



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, July 04, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**COVID-19: US provides 100 ventilators, says American Envoy**

**All pilots cleared scrutiny process, says Shibli Faraz**

**Ambassador Furqat holds talks with Ahmed**

## Briefs

### Judge Arshad Malik's services terminated

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice terminated the services of accountability judge Arshad Malik on Friday, media reported. According to sources, the decision was announced by the administration committee presided over by the high court's chief justice. Justice Mohammad Ameer Bhatti, Justice Ahmad Khan, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waeed and Justice Ali Baqir took part in the committee meeting. Malik had convicted former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a NAB in the Al-Azizia reference. The judge in a complaint filed with the FIA Cyber Crime Wing, had claimed that he had been blackmailed by PML-N supporters.

### Malaysia suspends Pak pilots

DNA

JAKARTA: After the government of Pakistan's admission that many of its pilots held dubious licenses, Malaysia's aviation regulator announced it was temporarily suspending pilots who hold Pakistani licences and were employed by its domestic airlines. The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) said in a statement that the decision came after an evaluation of all foreign pilots in Malaysia. The regulator told Reuters that there are less than 20 Pakistani pilots in the country. CAAM did not say where the pilots worked. National carrier Malaysia Airlines said it does not have any Pakistani pilot, Malindo Air, the Malaysian arm of Indonesia's Lion Air, said it does not have any foreign pilots, and AirAsia said it does not have any Pakistani pilot.

### 'Driver's judgment caused tragedy'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Friday condoling the unfortunate train accident occurring earlier in the day in Sheikhpura killing at least 20 Sikh pilgrims onboard said that unguarded railway crossings across the country are a main reason behind many such incidents.

## CPEC excellent project, says PM Imran

Corridor was the manifestation of Pakistan-China friendship and the govt would complete it at any cost to pass on its benefits to the citizens

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, while calling the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) an excellent project for Pakistan's socioeconomic uplift, Friday said the gigantic multifaceted initiative would guarantee a bright future for the country. Chairing a meeting to review progress on the

CPEC projects, the prime minister reiterated that the Corridor was the manifestation of Pakistan-China friendship and the government would complete it at any cost to pass on its benefits to the citizens. While applauding the performance of CPEC Authority, the prime minister directed for all necessary measures to further improve its working as well as capability.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed in detail about the status of the ongoing projects under the CPEC. Federal ministers Asad Umar, Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar and Omar Ayub, Commerce Advisor Abdur Razzak Dawood, CPEC Authority Chairman Lt General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa and senior officers of the organizations concerned attended the meeting.

## COVID-19: US provides 100 ventilators

Ambassador Paul Jones remarked, The US stands with Pakistan in its fight against coronavirus

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, has donated a shipment of 100 brand-new, state-of-the-art ventilators to support Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19. The ventilators arrived in Karachi on July 2 and will be deployed in hospitals across Pakistan. This donation delivers on President Donald Trump's generous offer of these critically needed supplies and supports Pakistan's urgent



response to the pandemic. Made in America, the ventilators are valued at about \$3 million and reflect the latest in cutting-edge medical design and technology. They are compact, easily deployable, and will enable

Pakistan to more effectively treat patients suffering from COVID-19. Ambassador Paul Jones remarked, "The United States stands with Pakistan in its fight against coronavirus."

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## 20 Sikh pilgrims die in train accident

COAS Gen Bajwa expresses grief on the loss of precious lives

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: At least 20 Sikh pilgrims lost their lives as a passenger bus rammed into the Shah Hussain Express train on Friday, according to rescue officials. According to the District Police Officer Sheikhpura Ghazi Salahuddin, pilgrims lost their lives as the Lahore-bound train from Karachi met with an accident near Farooqabad railway station. According

### Army Chief saddened over loss of lives

ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in train accident in which members of Sikh community lost lives. According to DG ISPR the Chief of the Army Staff prayed for the departed souls and sympathized with the bereaved families.

to railway officials, the accident took place at a train crossing without a barrier. All the wounded have been shifted to a nearby hospital, added officials. It was reported that all the bodies have been shifted to the hospital and rescue operation has been completed. The wounded were given first aid by locals at the time of the accident. The prime minister directed authorities to provide best medical treatment to the wounded.

## EATING MANGOES IN PAKISTANI STYLE



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner Geoffrey Shaw eating mangoes in Pakistani style. DNA

### Ghani promotes Dostum to marshal

DNA

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in a decree promoted General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the former first vice president of Afghanistan to the rank of Marshal. The Office of the President in a statement said: "President Ghani issued a decree in this regard late last month." According to the reports, President Ghani approved the conferment of the Marshal title on Gen. Dostum as per Article 19 and Item 64 of the constitution of Afghanistan. The decree further added that the title on Gen. Dostum has been conferred for his services in resolving the political stalemates and ensuring security in the country. The issue of conferment of Marshal title remained a hot topic during the negotiations.

## All pilots cleared scrutiny process

Information minister Shibli Faraz defended the government's decision to make public the preliminary report of the PIA flight PK8303: Shibli

DNA

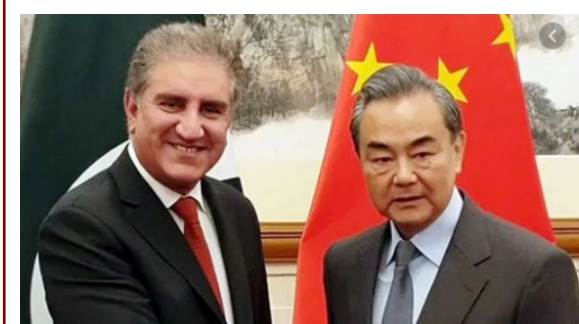
ISLAMABAD (DNA): The government assured people that Pakistani pilots who were currently flying aircraft had cleared the scrutiny process, a few weeks after the government made the startling revelation that many pilots had secured 'dubious licenses' with irregularities in them. Information minister Shibli Faraz defended the govern-

ment's decision to make public the preliminary report of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK8303 crash on Thursday, assuring passengers that they should not worry about their safety while flying as all pilots currently operating aircraft had successfully gone through scrutiny. "Anyone travelling right now should know that pilots flying right now have gone through the scrutiny

process. They shouldn't worry," he said. Faraz said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was committed to ensuring merit and transparency in all national institutions. He recounted how the PIA used to be a prestigious airline in the decades of the 1960s to 1980s, but it was ruined by political interference of the governments during the past 10-15 years.

Continued on Page 06

## Qureshi reiterates Pakistan 'One China' stand



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a telephone conversation with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. During the telephone conversation bilateral, regional, and international issues were discussed. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that Pakistan and China are 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners' and had preserved the fine tradition of expressing solidarity, mu-

tual assistance and mutual support to each other in the face of common challenges. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to 'One-China policy' and firmly supports China on its core interests including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that regional security situation was deteriorating and underlined that India's belligerent posture and expansionist policies were imperiling peace in the region.

Continued on Page 06

## NAB summons Kh. Asif

DNA

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Muhammad Asif again on July 17 as he failed to satisfy the joint investigation team when being questioned in Sialkot's Kent View Housing Society scandal.

According to a private television channel report, Khawaja Asif gave incomplete answers of the NAB's questionnaire, whereas, he failed to satisfy the joint investigation team despite being appeared before them today. Asif has been questioned for the sale of 137 canal land during the interrogation session today. The PML-N leader replied that he has provided a complete record to the anti-corruption watchdog and sold the land after complete verification of its documents.

The investigators also asked him to provide details of his income sources which he had invested in the construction of the housing society. To this, he answered that the details of his savings were also given in his particulars provided to NAB.

## COVID-19 claims 22 more lives

DNA

KARACHI: As many as 1496 new cases were emerged when 10027 samples were tested raising the tally to 90721 while 22 more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 1437. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah disclosed this in a statement issued here from CM House on Friday. According to the CM, 10027 samples were tested which detected 1496 cases constituting 15 percent result. The government has tested 481050 samples.

## Chinese minister bids farewell to Amb. Hashmi

DNA

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Ms. Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi was accorded farewell after one-year tenure in Beijing, China Economic Net reported on Friday. Moin-ul-Haque, currently serving as Ambassador of Pakistan to Paris will replace Hashmi as the new envoy to Beijing. Vice Foreign Minister of China Luo Zhaohui met with ambassador Naghmana Hashmi on Thursday. On the occasion, Luo conveyed his thankfulness to Hashmi for her great contribution to promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan, and expressed the hope that Hash-

mi would continue to care for and support China-Pakistan relations. Hashmi thanked the Chinese side for its valuable support during her performance of duties and believed Pakistan-China relations would overcome any difficulties and challenges and constantly achieve greater development. Hashmi is recognized for her contribution to the cultural understanding between China and Pakistan. As an ambassador in favor of Chinese culture, she depicts the traits of Chinese civilization as peaceful and benevolent. Meanwhile, she has endeavored to share the core spirit of Pakistan and its people by introducing Sufism to the Chinese audience. Her



deep understanding of both Chinese and Pakistani cultures has warranted her achievements in bringing the two peoples closer. Hashmi is a champion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). She high-

lighted the tangible results and benefits to the local people brought about by CPEC and recognized its renewed vitality into Pakistan's socioeconomic development. Her signed article "From Khunjerab to Gwadar: 69 years of concord, cooperation, and connectivity" represents part of her efforts in promoting the CPEC project. Devoted to improving Pakistan's exports to China as a continuous effort inherited from her predecessor Masood Khalid, the Pakistani Embassy under the leadership of Hashmi has cooperated with China Economic Net (CEN) to hold the Pakistan Mango Festival in Beijing in a bid to attract the Chinese business community to explore the untapped market of Pakistani fruits. Hashmi also received interviews from CEN several times on the topics of China-Pakistan trade cooperation and mutual support in the fight against COVID-19

between the two countries. Hashmi has also shown great leadership in the test of the COVID-19 pandemic by managing to deliver large quantities of Chinese donations to Pakistan in order and soothing the nostalgia of Pakistani nationals with tender care when the pandemic first broke out in China. The incoming successor Moin-ul-Haque joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987, and has served in Sri Lanka, Canada, and Turkey. In 2013, he was appointed Director General (Europe), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later assumed the position of Chief of Protocol, MoFA. Moin-ul-Haque was appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to Paris and accredited to Principality of Monaco in 2017.

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World Bank support to help improve services sectors of KPK & Baluchistan - Page 08

## Briefs

KP gov't  
establishes  
first corona  
hospital

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has set up the first ever corona diagnostic hospital in the provincial capital which is equipped with all facilities and services.

According to Chief Minister's official tweeter account, the hospital was set up on the special directives of Chief Minister Mehmood Khan to specifically deal with corona cases, adding that it would reduce burden on other hospitals that are currently coping with the COVID-19 related emergencies.

It said that the provincial government was fully active to wipe out infectious corona disease and for the purpose a huge amount had been allocated in the budget. It further added that the hospital was having coronavirus diagnostic labs, consultants, private rooms and ward, ICU, separate male and female wards and operation theater. — APP

PR observes  
8.4 percent  
earning  
growth

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways' gross earnings grew by 8.4 percent during the first eight months of Financial Year (FY) 2020 (July-February) as increased reach to Rs 36,916.85 million compared with Rs 34,066.12 million during the same period last year.

During July-February fiscal year 2020, the number of carried passengers decreased to 39.4 million against 39.9 million during the corresponding period last year, representing a decline of 1.20 percent, said a document. The passenger traffic (km million), freight carried (tonnes million), and freight (tonnes km million) declined by 3.54 percent, 0.56 percent, and 0.07 percent, respectively. Pakistan Railways (PR) was a single major mode of transport in the public sector, contributing to economic growth and providing national integration.

The department comprises total of 474 locomotives included 458 diesel engine and 12 steam engines for 7,791 km length of the route across the country. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted the department to prepare Pakistan Railways Strategic Plan (PRSP), which has been approved by Railways Board. The ADB also gave training to Pakistan Railways staff on route optimization bringing efficiency in current operations. PRSP includes suggestions to facilitate PR, achieving its targets of being efficient and profitable.

The policy dialogue was still going on. Pakistan Railways has recently submitted a business plan to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, outlining a strategy for turning the railways into a profitable entity. The 121-page report was prepared in connection with a suo-motu case on the losses incurred by the Railways. It was informed in the report that 50 percent of its train engines were old and need replacement. — APP

GB gov't  
announces  
portfolios  
of caretaker  
ministers

GILGIT: Gilgit Baltistan caretaker chief minister Friday announced the portfolios of 12 caretaker ministers and two advisers of the provincial cabinet.

According to a notification Aftab Ismail has been given the portfolio of planning and development, Waqar Abbas adviser on finance, Mrs Samina Baig adviser on tourism and sports, Shabiull Hassan Minister for Local Bodies, Nasir Zamani Minister for Agriculture, Muhammad Ali Qaid Minister for Minerals, Industries and Commerce, Muhammad Yasin Minister for Law, Rajab Ali Minister for Food, Shaikat Rasheed Minister for Works, Joher Ali Minister for Water and Power, Iman Yar Baig Minister for Health, Abdul Jahan Minister for Education, Muhammad Ali Khan Minister for Excise and Taxation and the portfolio of Information and Forest has been given to Maulana Sarwer Shah. — APP

## 'Pak Navy Coastal Command fully geared up for the challenges'

The Passing out Parade of Pakistan Navy SEAL Course comprised of officers and sailors, who completed rigorous training in conformity to set standards

DNA

KARACHI: The Passing out Parade of Pakistan Navy SEAL Course was held at PNS IQBAL, Karachi.

The parade comprised of officers and sailors, who completed rigorous training in conformity to set standards. Commander Coast Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Chief Guest underlined that Coastal Command of Pakistan Navy has been entrusted to safeguard country's Coastal Area from Sir Creek to Jiwani under the challenging security milieu.

He further added that Pakistan Navy Coastal Command is fully geared up for the challenges related to CPEC and no stone will be left unturned for securing the maritime interests of Pakistan.

The Chief Guest while congratulating the parade expressed his hope that addition of Special Operators in Navy's offensive punch will surely enhance the capabilities Special Service Group (Navy).

Later, the Chief Guest gave away prizes to position holders.

The 'Iron Man' trophy for the overall best trainee of the course was awarded to Janbaz Asim Khan, whereas, Best Endurance Swimmer and Best Endurance Runner Trophies won by Janbaz Osama and Janbaz Ehsan Ullah respectively.

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the ceremony was attended by limited number of guests.

President,  
PM express  
sorrow over  
train incident

The President & PM in their separate messages conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in the tragic incident

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in a train accident near Sheikhpura.

The President and the Prime Minister in their separate messages conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in the tragic incident. They also directed for provision of best medical treatment to the injured. — APP

## 'PPP, PML-N issued 236 suspicious licenses'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Friday said that 56 suspicious licenses were issued to the pilots during the tenures of Pakistan Peoples Party and 180 in Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz.

Referring to the inquiry report that revealed, in a tweet on his social media account he said that the suspicious role and supervision of ex Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ex Minister Mushahidullah Khan and Shujat Azeem was also disclosed. — APP

## Virus situation improving across country except Sindh: Asad Umar

Attributing the drop in statistics to the masses following SOPs and preventive measures such as the smart lockdown, Umar said that in the mid of June, the federal capital had been reporting around 700 cases daily

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar said on Friday that Pakistan's COVID-19 cases tally can remain under 400,000 if health guidelines and SOPs are followed.

The federal minister, in a statement, said that the COVID-19 death rate is

also declining in the country and since the past few days, only 5% people tested positive for the virus.

Attributing the drop in statistics to the masses following SOPs and preventive measures such as the smart lockdown, Umar said that in the mid of June, the federal capital had been reporting around 700 cases daily. "In Islamabad, the admin-

istration, police and staff did a marvelous job," he said, adding that measure will also be undertaken in Karachi to improve the situation.

"More work can be done in Sindh and a consultation will be held over this in the evening," said Asad Umar, lamenting that the situation in Sindh and Karachi did not seem to be

improving. Expressing satisfaction over the situation, the minister mentioned that Islamabad reported only 113 positive cases in the last day. Umar said that the situation is improving during the pandemic as the SOPs are being followed and the government will ensure that the implementation remains on track.

Emirates  
resumes  
domestic  
flights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UAE airline Emirates has resumed services to Pakistan's three main cities — Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad — after a temporary suspension. Passengers, however, will be required to carry a negative Covid-19 report from an approved laboratory issued within 96 hours of the journey. "Following the receipt of relevant government approvals, Emirates has resumed passenger services to Pakistan. Customers can travel to and from Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad if they meet the requirements of their destination," an Emirates spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Passengers travelling from Pakistan to Dubai and beyond on Emirates must present a negative Covid-19 PCR test result certificate at the time of check-in, according to the airline's website. "The PCR test must be taken up to four days prior to the travel date (96 hrs maximum) and must be conducted at the Emirates authorised Health Centre — Chughtai Labs — at the passenger's expense." Children under 12 years old are exempt from the test if they are travelling with their parents who have tested negative and are fit to travel, according to the website. Emirates from June 24 had temporarily suspended passenger services from Pakistan until July 3 after about 30 Pakistanis who arrived in Hong Kong on board an Emirates flight tested positive for Covid-19. Of the 30 male and female passengers, some had symptoms of fever, cough and sore throat while others were asymptomatic. — APP

## 63% of Pakistanis support PM Imran's strategy: survey

ISLAMABAD: A recent survey published by the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) showed that a significant number of Pakistanis support Prime Minister Imran Khan's approach and handling of the coronavirus pandemic. The report showed that among the 52% of the 'satisfied' Pakistanis, 25% said the performance was 'very good' and 27% believe it was 'good'. As many as 63% respondents support the 'smart lockdown' policy by the prime minister.

On the other hand, a substantial 42% seem dissatisfied with the prime minister's response to the pandemic — 14% said that the Centre showed "bad" performance while 28% said it was "very bad".

When comparing Sindh government's policy seeking a complete lockdown and Prime Minister Imran Khan's smart lockdown strategy, the majority of the people supported the premier. PM Imran Khan's smart lockdown strategy has secured more support in the survey than CM Murad's complete lockdown strategy as per the IPOR survey.

The survey indicated that the majority, 63% went with PM Imran's policy, whereas 21% approved of a complete lockdown supported by the chief minister Sindh. However, for the very first time since elections of July 2018, the PML-N has surpassed PTI in its popularity with 32% of the respondents said they will vote for PML-N. While 29% said PTI, 13% respondents said they would vote for the PPP. This survey was conducted by IPOR, the same research agency that successfully predicted PTI would beat PML-N in 2018 elections. — APP

## "India has no right to comment on GB elections"

"The Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which is the longest outstanding item on UN Security Council's agenda, stems from India's forcible and illegal occupation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947," it said

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday rejected remarks by India's Ministry of External Affairs's Spokesperson regarding elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying it had no locus standi to comment.

"The Indian government, which has been holding fraudulent "elections" in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) under the barrel of Indian occupation forces, and has turned the occupied region into the world's largest open prison, has no locus standi to comment on elections in Gilgit-Baltistan," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The Foreign Office said

that Pakistan reiterated that parts of Jammu and Kashmir remained in illegal Indian occupation.

"The Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which is the longest outstanding item on UN Security Council's agenda, stems from India's forcible and illegal occupation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947," it said.

"Pakistan also reiterates that the only resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is faithful implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions that recognise the inalienable right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination through democratic

method of a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices," it said.

The Foreign Office said "baseless Indian contentions about elections in Gilgit-Baltistan cannot cover up the egregious violations of human rights committed by Indian security forces in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

It mentioned that "heartless Indian occupation forces in Sopore killed an unarmed civilian in front of the victim's three-year old grandson", adding that the impunity enjoyed by Indian occupation forces under the draconian laws in place in IOJ&K was another dimension of the state-terror

ism being perpetrated by India against unarmed Kashmiris.

"We call upon the Indian government to vacate all the occupied territories, reverse all illegal actions taken in IOJ&K especially since 5 August 2019, revoke all draconian laws, allow neutral observers, international human rights and humanitarian organisations and the international media to visit the occupied region to ascertain the well-being of the Kashmiri people, and let the Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with UNSC resolutions," the Foreign Office said. — APP

## 'Kashmir-Palestine needs immediate attention'

MIRPUR (AJK): Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that as Muslims have to take the lead and resolve long standing issues plaguing the Muslim Ummah like Palestine and Kashmir through political conflict resolution mechanisms provided to us in the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Citing major events like the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah (Sullah Hudaibiyyah) and clemency announced upon the Conquest of Makkah, he said that the Prophet (PBUH) was a leader par excellence who over the period of his lifetime peacefully resolved major issues between Muslims and their rivals all over the Arabian Peninsula. The AJK President made these remarks while speaking to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, Director General Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University who called upon the President here at Jammu and Kashmir House.

The AJK President said that the Muslim world has to unite against forces trying to create a divide amongst their ranks. He said that Islam is a religion of peace and we have to propagate the true teachings of Islam. He added that the Muslim Ummah has to realize its true potential and regain its true position in the global spectrum. President Masood Khan said that despite being the oppressed, a major chunk of the Muslim population has adopted a defensive posture about Islam, Kashmir and Palestine. "We have to be proactive and start a process of result-oriented dialogue amongst fellow Muslim nations towards the resolution of these long-standing disputes" said the President. — APP



SHIEKHUPURA: Members of Sikh community mourn deaths of their nears and dears ones who lost lives in accident. — APP

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## Briefs

### FIA for seizure of Altaf's property

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday filed an application in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad for confiscation of the property of MQM leader Altaf Hussain and three others who were declared proclaimed offenders by an ATC in its verdict in Dr Imran Farooq murder case. The application for confiscation of property of Altaf Hussain, Ifthikhar Hussain, Muhammad Anwar and Kashif Khan stated that since accused were declared proclaimed offenders by the ATC their properties must be confiscated. The court accepted the application but no date for hearing was issued as yet. — APP

### Rawalpindi police sets example of honesty

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police Friday, setting an example of honesty, returned Rs70,000 and important documents to the heirs recovered from a dead body. A police spokesman informed that Aurangzeb was died of a cardiac arrest all of a sudden while he was travelling in the jurisdiction of Pirwadhai police station. The dead body was shifted to Pirwadhai police station for legal formalities, where assistant sub inspector Abdul Ghafoor found Rs70,000 and other important documents with him. After necessary formalities, sub inspector Muhammad Sabir handed the dead body and the amount Rs70,000 over to his brother Ghulam Shabbir. The heir appreciated the integrity, honesty and professionalism of Rawalpindi police. Superintendent of Police Rawal Division Rai Mazhar Iqbal also praised the police officer for his good code of conduct and said such attitude would bring a good name to the force. — APP

### Rwp Police arrest two kite sellers; recover 1500 kites

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in their crackdown against kite sellers and kite flyers managed to net two persons besides recovering 1500 kites and 48 kite flying string rolls from their possession. According to a police spokesman, police on the directive of Rawalpindi City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas were conducting raids and netting violators of kite flying ban. The Morgah police taking action against kite sellers and kite flyers netted one Raja Babar Naseem and recovered 1500 kites while Bani police arrested one Ghulam Qamar for having 48 string rolls, he said. The spokesman said the raids would be continued to ensure implementation of the ban on kite flying. The strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against rules violators, he added. — APP

### IRSA releases 318,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 318,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 330,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1461.13 feet, which was 75.13 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 152,600 cusecs and outflow as 170,000 cusecs. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 213,900, 197,900 and 51,600 cusecs respectively. — APP



ISLAMABAD: July 03 - Chairman Parliament's Kashmir Committee and Minister of State for SAFRON and Narcotics Control, Shehryar Khan Afridi keenly viewing during exhibition of Ghilaf-e-Kaaba and other relics of religious significance at Centaurus Mall. — APP

### Wheat crisis intensified in surrounding areas

DNA

ATTOCK: Wheat crops in Hazro, Pindi Gheb, Jand, Fateh Jang and surrounding areas were completely destroyed due to heavy rains during the wheat season. The crops that have been harvested are not edible. Some of the traders who were issued orders for the demarcation of the district, procured wheat from different parts of the Punjab through their own means, which was also provided to them after paying a heavy price. Local traders told media persons that the government should issue orders for demarcation instead of demarcation. Wheat is available in large quantities in Punjab but due to demarcation, wheat is not going to other districts. He appealed to the Punjab Chief Minister Usman Baidar to issue orders to abolish wheat district in Punjab so that the people can buy wheat as per the government rate.

### Police recover 120 bottles of liquor

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police have arrested a bootlegger besides recovering 120 bottles of liquor and 720 kuppies from their possession, a police spokesman said. According to details, Saddar Wah police team under the supervision of SHO Saddar Wah Police Station conducted a raid and arrested Allah Ditta and recovered 120 bottles of liquor and 700 kuppies. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas appreciated the performance of the police team saying police is doing its job efficiently and crackdown against criminals should continue. He said that it is the collective responsibility of every person in the society to remain alert against those involved in criminal activities in their surroundings and inform police for action against the lawbreakers. — APP

### IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued power suspension programme for Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 04:15am to 11:00am, Sukho, Bangali, Raman, Nshan-e-Haider, C.B.Khan, Doultala, Adhi, Bher Kalayal, Karnab Kaswal feeders, 05:00am to 11:00am, Industrial, AOWHS, Mansoor Shaheed, Islamabad Feed Mill, HPT-1, II, III, Basile, Pind Jatha feeders, 05:00am to 12:00noon, Kaka Khail Ward No-8, Sandal feeders, 07:00am to 11:00am, Islam Pura, Waheedabad, Burma feeders and surrounding areas. — APP

## NUST partners with Huawei to launch SDN Project

NUST is first university of Pakistan to opt for SDN solution both for datacenter and campus networks. NUST SDN project was adopted through a comprehensive evaluation criteria and detailed technical working of NUST

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NUST SDN Project Kickoff event was focused on technology-based advancement specifically in Software Defined Network (SDN) project deployment in National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Pakistan which will be started officially from 2nd Week of July powered by Huawei. The main goal is to deliver digital transformation in Education Sector of Pakistan. NUST is first university of Pakistan to opt for SDN solution both for datacenter and campus networks. NUST SDN project was adopted through a comprehensive evaluation criteria and detailed technical working of NUST. Key features of the solution include but not limited to high speed 40 gbps back-

bone extendable to 100 gbps, dual-stack IPv4/IPv6 networking, virtual segregation of networks, NMS, bandwidth control and security features, e.g., IPS, anti-malware, cloud-aware networking, network access control and virtual private networks. The event was attended by key representatives from NUST, CNSe & Huawei. It started with the news that how Huawei solutions are adding value to education sector in Pakistan during tough pandemic situation presented by Mr. Aurangzaib Murad (Assistant Director Huawei Education Vertical). Huawei is continuously evolving technology to cater future needs and requirements for its customer. Director ICT (NUST) Mr. Khawaja Rizwan and Deputy Director Cybersecurity (NUST) Mr. Kaleem



Siddiqui were briefed about Huawei education ecosystem E2E solutions which included smart class room, Intent Driven Networks (IDN), Wifi 6 & Gauss DB. CNS Engineering is a globally recognized ICT service and supplier company; offering modern Infrastructure solutions on turnkey basis for all kind of projects in the field of IT and telecommunication. Mr. Agha Gul (Regional Sales Manager CNSe) & Mr. Shahbaz Akhtar (Senior Manager Technical CNSe) discussed with NUST of-

officials regarding NUST SDN project deployment strategy, plan and end goals along with technical roadmap & responsibility matrix to achieve key deployment milestones successfully with support of Huawei. Deputy Director Cybersecurity (NUST) Mr. Kaleem Siddiqui, leading a techno-commercial role in strategic projects of education sector, is hopeful to see Huawei SDN fully integrated with its latest projects of private cloud, computer-based testing, datacenter and Security Operations

Center (SOC). He expressed his motivation to present a working model of the technology, which would provide ease of use, automation, monitoring and analytics having cybersecurity controls at each level. He is working on digital transformation and smart education projects to promote education, innovation and collaboration. Mr. Kaleem commented while addressing the challenges, "Major issue in this project was prevailing pandemic situation with lockdown. On the technical side, we wanted to verify if all the quoted solutions are fully functional and comply to various use-cases; while on the procurement part, we wanted to speed up the process to avoid expected dollar inflation. Online meetings, work from home, online presentations and live demonstrations helped a

lot during evaluation phase under such stressful conditions." Director ICT (NUST) Mr. Khawaja Rizwan mentioned, "NUST SDN project shall be a benchmark for education sector in Pakistan. Our operations & maintenance overhead shall be reduced remarkably through Huawei based SDN solution. The solution shall be extended to all NUST schools in near future". The event ended with cake cutting and shield distribution ceremony naming CNSe NUST SDN Project Kick-off. In the end, Mr. Imran Baig (Vice President CNSe) presented memorandum shields to Director ICT (NUST) Mr. Khawaja Rizwan, Deputy Director Cybersecurity (NUST) Mr. Kaleem Siddiqui and Mr. Agha Gul (RSM CNSe) for their successful participation in the project.

### COVID-19 pandemic; FJWU launches counseling service

RAWALPINDI: From the platform of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Head of Behavioral Sciences Department, Dr. Aneela Maqsood initiated and led a volunteer campaign in alliance with a team of volunteer national and international health professionals who are committed to offer volunteer services to deal with massive need of psychological services to support the community during COVID-19 pandemic. FJWU managed to build an alliance in collaboration with Psychology Department of University of Sargodha, Dr. Najma Malik- Chairperson Psy. Dept., Chief Psychologist Dr. Shoaib Kiani, University of Sheffield, UK, Dr. Parveen Ali, Head of Nursing Studies Program, University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston, Texas USA, Dr. Samian Masood Gazali, Mental Health Services Ltd, Surrey, UK, Director & Prof. Dr. Ghazala Rehman, Kids Hearts Hospital, UAE, Head of Psychology Dept., Prof. Dr. Nusrat Hussain and members from UK-Pakistan Science Innovation Global Network (UPSIGN), Pakistan Medical Association, Prof. Dr. Tahir Saeed, members from British Psychological Society & British Clinical Society and Mental Health First Aid England. — APP

### Man killed over land dispute

RAWALPINDI: At least one person was killed and three others got injured in a clash between two groups over a land dispute in the jurisdiction of Taxila Police Station. Police said that Mansoor Elahai was killed while Syed Adeel Haider, Syed Waqas Shah and passerby Muhammad Rafique were received injuries during the clash. The injured were taken to the THQ hospital, Taxila. Police registered the case and started investigations. — APP

### CCCP & FB agree on complete transparency

Committee apprised that formulation of Rules is a statutory requirement under Section 37 of PECA 2016

ISLAMABAD: The Consultation Committee on Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules, 2020, said a news release. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held with Facebook representatives on their perspective on the provisions of the Rules. The Committee apprised that formulation of Rules is a statutory requirement under Section 37 of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA). It also was emphasized that

citizens in Pakistan enjoy complete freedom of expression over internet as enshrined in the Constitution. The Committee also stressed on sustained communication, better understanding of local context and societal values, greater transparency with respect to community standards and content moderation policies and mechanisms by FB to protect citizens against online harm. — APP

### Islamabad police standing on front line

ISLAMABAD: The personnel of Islamabad police are standing on the front line in fight against coronavirus and serving the citizens with dedication to protect them from coronavirus. It was stated by Inspector General of Police (Operations) Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar during meeting with Chairman Green Inspire Foundation Ch. Muhammad Usman and his team. DIG (Headquarters) Ch. Muhammad Saleem also met with them and briefed about efforts of Islamabad police in curbing coronavirus. Chairman Green Inspire Foundation gifted surgical masks, bot-

ties of sanitizers and gloves for Islamabad police. The IGP said that citizens were also appreciating the role of policemen in this critical time while all SPs, SDPOs are ensuring full assistance to teams of district administration in their respective areas. The IGP thanked the representatives of the foundation and said that Islamabad police is performing role at front line to combat this daunting challenge. Islamabad Police Chief said that efforts are also being made for to protect health of policemen so that they may accomplish their responsibilities in an effective manner. — APP



ISLAMABAD: A deserted view of weekly bazaar during lockdown as people restrict their movement for prevention of COVID-19 outbreak. — APP

## Briefs

## KIIR Webinar seeks end to violence in IOK

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the alarming increase in violence against women in the UN recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir; the panelists at a Webinar said that the rising tide of violence against women in Kashmir merits urgent attention and action by the international community to combat this menace. The Webinar titled "Combating violence against women" was convened by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) in collaboration with World Muslim Congress (WMC), Community Human Rights and Advocacy Centre (CHRAAC) and International Muslim Women Union (IMWU) was organized at the sidelines of the 44th session of United Nations Human Rights Council. The Webinar gathered well reputed independent international experts and rights activists championing the women rights including Margaret Owen OBE, Julie Ward former MEP, Marina Zucca, an expert in International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law, Catherine Constantinides Human rights defender from South Africa, Dr Saira Shah, Ms Soraya Boyd UK and Mrs Shamim Shawl permanent representative IMWU. - APP

## Fire in forest doused: Rescue 1122

ABBOTTABAD: A fire that broke out in Sirban Hill forest near Abbottabad on Thursday night which spread over a large area was doused by Rescue officials on Friday morning. According to Rescue 1122 official, their teams reached the site of the fire receiving information and brought the fire under control after hectic effort of three hours. The rescue teams faced difficulties during operation to douse the fire due to the mountainous terrain. Rescue workers said the blaze reduced dozens of trees into ashes while some wild animals were also killed. - APP

## SPI inflation increases 2.29%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on July 02, for the combined consumption group, witnessed an increase of 2.29 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 132.32 points against 129.36 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 9.77 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732 witnessed 0.89 percent increase and went up from 137.02 points in last week to 138.24 points during the week under review. - APP

## ATC summons witnesses in Mumbai attack case

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad on Friday summoned the prosecution witnesses for testimony in a case pertaining to attack on a Mumbai hotel. The hearing in such case was resumed by the ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan whereas prosecution revealed that witness summoned for the day was unable to attend the proceedings and pleaded for adjournment. The officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again pleaded the court that such witness was in Iran and due to routes blockage was unable to arrive in the country. They disclosed that efforts were underway to bring such witness for testimony. - APP

## COMSATS pioneer to introduce Internet services in Pakistan

DR. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director OCMSATS, who briefed the Special Assistant about COMSATS Internet Services and different projects of CIS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Miss Tanya Aidrus Special Assistant to prime minister on digital Pakistan visited the COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) pioneer ISP of Pakistan project of COMSATS Secretariat to witness CIS Data center, Telemedicine services, COMSATS Software Solutions. She was welcomed by Executive Director of COMSATS, Dr. Syed Muhammad Junaid Zaidi HI. SI and Chief Operating officer Nasir Jamal Khan at COMSATS Internet Services CIS Technology Park. On her visit to CIS gave a detailed presentation on the history and operations of the project. She was informed that COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) is the pioneer organization to introduce Internet services, Telemedicine Services in Pakistan. CIS has established a network of 19 offices across Pakistan to serve Government organizations, SME and private organizations and internet in rural areas, he added.



She was further briefed that Tele medicine clinics at rural areas are connected via broadband internet to COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) Telemedicine Re-

source Center, Islamabad, where a panel of specialist doctors provides free medical consultation to patient visiting the telemedicine centers.

The centers are equipped with latest equipment of video conferencing, IT infrastructure and necessary digital diagnostic systems. Patients data is main-

tained on the web portal of COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) for future reference. Recently we in process of installation Telemedicine clinics in province of Baluchistan Government. On the occasion was also present, DR. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director OCMSATS, who briefed the Special Assistant about COMSATS Internet Services and different projects of CIS. He informed that the purpose of the facilities developed by COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) is to serve the rural people in remote areas with no or little access to good IT facilities. "Still more concentrated efforts are required to digitize throughout Pakistan, one of the key strategies for bringing IT services to the door step of people of Pakistan, Dr. Zaidi said. "On the Occasion Special Assistant to Prime minister on Digital Pakistan admired COMSATS Internet Services professional environment and IT superior services provided to Government and private sector across Pakistan.

## Kite flying banned in Islamabad for 2 months

ISLAMABAD: The District Magistrate, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has imposed ban on flying, manufacturing and sale of kites with immediate effect for a period of two months, a notification issued here on Friday said. "Certain section of public indulge in manufacturing/selling kites, kite flying string, sharp Maanjha (string), metallic wire and nylon cord which endanger human life and safety of the general public of district Islamabad. Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, PAS, district magistrate, Islamabad in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 144 CrPC 1898 DO prohibit the manufacturing and selling of kites, kite flying string, metallic wire, and nylon cord within the revenue/territorial limits of District Islamabad. Further, the owners/occupants of the house, shops, hospitals, building, etc., shall not allow kite-flying activity on their rooftops, the notification added. The metallic or nylon string slit the throat of those traveling on two-wheeler within no time, he added. - APP

## Riphah holds symposium on Digital Transformation

ISLAMABAD: Riphah University Friday organized an International Symposium on Digital Transformation in Higher Education to bring together leading academic expert scientists and researchers to share their experiences on all aspects of Online learning. The main objective of the online symposium was to bring together leading academic expert scientists and researchers to

share their experiences on all aspects of Online learning and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, issues, challenges encountered, and strategies adopted to cope with change.

The world has turned into a global village as the technological developments have compelled stakeholders in all the fields of academia and industry including Medicine, Engi-

neering, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Management Sciences, Media Sciences, Social Sciences etc., to keep themselves abreast of constantly evolving trends and challenges in their respective areas. In the welcome address, Chancellor Riphah International University, Hassan Muhammad Khan shared that socio-economic development of our country is inextricably linked with

its higher education system, particularly scientific research and innovation in technology. He further discussed the opportunity to rethink and redesign our higher education system for a paradigm shift from brick and mortar universities to the universities in handheld devices and from traditional pedagogical approach to inclusively effective and equitable e-learning. - APP

## Secretary visits RIU to inspect COVID-19 facilities

RAWALPINDI: Evacuee Secretary Punjab Irshad Ahmed on Friday visited the Corona Management Center at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) and asked about facilities being provided to the COVID-19 patients. According to a handout, the Secretary said that prevention of the disease was priority of the government and the administration was working day and night to control the spread of the infection. Irshad interacted with COVID-19 affected patients and asked about treatment and other facilities provided to them at the RIU. He said that Punjab government was committed to provide best health care facilities to the coronavirus patients and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. Deputy Commissioner Capt Anwar ul Haq and Medical Superintendent RIU Dr Khalid Randhawa briefed the Secretary about the facilities being provided to the people at the center. - APP

## DC for opening of KK Highway

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Muhammad Maghis Sanaullah Friday said that they were opening the Karakoram Highway from Silhad to Fawara Chowk, after completion of the black topping and repair work to facilitate the people for ensuring un-interrupted flow of traffic. The decision in this connection was taken in a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Muhammad Mughis Sanaullah in the Chair. Chairman District Reconciliation Committee Lieutenant General (retd) Ayaz Saleem Rana, Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Dr. Mujtaba Bharwana, Deputy Director NHA, Assistant Commissioner (Under Training) Tania Rashid and other concerned officers attended the meeting. Muhammad Mughis Sanaullah said that soon after completing of the black topping and repair work on the road more such section would be opening for the quick relief to the people. - APP

## Pak spends over \$ 1165 mln on travel imports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has spent US \$ 1165.970 million by acquiring different travel services from various countries during the first ten months of ongoing fiscal year 2019-20. This shows decrease of 14.02 percent as compared to US \$ 1356.090 million spent through provision of services during the last year (2018-19), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the imports of personal travel services witness decrease of 12.89 percent, by going down from US \$ 1315.840 million last year to US \$ 1146.250 million during July-April (2019-20). Among these personal services, imports of health related expenditure decreased by 57.89 percent from \$1,900 million to \$ 0.800 million whereas the education expenditure also decreased by 16.10 percent, by going down from \$110.980 million to \$93.110 million, data revealed. In addition, import of other services were decline by 12.52 percent, out of which religious services witnessed growth of 49.47 percent from \$238.133 million to \$ 355.935 million while the imports other services decreased by 27.82 percent from \$964.827 million to \$696.405 million. Meanwhile, imports of business services decreased by 51.01 percent from US \$40.250 million to US \$19.720 million, the PBS data revealed. - APP

## Pakistan to have first-ever Space Museum in capital

ISLAMABAD: The Scientific Committee of the National Astronomical Observation Commission in a meeting held here Friday decided to set up Pakistan's first ever space museum in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Hussain Chaudhary chaired the meeting, which was attended by the members of the committee. The committee decided to set up Pakistan's first space museum in Islamabad. The federal minister announced that the first ever space museum will be established within eight months. The meeting also decided to set up five astronomical observatories in Pakistan. It was unanimously decided that astronomical observatories would be set up in Islamabad and Gwadar at the initial phase. In his tweet, Fawad Chaudhary said that provincial governments have also been asked to establish space museums in provincial capitals. "From looking at the moon to beyond the stars, you will be able to explore the universe in future", he said. - APP

## Ehsaas disburses Rs.149.54 bln

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme has so far disbursed an amount of over Rs. 149.54 billion among over 12,356,000 lockdown affectees under different categories. The programme was initiated to disburse cash amount of Rs. 12,000 among those affected from the coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continued across the country. According to the cash update received on July 3, a total of over Rs. 66.91 billion has been disbursed among over 5,527,000 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs. 44.84 billion has been disbursed among 3,718,000 families in Sindh. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Newly promoted Lt. General Nigar Johar meeting with staff after her promotion. - DNA

## RDA to take action against illegal housing schemes

Administration of the property was running booking offices illegally and advertisements in violation of Punjab Private Housing schemes and Land Sub-division Rules 2010

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on Friday decided to take strict action against illegal housing schemes, development work and construction of illegal booking and site offices without any discrimination. Chairman Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Murtaza and Director General (DG) RDA Ammara Khan has directed the Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engi-

neering (MP&TE) Directorate to take strict action against violators. According to RDA spokesman, the citizens have been advised not to invest in illegal and unauthorized Housing Scheme. RDA had requested Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) and PTCL, not to extend their services to illegal housing schemes, he added.

He informed that the MP&TE Directorate has demolished two site offices, boundary walls and also removed wall chalking and boards of illegal housing scheme namely Margala Hills Enclave in Mouza Mohra Shah Wali at GT Road near Taxila. He said the directorate has also declared advertisements by above mentioned housing scheme, illegal and unauthorized. The Directorate Staff in-

cluding Deputy Director Planning, Samiullah Niazi, Superintendent Scheme, Scheme Inspector and others and district police carried out an operation against the illegal housing scheme and took action in accordance with the law. The administration of the property was running booking offices illegally and advertisements in violation of Punjab Private Housing schemes and Land Sub-division Rules 2010. - APP

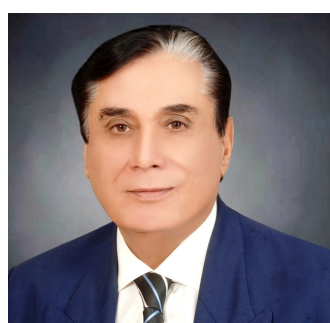
## Missing Persons Commission's performance excellent

Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman, Missing Persons Commission is serving Missing Persons Commission in an honorary capacity and is drawing no salary and availing other faculties which are admissible as per law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Missing Persons Commission has disposed of 4593 cases upto June 30, 2020 as per monthly progress report released by Farid Ahmed Khan, Secretary (ColoED) on cases of alleged enforced disappearances for the month of June 2020. A total number of 6674 cases were received by the Missing Persons

Commission upto May 2020. During June 2020, 12 more cases were received by the commission and total numbers of cases reached to 6686. The Missing Persons Commission disposed of 49 cases in June 2020 and thus total disposal of Missing Persons upto June 30, 2020 is 4593 and balance as on June 30, 2020 is 2093. The Missing Persons Commission will resume its hearings soon after



review of Lock down policies announced by Federal Government and Provincial Governments in order to prevent from COVID-19 as per law. Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman, Missing Persons Commission and other Honorable members have disposed of 4593 cases upto June 30, 2020. The relatives of missing persons have lauded the efforts of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal

Chairman Missing Persons Commission and other Honorable members of Missing Persons Commission for taking personal interest in locating their near and dear ones. Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman, Missing Persons Commission is serving Missing Persons Commission in an honorary capacity and is drawing no salary and availing other faculties which are admissible as per law.

## Accident kills seven near Murree

ISLAMABAD: Seven persons were killed while other 10 sustained injuries as a Jeep plunged into a deep ditch near Murree on Friday morning. According to rescue sources the tragic incident occurred due to the negligence of driver as he could not control the vehicle while taking a sharp turn, a private news channel reported. The bodies and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal process, they stated. - APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 88

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

## Kashmir's anguish

Despite the violent world we live in, where incidents such as the death of George Floyd in the US around a month ago shocked the world, there are atrocities which are so appalling it is difficult to believe any human being could commit them. In Indian-occupied Kashmir, in the town of Sopore, such an incident took place on Wednesday. A 65-year-old man, Bashir Ahmad Khan, who had driven out from his home on an errand, was shot dead by the Central Reserve Police Force who had at the time been engaged with militants. Local people, including his family, say Bashir Ahmad was killed by the security forces, possibly while seated in his car.

But the incident grows even grimmer. Pictures of Aayad, the three-year-old grandson of Bashir Ahmad who had accompanied him, sitting on the body of his dead grandfather and sobbing went viral. People allege the picture was taken by the police. There are also other pictures of a police official carrying Aayad. The police chief in Kashmir Vijay Kumar says the boy was rescued by officials, and a militant bullet had killed his grandfather. Other angles of the same photograph show that the police officer carrying the small child had his foot placed on the body of the child's dead grandfather. The incident has caused a wave of anger to run across the tortured territory of Kashmir. Local people blame the police for exploiting the child and for killing Bashir Ahmad. Amnesty India, the local wing of the international human rights body, has condemned the incident as a violation of the rights of a child. Major political parties in Kashmir, including the National Conference and People's Democratic Party, have both spoken up against the brutality involved in the CRPF action. Condemnations continue to come in from major politicians.

Sadly, this is not an isolated incident. The brutality of the Indian security forces in Occupied Kashmir have become the norm. People in the area face them virtually every day. They range from arrests to torture to killings and harassment. It is also becoming obvious that the Indian government has decided to change the demographic profile of Kashmir by removing the rule that allowed only permanent residents to own land in the area and instead grant Kashmiri domicile status and the same rights to retired government officials who had served in the region, their children, persons who have graduated from an educational institution in the area and others moving in to the region.



## Active and alert

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE security and law enforcement apparatus of any country is the first line of defense from a threat. This menace could be internal as well as external. While doctors and the paramedic staff are there to save lives and work round the clock, the members of the security forces are an integral part when it comes to securing lives.

The recent attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) building in Karachi was thwarted by the resilience and presence of mind of the two members of the Rapid Response Force (RRF) of the Sindh Police, Constable Muhammad Rafiq and Constable Khalil from the RRF shot down the terrorists who could have carried out more damage to life and property. The personnel of the RRF were stationed there after the PSX had received terrorist threats a few months ago. In this regard, the services and the sacrifices of the martyred security officers must also be remembered. The deceased security guards were sub-inspector Muhammad Shahid and security guards Khuda-e-Yar and Iftikhar Wahid.

They did fight against the terrorists before laying their lives to protect the people at the PSX. Constable Muhammad Rafiq and Constable Khalil of the RRF gauged the situation and swiftly positioned themselves to tackle the looming threat.

The concerned organizations that are under the radar for security threats including those pertaining to the sector of banks, educational institutes, hospitals, and related to the economic and social sector, must hire guards who have an agile physique.

It is true that age brings wisdom; however, age also takes away quickness and flexibility. Security officers must be given advanced weapons, should be from the ages of 25 to 35, and must have a strong physique.

The security guards over the ages of 50 should be placed at strategic locations inside the premises.

Their wisdom can be aptly used for making decisions about securing people inside the premises.

The external security of all major and important buildings must be given to security officers trained to handle such scenarios that transpired at the PSX.

## The US commits the same abuses it condemns abroad

Belkis Wille



The credibility of those actions, or what was left of it, now lies in ashes. Over the past three weeks, police across the United States have unleashed some of the same tactics against peaceful protesters at home that the US has condemned abroad. No matter what distinctions the current administration might try to draw, the ability of the US to promote respect for human rights abroad has been further harmed

AS human rights researchers covering places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and Yemen, we have spent years documenting how repressive governments use excessive force and other abuses to quash dissent: firing on peaceful protesters and beating or arresting critics and activists. Despite its own record of abuse abroad, which we have also documented, the US government has rightly if inconsistently condemned crackdowns by repressive governments - making public statements, raising concerns in private meetings with government officials, suspending military assistance, or imposing targeted sanctions against those most responsible.

The credibility of those actions, or what was left of it, now lies in ashes. Over the past three weeks, police across the United States have unleashed some of the same tactics against peaceful protesters at home that the US has condemned abroad. No matter what distinctions the current administration might try to draw, the ability of the US to promote respect for human rights abroad has been further harmed.

Following the May 25 killing of George Floyd, protests broke out in all 50 US states, condemning police brutality and structural racism. The police in many places responded with excessive force and abuse: beating up protesters, mass arrests, or using military force to discourage protests. We are investigating about 100 separate incidents in which police reportedly used so-called less lethal weapons to disperse protesters, including tear gas, pepper spray, stun grenades, and rubber bullets. In several cases, police used "kettling" tactics, trapping protesters in an enclosed space, then arresting them, often using these weapons.

Many of those arrested said they were held for hours, and sometimes more than a day, in crowded, filthy conditions with no protection from COVID-19. They were not allowed to make a phone call, and many were moved from one precinct to another, making it nearly impossible for their families and lawyers to track them down.

Upon release, many were given a summons to appear in court for breaking curfews, blocking traffic, and other minor offences.

Many journalists have been among those attacked, arrested, or otherwise harassed during the protests - sometimes on live camera. Police shot a journalist in Minneapolis with what she thought was a rubber bullet that left her permanently blinded in one eye.

Legal observers from the National Lawyers Guild were attacked, tear gassed, and arrested while monitoring protests in at least a dozen cities, despite their visible neon green hats and other identifying markers. One observer in Sacramento was shot in the face with a rubber bullet and hospitalized with a concussion, while several observers in Detroit were beaten with batons, punched, tear gassed and then arrested while trying to record the names of arrested protesters.

Street medics deployed to provide emergency medical support to protesters injured during the demonstrations have also been targeted. In New York City, police assaulted and arrested a medic with a clearly visible red cross on his helmet.

As we have repeatedly told authorities during meetings in Kinshasa, Baghdad, and elsewhere, peaceful protesters should not be thrown into jail for expressing their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Journalists, medical workers, legal monitors, and human rights activists are protected under international human rights law and should never be targeted just for doing their jobs.

Tear gas - a chemical irritant that can cause a burning sensation in the eyes and difficulty breathing - and other "less lethal" weapons are governed by strict necessity and principles of proportionality under international law.

The police should make use of non-violent means before resorting to force and avoid the use of force to disperse non-violent protests, regardless of whether the authorities deem the protests illegal. "Less lethal" weapons should only be employed when strictly necessary to obtain a lawful and legitimate law enforcement objective, and

should be preceded by clear warnings.

In Iraq, we documented how security forces in late 2019 used excessive force against often peaceful protesters, including by firing tear gas canisters directly at them, causing deaths and injuries, and by breaking up protesters' tents, including in the middle of the night. Security forces also routinely attacked journalists and wounded medics as they treated protesters. The US government condemned the violence throughout.

As the DRC's president held on to power beyond the end of his constitutional mandate, we documented how security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas at largely peaceful protesters, killing nearly 300 people and arresting more than 2,000 protesters and activists between 2015 and 2018. The US government repeatedly condemned the crackdown and imposed targeted sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes, against senior government and security force officials implicated in the abuse.

The US needs to live up to international human rights standards, the standards that US administrations have demanded of other countries, when people are out on the streets protesting, and every day. The recent mass arrests and excessive force used by the police during protests are not surprising for many Americans, especially Black and brown people who experience the reality of an abusive, racist law enforcement system on a daily basis.

But let us hope the swell of protests, global outrage, and increased public scrutiny of police behaviour - nationally and around the world - serve as an impetus for meaningful reforms.

Systemic, fundamental changes to policing and public safety are needed throughout the US to ensure that the basic human rights of Americans are respected. These changes are also crucial if the US government, including future administrations, hopes to have any credibility on the world stage as an effective promoter of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

- This Article was first published in Al Jazeera on June 27

## Kashmir crisis: from LOC to LAC quagmire

Syed Mushahid Hussain Naqvi



The successive failures after the pulwama incident along LOC and LAC dispelled covert / overt agendas to ensure zero sum prepositions in Kashmir dispute and more significantly it obsoleted the sinophobic rants. The two front forfeit also subverted the notion of gaining domestic political mileage through inflicting ultra nationalism

LDEN with protracted violence and intensifying geopolitical intrigue, Kashmir conundrum remains the hot-spot for direct confrontation between three nuclear powers of the region who shares geographical proximities, embodied with multifarious divergent goals. The clash of interest consequent into long-standing complex unsettled territorial disputes and seeding conventional enmity. Acquainted with the fact, Ever since the far right wing- BJP came into power under the premiership of Modi, skirmishes along LOC between India and Pakistan gagged up, drawing hostile bilateral configuration similarly at other end the cumulative Sino-India stand off along LAC in Himalayan region casting shadows of turmoil between two archenemies and in broader spectrum validated the rhetoric " Kashmir a nuclear flash point" to reality.

History vindicates that in the aftermaths of Indo-Pak and Sino-India conventional wars in pursuit of extending territorial jurisdiction of Kashmir ended with apparent conflict mitigation which led the foundation of living a defacto status quo existence LOC, LAC between aforementioned contending parties respectively. However, disarming factor is perpetual peace which remain detrimental whilst continuously posed intimidating challenges to the regional security architecture at large. Retrospectively, already existed vitiated situation worsen further in the aftermaths of Indian recent coercive decision of revocation of article 370 and 35A which typically emboldened by its divergent exigencies in strategic calculus, political milieu and subsequent ideological aspirations.

Keeping the simmering Crisis vis-a-vis LOC and LAC in account, India suffering with major jolts due to the Modi regime offensive posture ( violating norms of boarder's agreement With Pakistan and China). The use of brute force tactic drasti-

cally increased number of it's LOC violations to deflect the world's attention from its myriad policy measures undertaken in occupied Kashmir. At foreign policy front it has become redundant approach with irreconcilable diplomatic pitfall. Likewise, it's tactical assertion of illicit infrastructure buildup along LAC ensued hand to hand scuffle between PLA and Indian Armed Forces in Golwan valley of ladakh region, resulting into killing of 20 Indian soldiers.

The vary incident brought both immediate and Fetched grim consequences as Delhi's Expansionist drive stalled due to Chinese effective military response.

Firstly, opting The non-retaliation, maximum restraint diffused misconception regarding India being Beijing's regional competitor and Modi moderate diplomatic response extended Beijing zero-sum triumph over India.

Secondly, it also raised grave apprehensions regarding the "efficient military preparedness" of Indian military force which holds one of the largest numeric strength and amongst the highest defense spending states of the world.

Thirdly, it also validated Pakistan's stance of Indian deceitful military maneuverings along the disputed Territorial boundaries.

Fourthly, amid of Crisis, china demanded India to restore the prior status of Kashmir converges diplomatic stance of Beijing and Islamabad, thus exerted maximum pressure on the security establishment and ruling government in Delhi clearly dejected all the unilateral ploys of shifting the dynamics of conflict in its favor.

The successive failures after the pulwama incident along LOC and LAC dispelled covert / overt agendas to ensure zero sum prepositions in Kashmir dispute and more significantly it obsoleted the sinophobic rants. The two front forfeit also subverted the notion of gaining domestic political mileage through inflicting ultra nationalism and

provocation of saffronisation ideology which has been key imperative of the Modi policies.

Notwithstanding with the apparent claims of India as regional hegemonic competitor to China, the staunch military action at LAC is an eye-opener for Delhi to revamp the deceitful strategic gambits which may undermine it's own sovereignty if Modi regime kept relying on interventionist political agendas.

Given the current simmering crisis at LAC and probable limited military engagement between the regional hegemonic contending actors in foreseeable future, the prevailing situation would assist Pakistan to further consolidate it's ties with China through incorporating strong defense partnership and it will alleviate the trajectory of balance of power in its favor.

Hypothetically Crisis escalation along LAC would proportionally increase Indian security dilemma-accentuating credible deterrence oriented from the Sino-Pak strategic partnership.

To be explicit and precise, current course of action not only denied Indian strategic position but it also endangered the state's sovereignty which is entangled in cluster of traditional and non traditional security challenges at home and abroad.

The fallout of miscued Modi assertive approach with reference to LOC and LAC potentially necessitates Compensatory rational appraisal. Diplomatically, A pragmatic conciliatory policy-adherence to the norms of international treaties and laws, would serve better in reconsolidation of jeopardized security architecture of South Asia. Likewise in compliance with sanctity of RP-2 doctrine international institutions and Powers are also obliged to intervene in order to mitigate the conflict to ensure the strategic stability and emblems of peace.

The author is an Islamabad-based journalist, researcher holding academic expertise in international affairs.



## Briefs

## BBC cuts 450 regional jobs

LONDON: The BBC said Thursday it will axe 450 regional jobs in England as it seeks to cut costs and shake up its local radio stations and TV news.

The British broadcaster last month announced that 150 jobs would go in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, on top of the loss of around 450 positions in BBC News. In a statement on Thursday, it said it was planning a "significant reinvention" of BBC England, which employs more than 3,000 people.

Changes include merging TV and online news and reducing the number of shows on local radio stations, in a bid to save £25 million by March 2022.

The BBC said its early evening regional TV news bulletins have been the most watched programmes on British television during the coronavirus outbreak, regularly drawing a quarter of England's population.

But Helen Thomas, the director of BBC England, said: "Those services were created more than 50 years ago, have changed very little and need significant reinvention. — APP

## Turkey trial of Jamal Khashoggi's murder begins

DNA

ISTANBUL: A Turkish court has opened the trial of 20 Saudi nationals indicted over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The trial began at Istanbul province's main court in Caglayan district at 10am local time (07:00 GMT) on Friday. Khashoggi, a 59-year-old Washington Post columnist, was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018, after he entered the premises to obtain paperwork for his planned marriage. Turkish officials say Khashoggi's body was dismembered at the consulate by the killers and his remains are yet to be found. In March, Turkish prosecutors indicted 20 Saudi nationals over Khashoggi's killing, including two former senior aides to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), the kingdom's de facto ruler.

## Uzbekistan receives observer status at IOC

DNA

TASHKENT: The 111th session of the International Olympic Council (IOC), chaired by Georgia, has taken place via videoconference. According to the regulations of the session of the Council, the event was attended by representatives of Member States — Albania, Algeria, Egypt, the EU, Georgia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and observer states — Argentina, Uzbekistan and Syria. The IOC Chair George Svanidze addressed the opening ceremony of the session. He informed the participants about the application of Uzbekistan to join the Council and congratulated the Uzbek side on receiving the observer status in the organization. It was noted that the decision of Uzbekistan to join the IOC will not only strengthen the image of the Olympic Council, but will also give impetus to development of olive production in Uzbekistan. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Levan Davitashvili, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khojayev, as well as the Deputy Minister of Trade of Turkey Sezai Ucarak also addressed the event.

## Uzbekistan corona cases surpass 9000

DNA

TASHKENT: As of July 3, 10:00, the number of coronavirus infected in Uzbekistan has reached 9199 (+121) people, the Ministry of Health reports. 6034 (65%) people have fully recovered from the virus. 3138 patients are being treated in hospitals.



BAKU: Ms. Leyla Aliyeva founder of HA Foundation and initiator & organizer of several charitable projects not only in Azerbaijan, also outside of Flag of Azerbaijan boundaries celebrating her birthday with children. — DNA

## China warns US of countermeasures over Hong Kong sanctions bill

Warning comes as activist Nathan Law flees and Hong Kong govt bans protest slogan calling for city's liberation

DNA

BEIJING: China has promised to take "all necessary countermeasures" if the United States pressed ahead with legislation penalising banks doing business with Chinese officials who implement Beijing's draconian new national security law on Hong Kong. The warning on Friday came after the US Senate unanimously approved the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, sending it to the White House for President Donald Trump's signature.

"This US move has grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and seriously violated international law,

as well as the basic norms governing international relations," the Foreign Affairs Committee of China's National People's Congress said.

"If the US side is bent on going down the wrong path, China will resolutely respond with all necessary countermeasures."

Beijing has faced a groundswell of criticism over its decision to impose a law outlawing "acts of subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces" in Hong Kong.

Pro-democracy protesters in the city as well as foreign governments say the law breaches the "one country, two systems" principle enshrined in the 1984 Si-

no-British treaty that guaranteed the autonomy of Hong Kong.

The law has triggered alarm among democracy activists and rights groups. Demosisto, a pro-democracy group led by Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong, disbanded hours after the legislation was passed, while prominent group member Nathan Law said on Friday that he had left the global financial hub.

The 26-year-old said he made the decision to leave after criticising the new law at a US congressional hearing he attended via livestream on Wednesday. "Of course, I knew my speech and appearance would put my own safety in serious

jeopardy given the circumstances," he wrote on Twitter.

"As a global-facing activist, the choice I have are stark: to stay silent from now on, or to keep engaging in private diplomacy so I can warn the world of the threat of Chinese authoritarian expansion. I made the decision when I agreed to testify before the US Congress."

Nathan Law, centre, walks past the media outside the Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong [Isaac Lawrence/AFP]

Officials in Beijing and Hong Kong say the law, which bypasses Hong Kong's legislature, is necessary to restore order and stability in the city and

will only target a handful of "trouble-makers".

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's local government confirmed that a popular protest slogan used over the last year - "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times" - was now illegal. The rallying cry appears on placards at rallies, is printed on clothes and accessories and scribbled on post-it notes on walls across the city.

"The slogan 'Liberate Hong Kong, the revolution of our times' nowadays connotes 'Hong Kong independence', or separating the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) from the People's Republic of China, altering the legal status of

the HKSAR, or subverting the state power," the government said in a statement late on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the 23rd anniversary of the former British colony's handover to Chinese rule, police arrested about 370 people during protests against the legislation, with 10 of those involving violations of the new law. The United Kingdom has announced plans to allow millions of Hong Kong citizens with British National Overseas status to relocate with their families and eventually apply for citizenship. Australia said it was considering similar action, while Taiwan has opened an office to help Hong Kong people wanting to flee the city.

## Ambassador Furqat holds talks with Ahmed Ssenyomo

During the conversation, the state and prospects of building up the multifaceted cooperation of Uzbekistan with the OIC, including in the trade, economic, investment and tourism spheres, were discussed

DNA

TASHKENT: Ambassador Furqat Sidikov held fruitful talks with the Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Economic Affairs, Ahmed Ssenyomo, in the form of video conference.

During the conversation, the state and prospects of building up the multifaceted cooperation of Uzbekistan with the OIC, including in the trade, economic, investment and tourism spheres, were discussed.

As emphasized, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, large-scale reforms are being carried out in the economic sphere aimed at maintaining high economic growth and increasing the competitiveness of the economy of our country. In this regard, Uzbekistan pays special attention to the development of cooperation with the OIC.

It was noted that building up cooperation in the field of economy and trade is one of the priority areas of relations with the OIC.



## India's LoC ceasefire breaches are serious threat to regional trade

FPCCI president Anjum Nisar calls on world community to hold India accountable for HR abuses in IHK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Mian Anjum Nisar has raised serious concerns over continuing human rights abuses and curfew in Indian Held Kashmir for the last more than 9 months, saying successive ceasefire breaches along the Line of Control by the Indian Forces is a serious threat to regional trade and economic prosperity, especially at a time when the whole world economies are highlighting gloomy forecasts.

He urged the United Nations to accord serious attention to blatant violation of human rights in IHK, constituting a high powered human rights committee to visit the valley to see and report the facts.

"These egregious violations of international law reflect consistent Indian attempts to escalate the situation along the LoC and are a threat to bilateral trade and regional peace. He added that by raising tensions along the LoC and the Working Boundary, India cannot divert attention from the grave human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the international community must hold India accountable for its human rights abuses in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. FPCCI President appreciated the government, which has summoned senior Indian diplomat to register strong protest over the ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control, killing and seriously injuring several in-

nocent civilians. Expressing solidarity with the armed forces, struggling against terrorism, he said that operations of Pak Army and security forces against terrorism have made the situation stable in the country.

Mian Anjum Nisar, condemning the militant attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, which was foiled by police within a few minutes, lauded the efforts of the law

enforcement agencies and paid tributes to security personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

"The FPCCI pays tribute to the security guards of the PSX, who laid down their lives to thwart the attack and the whole trade and industry is proud of its security personnel, who bravely fought off militants to avert massive casualties."

The leader of Apex trade body said that the whole Pa-

kistani nation was supporting the Pak army in their struggle against terrorism so that terrorism was fully extirpated from the soil. He said that when there was peace in the region, socio-economic development and prosperity would automatically come.

He said the atrocities by Indian occupation forces were well documented by the United Nations, human rights organizations as well as international media. And a continuing silence in the face of such blatant abuse is against international human rights and humanitarian laws and must be unacceptable, he remarked. FPCCI, on behalf of the whole business community of Pakistan, calls on the international community to hold India accountable for its human rights abuses in IHK where women, men and chil-

dren have faced pellet guns, sexual assault, electrocution, and physical & mental torture, he added.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary had continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons. In 2020, India has so far committed 1487 ceasefire violations resulting in 13 Shahadats and serious injuries to 106 innocent civilians, he said.

Condemning the deplorable targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian occupation forces, he underscored that such senseless acts were in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, and are also against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct.

## Brazil virus death toll passes 60,000

DNA

RIO: Brazil surpassed 60,000 deaths from the coronavirus after recording more than 1,000 fatalities over the last 24 hours, the country's health ministry said. The United Nations Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution demanding an "immediate cessation of hostilities" for at least 90 days in key conflicts including Syria, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan and Congo to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Italy's hard-hit northern region of Lombardy accounted for considerably more than half of the nation's latest confirmed 187 coronavirus cases - raising the total to 240,760 nationwide. The Ministry of Health also reported 21 new deaths, raising to 34,788 the total of known deaths.

Close to 10.7 million people around the world have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, over 5.6 million have recovered, and more than 517,000 have died, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

## UK begins lifting corona quarantine rules

DNA

LONDON: Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has said that more than 50 countries - including key destinations such as France, Germany, Italy and Spain - will be on the list of places exempt from England's quarantine requirements from 10 July. The full list will be published later today.

He told BBC Breakfast that travellers from these countries to England would not have to quarantine for 14 days. Although the announcement does not guarantee reciprocal agreements, most countries on the list would not require travellers from the UK to self-isolate on arrival, he said.

## India to buy 33 Russian fighter jets

Purchase of 21 MiG-29 and 12 Su-30 MKI is to augment the air force's combat squadrons, India's Ministry of Defence said

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's Ministry of Defence on Thursday signed off on the purchase of 33 Russian fighter jets and upgrades to 59 others worth \$2.4bn, amid rising tensions with nuclear-armed neighbour China.

The purchase of 21 MiG-29 and 12 Su-30 MKI, as well as upgrades to 59 existing MiG-29s, was to "augment" the Indian Air Force's combat squadrons, the MoD said. The ministry also said it has approved local development of missile systems for all three branches of the military, and ammunition and upgraded infantry combat vehicles for the army.

The beefing up of India's defence capabilities was taken up due to "the need to strengthen the armed forces to protect our borders

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'self-reliant India', the ministry added in a statement.

The announcement followed Modi's phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he "warmly congratulated" after a nationwide vote on constitutional reforms that could allow him to extend his rule until 2026.

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Moscow last month to attend the 75th Victory Day Parade, which marks the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. Indian visitors stand besides a SU-30 MKI fighter jet. The 12 Su-30MKIs will be built under licence by India's state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Russia was New Delhi's Cold War ally and remains India's biggest arms supplier.

## Iran to pay downed plane victims' families

DNA

TEHRAN: Sweden has said that Iran has agreed to compensate the families of the foreign victims of a Ukrainian passenger plane that was shot down outside Tehran in January. The Boeing 737 aircraft was struck by two missiles and crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran's airport on January 8, killing all 176 people on board.

The Islamic republic admitted days later that its forces accidentally shot down the Kyiv-bound jetliner. "We have signed an agreement of mutual understanding that we will now negotiate with Iran about amends, compensation to the victims' next of kin," Sweden's Foreign Minister Ann Linde told news agency TT on Thursday in a statement confirmed by her press secretary to the AFP news agency.

**Briefs**

**Modi visits  
Ladakh  
region**

DNA

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew into the northern Himalayan region of Ladakh on Friday, officials said, weeks after Indian and Chinese troops clashed on their disputed border there, escalating tension between the Asian giants. Modi, who has been under pressure to respond to what India deems Chinese incursions, met troops at a base in Ladakh's Nimu area, pictures showed. Officials said Modi was accompanied by the chief of defence staff, General Bipin Rawat, and the chief of the army, General Manoj Mukund Naravane. India and China have traded blame for triggering the high-altitude brawl in the Galwan Valley on June 15, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed and at least 76 were injured.

The June border clash saw soldiers engaged in brutal hand-to-hand fighting with clubs and staves about 4,270 metres (14,000 feet) above sea level amid sub-zero temperatures. It was the worst border skirmish in nearly 50 years.

**13 women  
appointed  
to Saudi HR  
Commission**

RIYADH: Thirteen women have been appointed to the Saudi Human Rights Commission (HRC) under a royal decree issued by Saudi Arabia's King Salman. The appointments mean half the positions on the commission's council will be occupied by women — a major step in furthering women's empowerment in the country.

"Appointing 13 women as members of the HRC council, with a total of 26 members, is in line with efforts made by the Kingdom's leadership to enable women to occupy leading positions in various fields, and helps achieve what is best for the country," said Dr. Awad bin Saleh Al-Awwad, head of the HRC. He thanked King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for issuing the royal decree to form the commission's council in its fourth session for a period of 4 years.

Al-Awwad said that the Saudi leadership's support and guidance had a great impact on the HRC mission to promote and consolidate human rights principles for the benefit of Saudis and expats. Meanwhile, the Kingdom's National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT), in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has completed a comprehensive four-part training program for 350 participants from all 13 of the Kingdom's regions involved in collecting and managing data on crimes involving people trafficking. The program is the latest in a comprehensive series of training initiatives that followed the establishment in March of the Kingdom's first National Referral Mechanism, a framework to identify and support potential victims of people trafficking. — APP

**NZ mosque  
shooter to be  
sentenced on  
August 24**

DNA

CHRISTCHURCH: The sentencing hearing for an Australian man accused of killing 51 Muslim worshippers in New Zealand's worst mass shooting has been set to begin on August 24, the court said on Friday. Brenton Tarrant pleaded guilty to all charges in a Christchurch High Court hearing earlier this year. Justice Cameron Mander said the hearing is estimated to last three days, but it will take as long as is necessary. New Zealand's worst-ever mass shooting took place on March 15 last year when the lone attacker opened fire on Muslims attending Friday prayers in Christchurch, broadcasting his attack live on Facebook.

**World Bank support to help improve  
services sectors of KPK & Baluchistan**

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (\$200 mln) and Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (\$36 mln) will improve public services in education and health, which are the building blocks for human capital accumulation

DNA

WASHINGTON: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved \$236 million in grants and credits to support Pakistan's efforts to enhance learning and healthcare, and address COVID-19 threats to human capital accumulation. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (\$200 million) and Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (\$36 million) will improve public services in education and health, which are the building blocks for human capital accumulation. The projects aim to increase the productive capacity of the workforce to bolster future economic growth in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Education and healthcare are at the heart of Pakistan's vision for inclusive growth to enable its people to reach their greatest potential," said Illango Patchamuthu, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "Human capital is about investing early in children and families. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to roll back human capital accumulation in Pakistan and decisive actions are needed now to reduce losses through targeted interventions supported by the two projects." These investments will help address barriers to access education and health services, particularly among low-income, vulnerable communities, where utilization of essential health services, especially primary care, and school enrollment rates are lower. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the project will reach 25 percent of the population and help the government increase the availability, utilization and quality of healthcare services in areas most affected by the pandemic. Education activities focus on learning opportunities for children at the primary and secondary school levels, particularly for girls and women, and take into account disruptions resulting from COVID-19. "Investments in education and health services are crucial to strengthen Pakistan's most impor-



tant asset, its people," said Cristina Panasco Santos, Task Team Leader for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project. "The project will help address persistent human capital deficits that limit current and future economic development in the province." In Balochistan, the project will support the government to improve service delivery by upgrading schools and health facilities in four districts, increase accountability of service providers by strengthening community engagement, and improve efficiencies in service delivery systems. "Improvements in health and education services, especially in early childhood, have large payoffs for children and their families, by improving livelihoods and future opportunities to generate wealth," said Yi-Kyoung Lee, Task Team Leader for the Balochistan Hu-

man Capital Investment Project. "The project serves as a model through synergistic interventions in education and health to bolster human capital accumulation in Balochistan." Both projects are financed from the IDA18 regional sub-window for host communities and refugees. Pakistan applied for and became eligible to access the sub-window in 2017. In addition to the two projects approved today, the Balochistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project and the national Strengthening Institutions for Refugee Administration were approved on March 3, 2020. Together, the four projects leverage \$128 million of grant funds, in addition to concessional financing from IDA, to support poor and vulnerable households living in select districts of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**Erdogan  
rejects  
criticism  
over Hagia  
Sophia**

"Charges against our country over Hagia Sophia are a direct attack on our right to sovereignty"

DNA

ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday rejected criticism over his willingness to convert Istanbul's famed Hagia Sophia landmark into a mosque. "Charges against our country over Hagia Sophia are a direct attack on our right to sovereignty," Erdogan said. Turkey's top court is considering whether the emblematic site and former cathedral can be redesignated as a mosque, prompting US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday to urge Turkey to keep the site in its current status as a museum.

**Civilians are a red  
line, Arab Coalition  
warns Houthis**

In a clear warning to Houthis, Coalition spokesman Col. Turki Al-Maliki told a press conference in Riyadh that "targeting civilian facilities is a red line. We won't allow this to happen"

DNA

RIYADH: The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen confirmed on Thursday that they have begun a military operation against Houthi militias in Yemen. In a clear warning to Houthis, Coalition spokesman Col. Turki Al-Maliki told a press conference in Riyadh that "targeting civilian facilities is a red line. We won't allow this to happen." The Coalition defenses have been able to intercept drones and missiles fired by the terrorist militias,

he said. The Coalition has destroyed 118 ballistic missiles intercepted by Saudi defenses, he added. According to Maliki, there have been 4,276 Houthi violations in the past 45 days, during which the Coalition had abided by the ceasefire. The spokesman also accused Iran of using an organized crime network to smuggle 16 shipments of arms to the insurgents. The operation that started Wednesday aims to neutralize the Houthis' military capabilities after they stepped up cross-border missile and drone attacks.



ISLAMABAD: H.E Lt. Col. Sadullah Tashmotov, Charge d'Affaires Embassy of Uzbekistan, called on Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Federal minister for Narcotics control. — DNA

**Maryam terms  
Arshad Malik's  
dismissal a victory**



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz on Friday termed the dismissal of ex-accountability court judge Arshad Malik by Lahore High Court (LHC), a victory of truth. Maryam Nawaz took to social media platform Twitter to thank Allah almighty and said that the decision was washed away a stain on Nawaz and on the institution of justice. She wrote that in light of the LHC decision, the "tainted" judge's decision

regarding PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif should be withdrawn. "Justice is never incomplete. It dictates that the judge's decision be declared void in the same way he was dismissed." The PML-N leader went on to say that, "It is very easy to teach respect for the constitution and the law." You need Nawaz's bravery to face the law, despite knowing that you are innocent, knowing that oppression and injustice are happening and that your spouse is on their death bed. Earlier today, Judge Arshad Malik, who ruled against former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, had been dismissed by Lahore High Court's disciplinary committee. The former judge was dismissed over a controversial video conversation where he was allegedly confessing to have been "pressurized" and "blackmailed" for the ruling of Sharif case.

**Macron removes French PM Philippe**

Edouard Philippe has handed in the resignation of the government to the president of the republic, who has accepted it

DNA

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has removed Edouard Philippe, his prime minister, and will shortly name a replacement and a new cabinet for the last two years of his presidency. "Mr Edouard Philippe has handed in the resignation of the government to the president of the republic,



who has accepted it," said a brief statement from the Elysée Palace on Friday. "He will ensure, with the members of the government, the management of current operations until the nomination of the new government," the statement said. Mr Macron is eager to relaunch his presidency ahead of the next presidential election in 2022. His first three years have been marked by sometimes contentious economic

reforms, the gilets jaunes anti-government protests, and the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 30,000 people in France and triggered a deep recession. Mr Philippe could in theory be reinstated as prime minister leading a reshuffled cabinet, but the resignation of the whole government suggests Mr Macron has in mind something more ambitious than a handful of new ministers.

**"Elaborate actions vital to deal with COVID-19"**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Friday telephoned Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour wherein he reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the organization and its processes. During the conversation, the foreign minister assured the ECO secretary general of Pakistan's full support for greater integration and enhanced cooperation between the ECO members states in line with ECO Vision 2025. Both the sides exchanged views on the matters relating to ECO's vision, response to COVID-19, ECO's projects for enhanced economic cooperation and connectivity, and developments in the region, a Foreign Office press release said. Pakistan, being one of the founding members of ECO, has been at the forefront of efforts to transform this multilateral platform into a formidable economic bloc and effective instrument of regional economic cooperation.

He said that coordinated and comprehensive actions were essential to create fiscal space needed by the developing world to deal with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The foreign minister extended Pakistan's support for early convening of ECO Health Ministers' virtual conference to chalk out a comprehensive regional response to COVID-19 threat. Foreign Minister Qureshi shared deep concern over the double lockdown in IOJ&K, exacerbation of situation due to COVID-19, intensification of military crackdown by Indian occupation forces, and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. The secretary general condemned the Karachi Stock Exchange terrorist attack and extended condolences over the loss of precious lives. — Nehal Miraj

He said that coordinated and comprehensive actions were essential to create fiscal space needed by the developing world to deal with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The foreign minister extended Pakistan's support for early convening of ECO Health Ministers' virtual conference to chalk out a comprehensive regional response to COVID-19 threat. Foreign Minister Qureshi shared deep concern over the double lockdown in IOJ&K, exacerbation of situation due to COVID-19, intensification of military crackdown by Indian occupation forces, and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. The secretary general condemned the Karachi Stock Exchange terrorist attack and extended condolences over the loss of precious lives. — Nehal Miraj

**Beijing  
says city's  
outbreak  
contained**

BEIJING: Beijing has contained transmission of a new coronavirus outbreak and will lift travel restrictions on most residents at midnight, city authorities said Friday, weeks after a new wave of infections broke out in the Chinese capital. All people living in areas of the city considered "low risk" may leave Beijing without a negative virus test result starting Saturday, the municipal public security bureau's spokesman said at a press conference. The city's massive track and trace campaign has "effectively cut off virus transmission channels" with fewer than three cases discovered each day in recent days, spokesman Pan Xuhong said. "The risk factor has been greatly reduced," he said, adding that there had been no sign of wider community spread of the virus, with most cases discovered through monitoring of high-risk communities. The announcement comes after Beijing lifted several localized lockdowns imposed after hundreds of new cases linked to a sprawling wholesale market were discovered in June, prompting fears of a virus resurgence. The capital tested more than 10 million people between June 11 and July 3, nearly half the city's population, Beijing official Zhang Qiang said Friday. — APP

**Uzbekistan: Joint projects with Japan and Korea to attract investments worth \$1 bln**

DNA

TASHKENT: The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to review the implementation of priority projects and prospects for expanding trade-economic, investment and financial-technical cooperation with Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates. In recent years, the indicators of mutual trade turnover with these countries have been steadily growing, new joint projects of cooperation in various sectors are being implemented within the framework of roadmaps based on the results of summits. At the meeting, special attention was paid to timely implementation

of existing projects and development of new proposals for deepening the investment cooperation. It was noted that 48 projects worth \$5.6 billion are being implemented in the country together with Japanese partners in such areas as geology, chemistry and petrochemistry, banking and financial sector, healthcare and education. In particular, projects are being successfully implemented for construction of hotel complexes with HIS Group, expansion of production capacities of SamAuto JV with Isuzu and Itochu companies, construction of power units at Navoi Thermal Power Plant with attraction of preferential loans from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and many others. It was noted that, despite the pan-

dem, since the beginning of the year, mutual contacts between the government and businesspeople of the two countries have intensified, including through modern information technologies. The Head of the state noted the need for expanding practical cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan by promoting specific economic programs and projects.



Bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Korea has also shown positive dynamics in recent years. Since the beginning of the year, the trade turnover has reached \$1 billion, 60 new enterprises have been created with participation of Korean capital and their total number has reached 855. It was noted that projects have successfully been implemented



this year to create Children's Multidisciplinary Medical Center in Tashkent and Uzbek - Korean International University in Fergana, which created about 1 thousand new jobs. The construction of an Innovative research and production pharmaceutical cluster in Tashkent region's Zangiota district, which was launched by President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on April 17, 2020, is in full swing. The project provides for creation of a Pharmaceutical Technical University, as well as modern production of medicines. Such spheres as agriculture, innovation and ICT, chemical, pharmaceutical, light, electrical and jewelry industries, education and healthcare are identified as promising areas.