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Deepening of Pakistan, Azerbaijan defence ties need of the hour

EU envoy stresses judiciary role in justice system

India using terrorism as state policy: FO



Briefs

Virus cases may increase abnormally

DNA

KARACHI: A research report has found that the number of coronavirus patients in the country may reach four million in the next two months. The rapid increase in the number of coronavirus patients has put a question mark over official data owing to lack of facilities to test all virus suspects, with medical experts warning that a surge in deaths and number of patients indicate the looming danger.

Building close relations with Afghanistan, high priority

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority of Pakistan's foreign policy and a vital component of our vision of a peaceful neighborhood. Talking to Pakistan's Special Envoy to Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq Khan in Islamabad, today (Wednesday), he said that the stable relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is imperative for the progress and development of both the countries. He said bilateral Parliamentary, trade and economic engagement could strengthen the existing fraternal bonds. He said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are brotherly neighboring countries intertwined in religious, cultural and historical bonds.

Cabinet body meets

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on the State-owned Enterprises (CCSOEs) met here today to discuss the governance reforms on the state-owned enterprises and the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of Sarmaya-i-Pakistan Limited. The CCSOEs meeting chaired by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh decided to set up a sub-committee headed by Minister for Industries and Production Muhammad Hammad Azhar to study the status and implementation of the recommendations of Task Force on Austerity and Government Restructuring Report on restructuring and reorganisation of the federal government.

SBP gets \$1 bln from WB, ADB

The ADB had approved a loan worth \$500 million to Pakistan to help the country's coronavirus health and economic response

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received \$1 billion, \$500 million each from World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to facilitate the country during its fight against coronavirus. The development — part of the COVID-19 Active Re-

sponse and Expenditure Support (CARES) Programme — comes following a meeting of the ADB's Board of Directors in Philippines' capital, Manila. In its statement, the bank said the loan would help "deliver social protection programs to the poor and vulnerable, expand health sector capabilities, and de-

liver a pro-poor fiscal stimulus to boost growth and create jobs as the country fights the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic". Earlier this month, the ADB had approved a loan worth \$500 million to Pakistan to help the country's coronavirus health and economic response and "protect poor" citizens.

India using terrorism as state policy: FO

Pakistan had proposed to declare four Indian nationals as terrorists under the UN 1267 Sanctions List as they were providing financial, technical and material support to terrorist groups

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqi has said that India is "using terrorism as a state policy" to destabilise Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. She added India supports terrorist groups and banned outfits for carrying out terrorist activities inside Pakistan. In a statement on Wednesday, she said Pakistan had proposed to declare four Indian nationals as terrorists under the United Nations 1267 Sanctions List as they were providing financial, technical and material support to terrorist groups including TTP, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and others. She said that the individuals were identi-

fied as Venumadhav Dongara, Ajoy Mistry, Gobinda Patnaik, and Angara Appaji. Aisha maintained that the UNSC Sanctions Committee objected to declaring Dongara as a terrorist. The spokesperson observed that Pakistan hopes the listing requests of other three Indian nationals will be given due consideration in an objective and transparent manner. She said India took advantage of regional situation and promoted terrorism inside Pakistan by providing training and financial support to terrorist groups to kill innocent people in Pakistan. She said these Indian nationals are now residing in India with impunity which indicates Pakistan's position that India is a state that sponsors terrorism.

Initial plane report finds human error

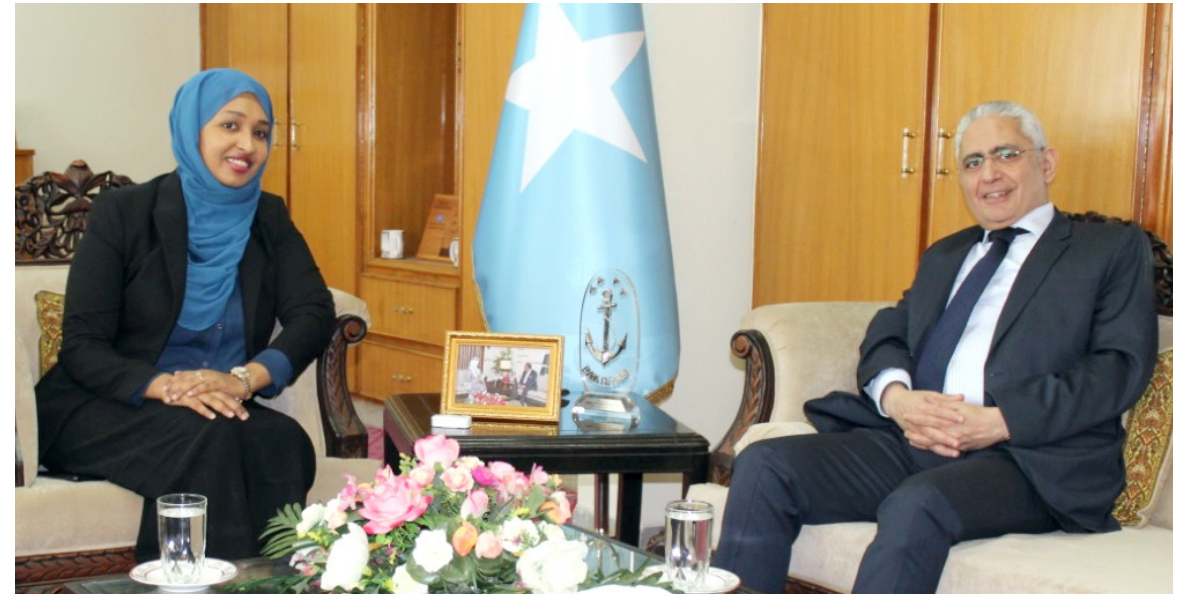
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan, while speaking in the National Assembly on Wednesday, said that the initial report of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) June 22 plane crash found the pilots and air traffic control (ATC) officials to be at fault for not following set procedures. Khan said that both the pilots and the ATC ignored "standard protocols". The PIA Airbus A320 crashed last month in Karachi's Model Colony, close to the Jinnah International Airport, killing all but two of the 99 aboard. Flight PK8303 from Lahore came down about



a kilometre short of the runway on its second attempt to land. According to Khan, there was no technical fault in the plane and both the pilots were medically fit to fly. He added that data from the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) was decoded in the presence of foreign experts. "According to the report,

the plane was 100 per cent fit for flying. It had no technical fault. Flights were suspended due to corona, the plane took its first flight on May 7 and the crash happened on May 22. In between, it completed six flights successfully; five to and from Karachi and one to Sharjah. "The pilot on the final approach did not identify any technical fault [as well]. At a distance of 10 miles from runway, the plane should have been at an altitude of 10,200 feet but it was around 7,000 feet. This was the first irregularity," Khan said. He said that the ATC told the pilot thrice that the plane was too low to land but he refused to listen.



ISLAMABAD: Acting Dean of Arab countries and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi meeting with newly arrived Ambassador of Egypt Tarek Dahroug. — DNA

Pakistan condemns attack towards Riyadh

DNA

RIYADH: Pakistan strongly condemns multiple missile and drone attacks towards Riyadh, Najran and Jazan by the Houthi militia. Pakistan appreciates the successful interception of the missiles and drones, which prevented the loss of innocent lives. We call for immediate cessation of these attacks. Pakistan reiterates its full support and solidarity with Saudi Arabia against any threats to its security and territorial integrity.

Qureshi denies rift with Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that he has never had any "misunderstanding" with Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry. "I have had no misunderstanding with him," Qureshi told a private television channel. "I have always had a good relationship with Fawad Chaudhry." Chaudhry, in an interview with Voice of America, had said that rifts among Jahanگیر Khan Tareen, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar had hurt the party and forced its "political class" to part ways with the PTI. "As soon as the PTI government was formed, quarrels among Qureshi, Umar and Tareen began," Chaudhry had said. "Tareen used his influence to get Umar removed from the cabinet and later Umar got Tareen out." While Qureshi denied having any misunderstanding with Chaudhry, Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan was less forgiving.

Chinese in India being harassed

Since then some Indians have launched campaigns calling for a boycott of Chinese products and businesses. Anti-China protests are being held

BEIJING: Some Chinese living in India say its unsafe for them to go out in public and have closed their shops amid a boycott that has included anti-China graffiti and the burning of Chinese flags. The wave of anti-China sentiment in India erupted after a border clash in Galwan Valley between China and India, Global Times reported on Wednesday. Since then some Indians have launched campaigns calling for a boycott of Chi-

nese products and businesses. Anti-China protests are being held in many cities. Chinese living in India reached by the Global Times said anti-China sentiment has impacted their daily lives and some have had to close their stores and restaurants because of boycotts. They said they're concerned strong Indian nationalism and anti-Chinese sentiment in the wake of the border clash could erupt at any time. They fre-

quently see news reports of protests at local Chinese-owned factories and the destruction of Chinese products. They say they're frightened by radical and illegal anti-China demonstrations and hope the border clash doesn't destroy the friendship between Chinese and Indian people. Chinese expatriates in India have called for the two countries to rebuild mutual trust. — APP

Uzbekistan ready to utilize Pak ports for exports: envoy

Pakistan has environment to benefit from this opportunity as the incumbent government's business friendly policies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi was called on by Lt. Col. Saadullah Tashmatov Charge d' Affaires/Defense Attache' Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan in his office today. Jasur Saidahmedov, Third Secretary, Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan and Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs were also present at the meeting. Uzbekistan, a landlocked Central Asian Republic has export markets in gulf countries, southeast Asia, Europe and Africa. The cheapest route is through Pakistani ports. A dedicated terminal for goods from Central Asian States and ease

in the transit after the completion of MLI project was discussed in detail. A dedicated shipping fleet for central Asian exports was also proposed. The trade volume of Uzbekistan and Pakistan has increased significantly in the past couple of years and with establishing an efficient trade corridor it will increase manifold. "Pakistan has the requisite environment to benefit from this opportunity as the incumbent government's business friendly policies and the new shipping policy will strengthen Pakistan's role as the shortest and cheapest route to the world, hence making it a gateway to Central, South and Southeast Asia" Ali Zaidi remarked.

US lauds Pak opening border with Afghanistan

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday welcomed Pakistan's move to open its third border crossing with Afghanistan to facilitate trade between the two countries. "Encouraged that Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to open a third border crossing at Ghulam Khan to facilitate trade between the two countries and help businesses/exporters get back on their feet," the US State Department said in a tweet. It added that the increased, uninterrupted Pak-Afghan trade and connectivity will bring benefits to both economies.

Punjab to seal off 7 more areas

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Punjab government announced it is sealing off seven more areas in Lahore to stem the spread of the COVID-19, as cases of the virus continue to surge across Pakistan. The areas which will be sealed off from midnight include Gulshan-e-Ravi, Faisal Town, Gulberg, Model Town, DHA, and Garden Town. These areas will be closed completely from midnight. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said that the main reason to seal the aforementioned areas is to halt the surging number of coronavirus cases in the province since the standard operating procedures (SOPs) were being violated in these respective areas. "Hopefully, if SOPs are implemented in a week, there will be a clear reduction in coronavirus cases," she maintained, adding that the government is trying its level best to ensure economic activities took place and at the same time, ensure all possible measures were being taken to for the safety of citizens.

EU envoy stresses judiciary role in justice system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Anne Marchal stressed the important role which judiciary plays in the criminal justice system especially in terrorism cases for upholding rule of law and human rights. She acknowledged the challenges judges encounter during the adjudication process and highlighted that the toolkit gives us an opportunity to learn from the knowledge and experiences of our fellow colleagues from this region for incorporating good practices during the proceedings. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) organized a virtual meeting for anti-terrorism judges from Sindh, Pakistan, on the South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges: Supporting the Development of National Bench Books for the Effective Adjudication of Terrorism Cases. The regional toolkit was developed by the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) with the active support and engagement of judges from all South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, including Pakistan. It elaborates and builds



on relevant Security Council resolutions and international instruments on counter-terrorism. It also provides practice-oriented guidance to judges and judicial training academies of SAARC countries on the foundations for effective adjudication, judicial manage-

ment of proceedings and international cooperation in terrorism matters in the South-Asian region. Recognizing that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in Pakistan face unique challenges and evolving threats posed by terrorism and its financing, UNODC is

working in close partnership with stakeholders in the country under "Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism" (PACT) project, to deliver technical assistance to the police, prosecution and judiciary in the Province of Sindh to strengthen their collective response to preventing and countering terrorism. This project receives financial support of the European Union (EU). One of the key activities under the project involves customizing this toolkit in close consultation with the Sindh Judicial Academy for the anti-terrorism judges of Pakistan. During this initial online consultative meeting attended by over 20 anti-ter-

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Briefs

PTI Gov't believes in consensus: Malika

ISLAMABAD: Member of National Assembly, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Barrister Malika Bukhari said on Wednesday that unlike other political parties PTI believed in true democratic norms and always encouraged freedom of speech.

Talking to a private news channel she said prime minister Imran Khan always encouraged freedom of expression and he believed in consensus in party decisions and cabinet as well.

PTI had proved to masses that it could serve them best than any other political party as it had strengthened the national economy and trade, she claimed.

COVID-19 had created economic issues and health across the world, but wise policies of prime minister Imran Khan had saved the country from severe consequences of lockdown and pandemic simultaneously, she further stated.

Opposition leaders were fanning the minor issues within PTI, which would be solved soon, she mentioned. — APP

Teachers express annoyance over FDE decision

ISLAMABAD: Teachers of different educational institutions in federal capital have expressed dissatisfaction and annoyance over direction from the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to enroll themselves in the irrelevant and useless online certification program.

According to an official source, FDE has asked all the teachers to enroll themselves in a mandatory online certification program designed by American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) which is meant to somehow cater the needs of only secondary school teachers.

While the ABCTE does not offer courses in those subjects which are taught in Degree and Postgraduate Colleges of Islamabad like Arabic, Urdu, Persian, Islamic Studies, Home Economics, Computer Science, Statistics, Economics, Political Science, Fine Arts, Pakistan Studies, Psychology, Civics, and Sociology etc. Under the directions of FDE, college teachers have to choose two subject courses and one General course for training while there are no subject courses available for a large number of college teachers.

WSSCA sealed after 8 COVID-19 cases

ABBOTTABAD: After confirmation of COVID-19 in 8 employees of Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA) Wednesday office has been sealed for 14 days.

According to the details, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) WSSCA Engineer Noor Nabi Qasim including 7 other employees those were fighting against Coronavirus on the front line and were disinfecting the city and also launched an awareness campaign to protect people from the outbreak of Coronavirus was caught by the virus and quarantined.

Yesterday Galyat Development Authority (GDA) office was also sealed in Abbottabad after confirmation of Covid-19 patients for 14 days. In district Abbottabad after increasing numbers of Coronavirus cases, district administration and health departments have imposed smart lockdown in 10 areas during two phases to stop further spread of the outbreak. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for CDA, Ali Nawaz Awan and Chairman UC Saidpur Sheraz Kiyani offering 'dua' on the death of Haji Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari, gold medalist of Pakistan Movement with his son Zafar Bakhtawari and grandson Waqar Bakhtawari. — DNA

10-day Ghilaf-e-Kaaba exhibition kick starts at Centaurus

The Centaurus administration had also hosted these exhibitions in the past, as an annual event. The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to the people, to see the Ghilaf-e-Kaaba and other holy Islamic relics, while still remaining in Pakistan.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 10-day exhibition of "Ghilaf-e-Kaaba" and Islamic relics started in Centaurus Mall, Islamabad on Wednesday. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony inau-

gured the annual exhibition before opening it to the general public. The Centaurus administration had also hosted these exhibitions in the past, as an annual event.

The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to the people, to see the Ghilaf-e-Kaaba and other

holy Islamic relics, while still remaining in Pakistan. Minister was gifted Aab-e-Zam Zam and dates.

In his brief remarks Noor-ul-Haq thanked the Saudi king for his goodwill gesture to the people of Pakistan.

Exhibition will provide the visi-

tors an opportunity to witness the sacred "Ghilaaf-e-Kaaba". Such exhibitions provides inner satisfaction to the visitors.

He lauded Chairman Punjab Investment Board Sardar Tanveer Ilyas for exhibiting such a large piece of Ghulaf-e-Kaaba for general public.

Qadri said Saudi government has decided to allow only 10,000 to 15,000 persons to perform hajj this year by following standard operating procedures (SOPs). A large number of Pakistanis perform hajj every year. The Ministry will return the dues of Pakistani hujjaj soon.



ISLAMABAD: MD Shaheen Chemist giving virus kits to members of Rawalpindi, Islamabad Photojournalists association members. — DNA

AIOU issues guideline for assessment papers

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday issued a guideline for its Post-Graduate students (Autumn 2019 semester) for solving 'End-term assessment' papers, that will be uploaded on its Website on June 27. It will be mandatory for the students to send back the solved papers of their relevant courses to the address given on their date sheets, on or before July 20. According to the Controller Exams, the students of B.Ed (New), BS, M.A, MSc and M.Com programs will ensure solving the papers

through their own-hand writing. The end-term assessment (papers) will be different from traditional procedure of attempting the assignments. As per the laid down procedure, the students will attempt all four questions and all questions to carry equal marks (25 marks each). Answers must be concise and relevant. Typed responses will not be entertained. The submissions written in different handwritings will not be accepted. For this purpose, the students' handwriting will be matched with the previous papers/assignments. The students could use

open access educational resources to write their answer in addition to material provided by the University, but they should not forget to refer the source. They will also to give reference list at the end of each question.

The students are advised to send their answer sheets through registered / courier mail to concerned Regional Office/ Campus. They have to keep the registry/courier receipt for future reference. By-hand submission will not be accepted. The students will be required to attach 03 "PERTs" with the answer sheets as they have done previously with their assignments.

CM KPK takes notice of police violence

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan on Wednesday took strong notice of police violence on a citizen and directed the IGP to submit a report of the incident immediately. — APP

Tourism experts term re-opening 'crucial'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tourism is one of the worst Covid-19-hit sectors rendering huge revenue and jobs losses across Pakistan. New investments and gradual opening of the sectors with strict SOPs could play the crucial role in reviving the sector back to its potential. The speakers linked with tourism sector, donor agencies and concerned government departments said this while sharing their views with the participants during online dialogue "Tourism sector recovery - building back better" organized

by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Tuesday. Mr Hassan Daud, CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Board of Investment (BOI). Said that despite the challenges, opportunities still exist and we are receiving a lot of interest from foreign investors to invest in tourism sites near Dir district. Such investments can materialize quickly if we also improve our tourism-related infrastructure, he added. "We also need to invest in boosting capacity of human resource in tourism sector," Daud said and added that we can set up training centers for the tourism sector on

public private partnership basis. Besides, he said, we should quickly help raise integrated tourism zones in all provinces. Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI, earlier presented a detailed account of pandemic's impact on the tourism sector and said that the collapse of this sector has also contributed to contraction of growth and jobs in allied industries including food and transport industry. As tourism sector opens up, he said, government facilitation is required to make information around 'safe tourism' and it should be easily accessible.

Poor, needy being paid: Dr. Sania

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Division (PASSD) Dr. Sania Nishtar Wednesday said that under the Ehsaas Emergency Program, the poor and needy are being paid under an integrated system. She expressed these views while talking to the media during her visit to Chotla Lahore Swabi for distribu-

tion of payment under Ehsaas Emergency Program and also to listen to the difficulties being faced by the needy, poor and deserving people. AD of Emergency Program Swabi District Sajjad Ali was also present on the occasion. She said no difficulties would be faced by the poor and needy people in payment as a proper mechanism has been established to redress the difficulties being faced by them in the payment. She said under the Ehsaas Emergency Program, the

poor are being paid under an integrated system and in Ehsaas program, if someone has violated the rights of the deserving, an FIR will be registered against them and legal action will also be taken. PM Imran Khan's vision is to uplift the backward classes and provide them all facilities so that they could be brought at par with others, Dr. Sania Nishtar said, adding, "Ehsaas Emergency Program is a reflection of the Prime Minister's vision actually."

Increasing trend of modern tunes

ISLAMABAD: The increasing trend of modern tunes is becoming a great threat to folk music with the passage of time. According to musicians, with the rapidly moving world venturing into the vistas of ultramodern civilization, the folk music is dying down as senseless with empty lyrics and music, rather the rock and pop music was shrinking space for the former to inherit the heritage of folklore and ancient culture. There was a time when folk music enjoyed the healthiest crowd of its fans and followers who loved and enjoyed the music as a food for their souls that helped them provoke spiritual sentiments to discover the mysteries of human existence and its link with the universe. Folk songs were declining day by day as the

young generation has no interest in traditional music, said Arif Lohar's student and folk artist Basheer Khan while talking to APP on Wednesday. They said there should be separate academies for traditional music in the country to keep it alive. Folk artist Basheer Khan said that for the progress of the country, it was necessary to keep its culture and musical heritage alive so that the government could take steps for separate academies of folk music, adding that folk songs have defined cultures throughout the history and continue to do so. Another music artist Nadir Ali said that culture was identity of any nation and we should pay due attention to keep our culture and heritage alive. — APP

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Creeping silence

THAT academic freedom has always been under threat in Pakistan is old news. What is somewhat new is the frequency with which lecturers, professors, researchers, students, and even writers feel threatened now in both private and public-sector universities.

These threats are of multiple nature and presumably emanate from various quarters. It is essential for our country as it moves from one crisis to the next that we encourage people everywhere – and especially young people – to think critically and come up with ways to tackle the problems that have darkened the lives of so many in the country.

Social inequality is a problem that we simply cannot ignore for long. Nor can we ignore bigotry, ethnic division or other kinds of hate. Yet people who are able to effectively convey the meaning of critical thinking and dissent – in many nations, persons who stand at the centre of change and new patterns of thinking – are being weeded out of our universities and possibly the country.

Just to name a few, we can cite names such as Pervez Hoodbhoy, Alamgir Wazir, Ammar Ali Jan, Junaid Hafeez, Mashal Khan, Mohammad Hanif, Sajid Soomro, Zaigham Abbas, and many others. Each one of these represents a different case but collectively they showcase the increasing intolerance in society, and stifling academic suffocation on campuses.

We have seen how Dr Pervez Hoodbhoy has spent almost all his life dedicating himself to the thankless job of trying to teach in a public-sector university in Pakistan.

Apart from the usual challenges, Dr Hoodbhoy has also stood steadfast over the years regarding the lack of a proper approach when it comes to the country's education policies. And now – per reports on social media – he finds his contract will not be renewed by FC College, where he was (till recently, it seems) employed.

We have also seen how the much younger Prof Ammar Ali Jan has been hounded from not one, not two but three educational institutions. Jan, who holds a doctorate from Cambridge University in History, had returned to the country solely for the purpose of teaching at public-sector universities and encouraging young people to develop a capacity for critical thinking – a skill that our system specializes in killing.

We have not even spared Mohammad Hanif, ace writer, journalist and one of the best we had to offer. If it's not attempts to curtail his books, it's about him being asked not to continue teaching at a university.

Then we have the tragic case of Junaid Hafeez, a Fulbright scholar, who has been languishing in jail in solitary confinement since 2013 on blasphemy charges that he denies in totality. Mashal Khan was lynched after being brutally attacked by a group of students on his campus in Mardan in 2017.

Sajid Soomro is a professor and Sindhi nationalist who has been voicing his concerns at the way Sindhi activists are being forcibly 'disappeared'. Zaigham Abbas was also dismissed in March by the GC University in Lahore after serving as a contractual teacher for five years.



The New Normal

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE lockdown initiated across the world because of the Covid-19 has changed our lives. Social distancing has drastically altered our perception of reality. We cannot think of attending a social gathering, corporate events or leisure activities because of social distancing.

These events are now held in the form of webinars and online conferences over the Internet. During the days when the lockdowns across the world were being eased, the global media began referring to our lifestyle as the new normal.

While our lifestyle during the Covid-19 era was almost similar as compared to one before the virus had spread, the modalities of our activities have changed. Our online or digital world has taken over the physical aspects of our lives. Educational institutions conduct online classes. Professionals complete their work online and conduct meetings over Zoom and other web-based or smart-phone-based applications.

In reality, the new normal has been a part of our lives for years. It percolated in our lives with the advent of the Internet and more profoundly when we became a part of the social media. It was as if we were being trained to adapt to an online lifestyle of the future. It was a routine where we used the online medium for communication, for entertainment, for buying and selling of goods and services, and for all other transactions.

The wi-fi and data network has become ever so important in our lives. Our online tasks are completed as we have a continuous availability of wi-fi and the internet.

During this era of the new normal, we need to adjust to our altered lifestyle.

We need to accept that human interaction will be reduced and our interaction via online communication tools will increase.

They have increased by ten folds during ever since Pakistan went into a lockdown of various forms. It is in this new normal that we need to explore our strengths, tap into our weaknesses, and determine opportunities for growth.

The people and processes are the same as they were during the pre-Covid-19 era. However, in the new normal, we need to strategize according to the world's changing norms.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Military Cooperation

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Azerbaijan has also showed keen interest to buy JF-17 Thunder Block-III which is the state-of-the-art warplane with element of affordability. It has the latest radar system, weaponry/electronic gadgetry and new engine etc. It is indeed a light weight multirole fighter plane

PAKISTAN and Azerbaijan being strategic allies share common historic, cultural and religious values. The relationship between the two countries has covered economic, defence, political and diplomatic cooperation since Azerbaijan's independence. Military and defence cooperation between Azerbaijan-Pakistan is signified by continuous dialogue in the form of high-level meetings, workgroups and other similar interactions between the respective bodies and institutions of both states.

In fact, the country's defence industry has grown and developed over the years since independence under the Ministry of Defence Industry established in 2005.

The bulk of its industrial production are small arms, although, armoured vehicles are also manufactured locally. Azerbaijan's signature production is the Istiglal IST14.5 anti-material sniper rifle; the Matador and Marauder mine-protected armoured vehicle, as well as Inam and Zafar pistols and UP-7.62 submachine guns.

In February 2014, Pakistan and Azerbaijan signed the "Bilateral Military Cooperation Agreement". The agreement was signed during the fifth meeting of the "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Working Group" on Military Cooperation held in Islamabad. Azerbaijani delegation was led by the head of the International Military Cooperation Department under the Defence Ministry, Major General Ramiz Najafov. The same updated document was signed on April 1, 2015 during the Working Group meeting in Baku. On September 11, 2014 during the first Azerbaijan International Defence Industry Exhibition "ADEX 2014", Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov met Chairman of the National Engineering and Scientific Commission, Muhammad Irfan Burney during his visit to Baku.

On November 18 of the same year, Zakir Hasanov also paid a visit to Pakistan. During the visit, Hasanov held several meetings with the leadership of Pakistan and the armed forces of the country. Defence cooperation and regional security were discussed during his visit. When the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain visited Azerbaijan in March 2015, military cooperation was stressed as a fundamental building block for improving bilateral relations and the opportunity to work together in the area of defence technology was taken up during the high-level negotiations. Pakistan has also trained around a 100 units of military personnel in Azerbaijan over the past decade. Creation of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum, with a special focus on defence equipment, is another example of mutual defence cooperation.

There are strong politico-military ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. However, the cooperation can and should extend beyond the already customary military personnel trainings, ad hoc common military exercises and mutual visits and discussions. Prospects of cooperation are already there. Azerbaijan and Pakistan hold relatively similar weaponry and military vehicle systems.

It is, therefore, logical that military cooperation can also include regular military exercises between the comparable services of both armed forces. Exchange of valuable strategic information as well as common approaches towards the territorial armed conflict postures can be a natural extension

in improving bilateral relations in defence.

Since 2007, Azerbaijan has been expressing interest in importing the JF-17 multi-role fighters from Pakistan.55 It is also interested in diversifying its portfolio of arms purchases from the latter.

It is, therefore, both strategically and economically important for Pakistan to seriously move forward on imports of military equipment (fighter aircraft, tanks or rockets) to Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's Istiglal anti-material rifles and other small arms are also ideal for use in mountainous and tough terrains. Pakistan should consider including them in its basket given their competitive price, high quality and efficiency.

It would be valuable to reiterate future strategic military cooperation in a bilateral agreement which can solidify political will between the two countries. Annual regular meetings between Working Groups should now lead to a combined military and defence cooperation committee of equal participation to deal with all aspects of the security sectors cooperation; and be able to implement strategic provisions of the proposed bilateral military cooperation agreement. A series of regular military exercises between the two countries should be conducted which could be extended to include land, air and naval forces, as well as air defence and strategic planning. Both should consider enlarging the scale of mutual exchange of military personnel for training and military education.

The two countries should also extend cooperation in the area of arms trade and develop a framework of sales of small arms and heavy military equipment according to the needs of each state in order to address the specific needs of the security sector. This framework can include bartering of arms based on "preferred customer" program, thus, reducing budgetary expenditures.

Azerbaijan has also showed keen interest to buy JF-17 Thunder Block-III which is the state-of-the-art warplane with element of affordability. It has the latest radar system, weaponry/electronic gadgetry and new engine etc. It is indeed a light weight multirole fighter plane.

Pakistan's defense ministry was invited to demonstrate JF-17 aircraft at ADEX-2016 for the first time during which Azerbaijan defense industry showed interest in importing the new jet fighters from Pakistan.

In the same year, Azerbaijan's first deputy Prime Minister Yaqub attended International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) in Karachi where he reiterated his government interest in buying new aircraft from Pakistan.

Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan and CIS, I would like to quote latest reports and research studies of Global Times and Euro Asian Times and many famous mili-

tary journals indicating numerous comparative advantages of JF-17 Thunder over its contemporary competitors like Tejas, Swedish Gripen, US F-16 A and Korean F-50. JF-17 Block-III is a 4+ Generation combat aircraft.

It has immense modern technologies like new and large holographic wide-angle head display, integrated cockpit display, advanced infrared missile approach warning system. So acquisition of JF-17 Thunder will further improve air defence and air superiority of Azerbaijan which may be used for strike and attack missions having smart dumb bombs, missile which can even carry nuclear arsenals.

From ages of Aristotle to Genghis Khan, Chankya to Asoka the great to modern day super powers, strong defence is the best deterrence against any external aggression. It is the bitter lessons of even modern human civilization that weakness seduces aggression and preparedness guarantees nation pride and territorial sovereignty. So being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS the prospects of resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh would be brighter with the changing power equation after acquisition of JF-17 Thunder Block-III from Pakistan.

It is true that MIG-35 and SU-35 do have some advantages over JF-17 Block-III but if we minutely, examine the overall maneuverability, technological capabilities and price analysis of JF-17 Thunder, we may come to conclusion that acquisition of JF-17 Thunder is still the best choice for Azerbaijan. First I would like to highlight JF-17 Block-III salient features which does not confine to superior situational edge, combat facilities, PL-15 missile, high fuel capacity, modern engine RD-33 MK, advanced active radar system, price 20-25 US Million whereas, MIG-35 & SU-35 range 65-75 US Million, stealth technology (combat aircraft magazine), much better warplane than MIG-35 in dog-fight, and last but not least, double seated.

Let us discuss the other interrelated geopolitical constrains of acquisition of MIG-35. As we know Russian has already sold-out MIG-35 to Armenia a regional enemy of Azerbaijan. According to many latest reports of Bulgarian military.com and Azerbaijan national news agency, Azerbaijan pilots have already visited Russia and examined MIG-35 & SU-35.

Being prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS I fear that Azerbaijan's acquisition of MIG-35 & SU-35 may have created serious budgetary deficits as it is comparatively much higher than JF-17 Thunder.

Acquisition of MIG-35 & SU-35 from Russian may be conditional which may be defensive in nature with not to be used against Armenia in the war. It has already happened with Pakistan which bought F-16 from the US which did not allow it to use F-16 against India. So, operating expenses of MIG-35 & SU-35 would be higher than JF-17 Thunder.

Increasing socio-economic stability in pandemic

Ibragimova Naylya Muradovna

A preliminary assessment of changes in the reduction of costs for services and non-food products as a result of large-scale lockdown showed that quarantine measures can reduce the consumption of non-food goods and services by 10-15%. Since share of non-consumer goods and the service sector is about 50% in the structure of consumer spending, the overall decrease in the capacity of the consumer market (the volume of consumer spending) can amount to 7% of current consumption. However, here it will also be necessary to take into account the possibilities of reimbursing consumer demand unsatisfied

DURING the pandemic crisis, both a policy of social sustainability and a policy of economic growth are crucial. In Uzbekistan, the basis for effective crisis management was the adoption of measures on social protection combined with mitigation of the COVID-19 economic consequences.

Keywords: incomes, social support, economic stability, anti-crisis measures, Uzbekistan

Prime task facing the country in the context of unfolding global pandemic crisis is to secure socio-economic stability and support living standards and incomes.

Coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated that both social sustainability and economic growth policies are crucial. Effective government management during epidemiological crisis was mainly based on the willingness and means-ends readiness of countries for taking joint steps: nations and governments made an important choice between economic growth, income generation and maintaining a people's health. On the one side, the most successful Asian countries (Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong) from the early stages of a sudden outbreak of the epidemic applied new methods of control and localization of the epidemia. Outstanding specific practical response methods and theoretical concepts in Taiwan relied on developed by the Center for Epidemic Control of the Spread of Infectious Diseases created after the outbreak of SARS in the region in 2003, including several research centers and government agencies. On the other side, Europe and the United States reacted very slowly without tracking infected or potentially infected people and their healthcare system was not ready to accept such large number of cases.

The spread of coronavirus has once again proven the importance of health as a major part of human capital and the need for a prepared healthcare system. Uzbekistan is taking enhanced measures for the further spread of coronavirus in the country. Particular attention is paid to the organization of quality medical services to the population, disease prevention, organization of patient care in accordance with international standards. In order to reduce the scale of the spread of coronavirus infection and organize provision of effective medical services to patients, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan has created a reserve of over 5 thousand beds in state medical institutions.

Also it is allowed for non-governmental medical organizations to provide medical services to coronavirus infected patients, for a period up to September 1, 2020, on the basis of agreements concluded between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and non-governmental medical organizations, on exception base since coronavirus is classified as an infectious disease requiring emergency

preventive and anti-epidemiological measures. The costs of non-governmental medical organizations related to the provision of medical services to patients infected with coronavirus are covered by the funds of the Anti-Crisis Fund under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

However, the task of the state as a stabilizer is also to reproduce the predictable living conditions of the population to set goals and earn income. Based on the global impact of the coronavirus pandemic, experts expect a rapid decline in economic growth and an uncertain slow recovery.

A protracted recession or recession in economic growth means a sharp increase in unemployment, an increase in the risk of impoverishment of the population, a drop in budget revenues, and, as a result, a reduction in the potential consumer and government spending on the social sphere and healthcare.

The main factor in the slowdown of economic growth and household incomes is the large-scale lockdown of enterprises or reduction in spending on services and non-food products as a result of collapse in retail trade and public catering, service sectors as well as a change in consumer preferences and decreased consumer spending.

A preliminary assessment of changes in the reduction of costs for services and non-food products as a result of large-scale lockdown showed that quarantine measures can reduce the consumption of non-food goods and services by 10-15%. Since share of non-consumer goods and the service sector is about 50% in the structure of consumer spending, the overall decrease in the capacity of the consumer market (the volume of consumer spending) can amount to 7% of current consumption.

However, here it will also be necessary to take into account the possibilities of reimbursing consumer demand unsatisfied during the quarantine period after the quarantine period (in part of services and non-food items), measures taken to support the population and provide free medical care and food support to vulnerable segments of the population, as well as granted loans to private sector enterprises to provide payment of wages at the expense of the state budget and various charitable funds, transition to the remote provision of services.

As a result, potential consumer spending may fall by less rate (3-5% of current consumer spending).

In order to preserve the incomes of people and the stable operation of enterprises, a Presidential decree was signed on March 19, 2020 on priority measures to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on the economy of Uzbekistan [2].

An Anticrisis fund under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan had been created in Uzbekistan

in the amount of 10 trillion soums in order to ensure macroeconomic stability, nonstop operation of industries and economic sectors, effective social support to the population during the period of counteracting the spread of coronavirus infection and other global risks, and preventing a sharp decline in the country's population incomes. Anticrisis funds will be directed to:

- preventing the spread of coronavirus, providing medical institutions with medicines, protective and diagnostic tools, timely financing of quarantine expenses, measures to combat the spread of coronavirus infection;
- support for entrepreneurship and employment;
- expansion of social support for the population;
- ensuring the sustainable functioning of economic sectors.

An additional 3.6 trillion soums were allocated from the Anti-Crisis Fund for social services and the construction of infrastructure. In particular, solving the problems of 152 projects created over 10 thousand new jobs. So, in a month's time, a list of additional infrastructure projects in the republic's regions, financed by the Anti-Crisis Fund and providing for construction, reconstruction and repair, was formulated for 2020:

- infrastructure facilities of small industrial zones - in the amount of 400 billion soums;
- streets of cities and other settlements, current repair of public roads - 1 trillion soums;
- water supply and sanitation facilities - 500 billion soums;
- irrigation and land reclamation facilities - 400 billion soums;
- healthcare facilities - 500 billion soums;
- comprehensive schools and other social facilities - 800 billion soums;
- other facilities that provide increased economic activity and employment, including the expansion of mortgage lending.

An additional 200 billion soums will be allocated to the Public Works Fund from the Anti-Crisis Fund. These funds will be directed to employment, construction of additional infrastructure in the mahallas. An additional 500 billion soums was allocated to the State Fund for Supporting Entrepreneurship to assist business entities creating jobs.

The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations have been instructed to provide interest-free loans at the expense of the Anti-Crisis Fund to pay wages to business entities that have suspended their activities due to quarantine. Parents who look after children in quarantine will be paid a 100% temporary disability benefit.

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Briefs

US facing 'critical' corona surge

Washington: Coronavirus infections are surging across large parts of the United States, the top US infectious disease expert has warned, as the death toll in Latin America passed 100,000. The developments highlighted how far away the world remains from ending the pandemic, six months into a crisis that has claimed nearly 500,000 lives and devastated the global economy. Even in Europe, which has been loosening travel restrictions following a brutal few months when it was the epicentre of the pandemic, there have been major setbacks. — APP

Russia holds grand WWII parade

MOSCOW: Columns of tanks and troops will parade through Red Square on Wednesday as President Vladimir Putin oversees grand World War II commemorations to stir up patriotic fervour ahead of a vote on extending his rule. Forced to postpone the country's traditional May 9 Victory Day celebrations by the coronavirus pandemic, Putin rescheduled the parade for just a week ahead of a July 1 public vote on controversial constitutional reforms. Among other changes, the reforms Putin proposed earlier this year would reset the presidential term-limit clock to zero, allowing him to potentially stay in the Kremlin until 2036. — APP

UAE kicks off final stage of vaccine trial

DUBAI: The UAE will conduct the final stage of its clinical trial of a COVID-19 inactivated vaccine, the health ministry announced on Tuesday. The UAE claims it is the first in the world to reach the final stage — referred to as Phase III — of the clinical trial, state news agency WAM reported. Clinical trials usually run in three phases — the first one focuses on the vaccine's safety, and the second evaluates its immunization process in a small number of people. Phase III, which in this case will be done under the supervision of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, will look into the vaccine's safety and effectiveness in a large population sample.

North Korea halts military action plans

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has decided to suspend military action plans against South Korea, the official KCNA news agency reported on Wednesday. Political tensions between the rival Koreas had been rising over Pyongyang's objections to plans by defector-led groups in the South to send propaganda leaflets into the North. Stalled negotiations regarding economic sanctions imposed because of the North's nuclear weapons programme had also fuelled tensions. It was not immediately clear why North Korea had softened its position, which came after it blew up a liaison office last week and cut off communication hotlines with the South. — APP

Thailand: no local virus case for a month

ANKARA: Thailand on Wednesday said it was free from local corona-virus infections for the last 30 days, local media reported. According to Taweessilp Visanuyothin, the spokesman for the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration, the Buddhist-majority nation has not reported any local COVID-19 infections for the last one month, daily Bangkok Post reported. — APP

Experts call for deepening of Pakistan, Azerbaijan defence ties

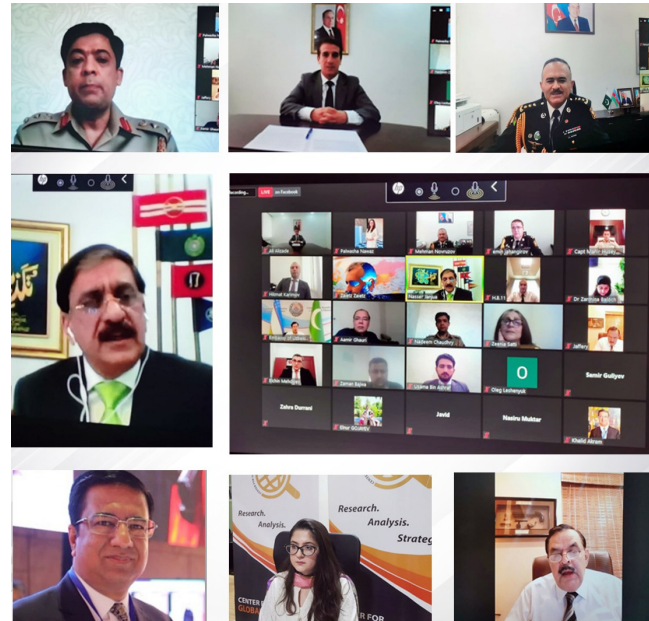
Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamabad, and Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad jointly organized a Webinar titled "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Defence Cooperation: Successes & Opportunities" dedicated to the 102nd Anniversary of Azerbaijan Armed Forces

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamabad, and Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad jointly organized a Webinar titled "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Defence Cooperation: Successes & Opportunities" dedicated to the 102nd Anniversary of Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

The session was commenced with the opening remarks by Lieutenant Colonel Khalid TaimurAkram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS. He stated that it is an honor for CGSS to organize this Webinar and honoring the Armed forces of Azerbaijan. He stressed the strong bond that the two countries share. Guest of Honor, Lt Gen Nasser Khan Janjua HI(M), (Retd), Former National Security Advisor of Pakistan stated that it is a great occasion to commemorate the sacrifices and contributions of Azerbaijan Armed Forces. He further stressed that Azerbaijan's

ability to maintain national security is exceedingly praiseworthy. He also mentioned that Pakistan extends unconditional support to Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Pakistan envisions a great and common future with Azerbaijan in multiple sectors. Making his remarks in the webinar Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan stated that Azerbaijan and Pakistan are bound by the relations of strong friendship and strategic partnership which have solid roots and reflect the will of our fraternal nations. One of the most important and main pillars of this brotherly relationship is also our cooperation and strategic partnership in defence, security and military fields and thanks to the efforts and positive views of the leadership of both countries our relations are in upward trajectory in these fields as well. Extending congratulations on Armed Forces Day of Azerbaijan to the people of his country, Supreme Commander in Chief and staff members of Azerbaijan



Armed Forces, Ambassador Ali Alizada said that despite having the conflict with aggressor country Armenia which occupied 20% of internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan in the early

independence years of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Azerbaijan has made greatest strides in Armed Forces building and by the leadership of Supreme Commander in Chief Azerbaijan Army became

one of the strongest armies in the region and are capable to liberate occupied territories any time. Ambassador also noted that Pakistan Armed Forces' and its leaderships' support to Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and demand of unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupational forces from internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan is commendable and very much appreciated by the government and people of Azerbaijan. He thanked Pakistan Armed Forces and its leadership for continued cooperation and expressed his confidence for further strengthening bilateral relations in the years ahead. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS stated that Pakistan has brotherly relations with Azerbaijan and great prospects of cooperation especially in defense and military areas. He congratulated Azerbaijan on the 102nd Anniversary of their Armed Forces. Col MehmanNovruzov, Defence Attaché, Azerbaijan spoke about

historical background of Azerbaijan Armed Forces, the role of Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of Azerbaijan in Azerbaijan army building process, security challenges in the South Caucasus region, and priorities of Azerbaijan Army. He said that, under the leadership of H.E. IlhamAliyev, the President of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Army has undergone rapid developments and at the present is ranked 64th among the armies of the other countries of the world. Col Nadeem Choudhry, Defence Attaché, Pakistan discussed that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are extending cooperation in the field of security, military technology, and educational spheres. Many visits have been carried out between representatives of both countries in this regard. The Webinar was moderated by Ms. Palwasha Nawaz — Project Executive, CGSS, and was attended by 45 participants from diverse backgrounds. The Webinar was also broadcasted live on different social media platforms.



ISLAMABAD: Acting Dean of Arab countries and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi meeting with newly arrived Ambassador of Iraq Hamed Abbas Lefta. — DNA

Muslim world beginning to respond to Hindutva-led hate: IPS webinar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari has called upon the Muslim world to shed its dependence on the Western world and adopt a united stance on critical issues like Kashmir and Palestine in order to emerge as a respected global force. She said now some very vocal statements are coming from the Arab countries on social media and other channels regard-

ing the treatment of Muslims in India and the Kashmir issue. She was addressing an international webinar organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, on Tuesday. The webinar was chaired by Khalid Rahman, Executive President of IPS, and moderated by Syed Muhammad Ali, IPS' Senior Research Fellow. Lord Nazir Ahmed stated that India is no longer a secular country whose political system is controlled by Hindutva extremist ide-

ology that does not provide equal opportunities to its minorities. He appreciated the Arab countries for beginning to see the true extremist Indian reality, which was hidden under the façade of secular democracy for a long time. He said that India is using its intelligence agency RAW to destabilize Pakistan. Member of British Parliament Khalid Mehmod called upon the Kashmiris to shed their mutual differences and forge their ranks worldwide to put greater pressure on world

Int'l donors pledge \$130 million for UN agency

UNITED NATIONS: Some 75 countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have pledged \$130 million in financial commitments to the financially-strapped UNRWA, the UN agency that assists Palestinian refugees in the Middle East that is also hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and poised to be rattled again by any pending Israeli plans to annex the West Bank. The amount was raised at a virtual donors conference held in Amman, Jordan, to bridge a \$400 million funding gap so that UNRWA can continue providing health, education and social services to more than five million people in three countries and the occupied Palestinian territory. The UN agency has faced a financial crisis since the United States pulled all funding in 2018, leaving the organization with a massive budgetary shortfall. — APP

Emirates suspends passenger services from Pakistan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Emirates, which has been operating flights from Pakistan to Dubai, has announced that it has temporarily suspended passenger services from the country. A spokesperson for the airline said in a press release on Tuesday night: "We regret to temporarily suspend passenger services from Pakistan, from 24 June 04:00 Pakistan LT, until early next week." "In the meantime, Emirates will continue to operate repatriation flights

into Pakistan as per the announced schedule, and continue to operate cargo services that support the trade and movement of goods between Pakistan, UAE and our global network," said the airline. Its press release added: "We remain in contact with the relevant authorities on requirements to resume services for travelers, and look forward to operating our flights again soon. Affected customers will be contacted directly by our service team. We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

Rashid Latif comes down hard on PCB, players

ISLAMABAD: Former wicketkeeper-batsman Rashid Latif has come down hard on Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and national cricketers for what he said not observing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Rashid's criticism came after 10 members of Pakistan's England-bound squad tested positive for COVID-19. Rashid in a video on YouTube, said the players, who tested positive were practicing without following safety

guidelines. "Players who have tested positive have been practicing outside together, hence there was bound to be a problem" he said. According to Rashid unprofessional approach of PCB and those of players was to be blamed for the positive cases. "I also went to the ground for one day, but I maintained safe distance from Rohail Nazir. You have to follow the protocols and keep distance," he remarked. — APP

European MPs demand halt to Israel's plan

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to kick-start the process next week

LONDON: More than 1,000 European lawmakers from 25 countries urged their leaders Wednesday to step in and stop Israel's planned annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to kick-start the process next week, after clinching a coalition deal with his former election rival last month. In a letter published in newspapers and sent to European foreign ministers, the 1,080 parliamentarians said they were "deeply worried about the precedent this would set for international relations". "Such a move will be fatal to the prospects of Israeli-Palestinian peace," added the letter. "Regrettably, President (Donald) Trump's plan departs from internationally agreed parameters and principles." — APP



China's 3D printed isolation wards

This batch of 3D printed wards valued about \$123,300 is voluntarily donated from Ying Chuang Building Tech (Winsun) after contact and coordination with Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and National Disaster Management Association

DNA

BEIJING: Fifteen units of 3D printed isolation wards set off from Shanghai and Suzhou for Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. After one month's sea transportation, these printed wards will arrive in Islamabad for local COVID-19 prevention and cure. This batch of 3D printed wards valued about \$123,300 is voluntarily donated from Ying Chuang

Building Tech (Winsun) after contact and coordination with Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and National Disaster Management Association. The ward's design is specifically for Pakistan, which shows excellent heat-proof quality. These wards have already been installed with doors and electricity utilities, doors, windows and inner decoration. As soon as arriving at the destination, after assembling and connecting with water and elec-

tricity supply, they can be put into use promptly. It is learned that 3D printed isolation wards had been used in Hubei and Shandong, China during the most difficult time and achieved satisfactory feedback. The isolation ward can be transformed into hotel, park lounge, cafe, guardroom, toilet, emergency room for disaster relief, etc. Furthermore, the wards are printed from recycled materials. After crushing, sorting, grinding and high-temperature



treatment, these wards can be turned into materials again for printing other new buildings, the report added.

Benazir name will live on in our hearts

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira has claimed that Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry did not make the statement regarding party in-fighting by himself, instead, he gave it at someone else's behest. Qamar Zaman Kaira, while talking to media about criticism against BISP, said that PPP started Benazir Income Support Program aimed at empowering women despite much opposition, but Asif Ali Zardari was adamant on making Benazir Bhutto's dream a reality. — DNA