Russian Federation (16.9%), Kazakhstan (8.4%), the Republic of Korea (7.3%), Turkey (5.5%), and Kyrgyzstan (2.3%) and Afghanistan (2.0%). Significant changes were achieved in the structure of exports as a result of increased production of products that replaced imported goods and diversification of industrial production. In addition, there is a strengthening of relations

with neighboring states, a lot of work is being done to develop relations in the socio-economic, commercial, industrial and cultural sphere with these countries. In particular, in recent years, significant changes in the foreign trade turnover have been observed with neighboring states, for example, such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The presence of an active foreign trade balance with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan can be considered as a positive result in the country's foreign trade. The largest volume of the foreign trade turnover with other states (except neighboring countries) falls on Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Turkey. Among the 20 major partner countries for foreign economic activity, there is also an active foreign trade balance with five countries, in particular with such countries as Afghanistan (US\$263.2 million), Kyrgyzstan (US\$211.2 million), Tajikistan (US\$117.8 million), France (US\$27.1 million) and Iran (US\$27.9 million). With the remaining 15 countries, a passive balance of foreign trade is maintained.

Afghan govt refuses to release "dangerous" Taliban

DNA

KABUL: The Afghan government has refused to release the Taliban prisoners who are accused of involvement in deadly attacks, a released demand by the Taliban as a pre-condition to starting the intra-Afghan negotiations, according to the reports. The Afghan government had opposed the release of hundreds of Taliban prisoners and now western powers are backing the government's refusal. These prisoners are accused of involvement in large-scale terrorist attacks including the 2017 car bomb attack at the Zanaqa square, the report said. Meanwhile, the NATO Secretary-General said that the release of prisoners is a part of the US-Taliban agreement and a precondition for the start of negotiations, and NATO expects progress to be made in this area." NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said: "One part of this agreement, the US-Taliban agreement is... the release of prisoners on both sides. That's part of the agreement. That's the way to create the conditions for intra-Afghan negotiations. And I'm absolutely certain that the only way to reach a political, sustainable, peaceful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan is to have an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process. Therefore, intra-Afghan negotiations are so important."

CTP distributes food among daily wage workers

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi distributed food among daily wage, hawkers and poor people after the Smart Lockdown situation at police chowki located in Murree Road here on Sunday, informed police spokesman. According to a statement issued here, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Syed Akbar appealed the philanthropists to come forward and help the deserving people. He, however, directed the traffic wardens to arrest the professional beggars, saying, the strict action must be taken against such elements who were cheating the general public. The CTO said there was no need to be worry, urging the masses that wearing masks and gloves as a precaution against coronavirus. — APP

One more corona virus victim dies in AJK

MUZAFFARABAD: One person have been died with COVID-19 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Sunday, taking the number of total deaths to 20 in the territory while 32 more tested positive for the virus which took the number of coronavirus infected people to 845. According to an official of the health department, out of total 20 deaths in AJK 10 occurred in capital Muzaffarabad, three each in Bagh and Mirpur, one each in Bhimber and Rawalakot and 2 in Sudhunoti (Plundari). — APP

Rescue 1122 conducts mock flood exercise

MUNIR FAISAL

ATTACK: Rescue 1122 conducted second mock flood exercise on Saturday at Shahdi Khal site at River sindh in which Rescue 1122, Health Department, Education Department, Livestock department, rescue volunteers/scouts, and Police Department participated. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Ch Abdul Majid witnessed the second pre-flood exercise along with District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Dr Main Mu-

hammad Ashfaq. The mock flood exercise was aimed at shifting the stranded people to safer places. The various departments including Rescue, Health, Livestock and others also registered for setting up of medical camps. He said that Rescue 1122 is doing great job and such joint exercises helps to improve coordination between all stakeholders and resources may be made compatible with that of the challenge. Furthermore he also appreciated volunteers contribution in this regard.

Azerbaijani Army among the most advanced in world

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani Army has become the most modern and powerful armed forces, not only in the region but also in the world, Georgian military expert Vakh-tang Maisaya said. According to him, Georgia can benefit from the experience of military reforms in Azerbaijan. "Azerbaijan has successfully established a national military-in-

dustrial complex. The country manufactures not only military products but also assembles new types of weapons as well, which are extremely suitable for the present-time military operations. Azerbaijan supplies about 40 percent of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces' demand for military products, which is an important indicator." The specialist said that the Azerbaijani state pursues an effective and robust defense policy under the leadership of President Ilham

Aliyev: "The country's military strategy completely suits the realities of the new military security. Azerbaijan is undoubtedly ahead of both Georgia and Armenia in terms of the regional arms race. Extending congratulations on the 102nd anniversary of the Azerbaijani Army, the expert noted that the country's servicemen are essential in ensuring international security and strengthening stability. "The Azerbaijani Armed Forces are actively involved in the fight

against international terrorism and peacekeeping operations. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey enjoy military cooperation, and the military of all three countries participate in joint exercises. This partnership also covers energy security. Thus, the vastly important regional and global projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, Baku-Tbilisi-Supsa, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, TAP, and TANAP boost the role of military forces in ensuring energy security at the regional level."