



# Islamabad POST

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**Pak pandemic steps  
laudable, says WHO  
chief Dr. Adhanom**
**CPEC, a parallel  
world order:  
Masood Khan**
**Pak mangoes  
all set to hit  
Japanese market**

## Briefs

### Pakistan extends condolences to Japan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended condolences to Japan over the loss of precious lives there due to floods. In a tweet on Monday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui prayed for the early recovery of those still missing. The spokesperson said Pakistan stands in solidarity with its resilient Japanese friends.

### PTA to make final decision on banning PUBG: IHC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has sent a petition against the suspension of online game PUBG to the PTA. Justice Aamer Farooq heard on Monday a petition filed by a man named Abdul Haseeb Nasir. He said the PTA must make a final decision on the ban keeping in mind the law. It must mention the law according to which it accepts or rejects the request, he said. Justice Farooq asked the PTA lawyer whether PUBG was a game or website. He replied that the PTA had suspended the link for the gaming application. The judge asked why the PTA had decided to ban the game, to which he was told that the Lahore police had written the letter about PUBG and its link to a number of suicides. We also got requests to block the game from parents. Justice Farooq reminded the PTA that whatever it does must be according to the law. If you want to ban it, you must mention what law it violates, he said.

### Gold price surges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs100 on Monday and was traded at Rs104,900 as against its trading at Rs104,800 the previous day, Karachi Sarafa Association reported. Likewise, the price of 10 gram gold also witnessed increase of Rs85 and was traded at Rs89,935 against its sale at Rs89,850. The price of per tola silver remained stable and was traded at Rs 1050 and that of 10 gram silver was recorded at Rs 900.20. In international market, the price of per ounce gold increased by \$1 and was traded at \$ 1776, as compared to \$1775, Karachi Sarafa association reported.

## Pak pandemic steps laudable, says WHO chief

Prime Minister Imran Khan called upon WHO to play its role in engaging member states to remove COVID-19 related travel restrictions for Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan held a video conference with Director General World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Tedros Adhanom. The Prime Minister appreciated the support extended by WHO to the international community including Pakistan to fight COVID-19. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's strategy of deploying scientific and data driven interventions as well as rapid upgrades of health care facilities, all while attempting to maintain a balance between life and livelihood that has yielded positive results with a current downward trajectory in the spread of pandemic. The Prime Minister observed that travel

restrictions imposed by developed countries in the wake of COVID-19 can further exacerbate economic difficulties of developing countries struggling to mitigate adverse economic impact of the pandemic. He called upon WHO to play its role in engaging member states to remove COVID-19 related travel restrictions for Pakistan and other developing countries and to work towards a data driven system of non discriminatory travel rules. While noting progress made by Pakistan in containing the spread of virus, WHO appreciated the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan in fighting the pandemic. Dr. Tedros Adhanom stated that WHO was working to suggest COVID-19 related travel guidelines to help the international community in making these decisions.

## Pakistan, China ink \$1.5bn power project

With an investment of \$1.5 billion, no fuel import, we are moving towards cheaper and greener power

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the construction of \$1.5 billion Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Monday. Prime Minister Imran Khan witnessed the signing ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will prove to be a milestone in the country's development and prosperity.

### Project a game changer, says Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa Monday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) made another achievement by signing the project of Azad Pattan Hydel power. "CPEC makes another milestone achievement.

He said China is emerging as an economic power on the world's map and we can learn a lot from our neighbor. "The CPEC is the future of Pakistan." Meanwhile, Lt Gen (retd) Bajwa said 3000 jobs would be created through the mega project and it would provide an annual income of Rs1.38 billion to Punjab and Azad Kashmir from water use. He added, "With an investment of \$1.5 billion, no fuel import, we are moving towards cheaper and greener power."

— Picture on Back page



ISLAMABAD: President AJK Sardar Masood Khan visited Azerbaijan embassy and met with Ambassador Ali Alizada. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Christian Turner in a meeting with Federal Information Minister Shibli Faraz. — DNA

### PM opens ventilator production unit at NRTC

SHAEEN QURESHI

HARIPUR: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday inaugurated the facility of country's first-ever indigenously made ventilators at National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) in Haripur. The Prime Minister opened the project of local manufacturing of portable ventilators named 'SafeVent SP100', having the FDA/CE approval as economical and reliable ventilator in terms of usage and safety. Terming the occasion as 'landmark achievement', he said abundant talent in the country could help gain self-reliance in technological innovation and vowed the government's strong support to such initiatives. The Prime Minister commended the initiative of NRTC team and the Ministry of Science and Technology for successfully producing locally-made ventilators.

### Kenya to resume int'l flights

NAIROBI: Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday announced a "phased reopening" of the country, with the resumption of international flights from August 1 as well as the lifting of internal travel restrictions. The move comes as pressure mounts to kickstart the country's ailing economy after nearly four months of coronavirus restrictions that have devastated key industries such as tourism. Kenyatta said in a televised address that "international air travel into and out of the territory of Kenya shall resume effective 1 August 2020." He also announced that a ban on movement in and out of the capital Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa and northeastern Mandera, would be lifted from July 15. — APP

## Pakistan lauds UK efforts to combat COVID-19 pandemic

Expressing condolence over the deaths in COVID-19 in Britain Shibli Faraz expressed solidarity with the government and people of Britain

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz has emphasized the need for joint efforts at international level to defeat coronavirus pandemic. Talking to British High Commissioner Christian Turner in Islamabad on Monday, he said Pakistan lauds the British government's efforts to combat COVID-19 with resoluteness. Expressing condolence

over the deaths in COVID-19 in Britain, the Minister expressed solidarity with the government and people of Britain in this difficult moment. Senator Shibli Faraz said in Pakistan, we have been sticking to a balanced policy of protecting people from the Coronavirus pandemic as well as economic difficulties. He said the strategy of smart lockdown is yielding positive results in the country. The Minister said coronavirus pandemic has affected

economies of the entire world. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan initiated special efforts for debt relief for the developing countries. He said it is welcoming that the G-20 countries are playing key role for relief in debts. The minister said National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was the nerve center to synergize and articulate national efforts against COVID-19 and implement the decisions based on authentic data and information

## Pak mangoes all set to hit Japanese market

In light of this situation, the Government of Japan introduced a temporary measure, which allows mango exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mango export from Pakistan to Japan has started this season. Last year, these exported Pakistani mangoes reached a record high of 120 tons and were favorably received in the Japanese market. Normally, mango exports to Japan require pre-clearance by Japanese inspectors who are dispatched to Pakistan and other countries following to quarantine regulations. However, the Government of Japan could not dispatch these Japanese inspectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year. In light of this situation, the Government of Japan introduced a temporary



measure, which allows mango exports by taking measurements and sending necessary data and documents to Japan for quarantine. Japan will continue to support Pakistan in the agricultural field such as taking measures against locust control, expanding export of agricultural products, and investment in the food processing sector.

## Pakistan participates in Afghan conference

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan participated in a virtual conference on Afghanistan, titled "Strengthening Consensus for Peace", hosted by the Government of Afghanistan, today. President Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Chairman High Peace Council for National Reconciliation Dr. Abdullah Abdullah participated in the conference. Representatives of a number of countries and international organisations attended. Pakistan, in its statement, emphasized the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for the overall peace and stability in the region and beyond. It was stressed that the signing of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement had created a historic opportunity that must be seized by the Afghan leadership to work together and achieve an inclusive and comprehensive political settlement. Pakistan also underlined its hope that the release of prisoners will be completed soon as per the Peace Agreement to pave the way for the earliest commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations. Pakistan stressed that there was a need for the international community to focus on ensuring early start and successful completion of Intra-Afghan Negotiations and not let these be derailed by "spoilers" who did not wish to see return of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. The steps taken by Pakistan to facilitate Afghanistan's trade by opening border crossing terminals after implementing COVID-19 related protocols were highlighted. It was also reiterated that the repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees should be part of the peace and reconciliation process. The international community was urged to support time-bound and well-resourced programme for return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour.

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## LoC issue: Indian diplomat summoned to FO

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons

ASNAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to register Pakistan's strong protest over the ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 5th July 2020, resulting in serious injuries to five innocent civilians, including three children. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Nikil Sector of the LoC, on 5th July 2020, 10 year old Junaid s/o Dr. Muhammad Aziz, 7 year old Aryan s/o Muhammad Ishfaq, 70 year old Jahan Begum w/o Muhammad Wazeer, 50 year old Zubaida Bibi w/o Saddique Muhammad and 15 year old Kamran Shafique s/o Muhammad Shafique sustained serious injuries (all injured are residents of Truthi and Ghim Bala village). The Indian occupation forces along the LoC

## 14 Indians to be repatriated thru Wagah Border

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan-India Wagah border will be reopened on July 9 (Thursday) for the repatriation of 114 Indian nationals stuck in Pakistan, according to the interior ministry. The Ministry of Interior has written a letter to the director general of the Punjab Rangers apprising him of the Indian citizens' homeward journey through the Wagah border on foot. It instructed that the government-prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) be followed during their repatriation.

The Indians got stuck in Pakistan after it closed its frontiers to stem the spread of the virus. The Indians had been stranded in Pakistan due to the coronavirus pandemic. The country had closed its borders to curb the spread of the virus. Earlier, on June 25, at least 250 Indian nationals stranded in the country were repatriated. A total of 748 Indian citizens were stranded in Pakistan, of them the first group left on June 25 while the rest were to return in the coming days. They had come to Pakistan to visit their relatives and perform religious rites, but got stuck due to lockdown restrictions.

and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons. This year, India has committed 1595 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 14 shahadats and serious injuries to 121 innocent civilians. Condemning the deplorable targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian occupation forces, it was underscored that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, and are also against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct. These egregious violations of international law reflect consistent Indian attempts to escalate the situation along the LoC and are a threat to regional peace and security. It was added that by raising tensions along the LoC and the WB, India cannot divert attention from the grave human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K).



## Briefs

## Dr Zafar Mirza tests positive for COVID-19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza on Monday said he has tested positive for the coronavirus.

"I have tested positive for COVID-19. Under medical advice I have isolated myself at home and taking all precautions. I have mild symptoms. Please keep me in your kind prayers," Mirza tweeted.

The SAPM, who also has been at the forefront of the government's response to the pandemic, urged his colleagues to continue the fight against the virus.

## Shehryar lauds role of Tiger Force

RAWALPINDI: Minister of State for Saffron and Narcotics Control Shehryar Khan Afridi on Monday lauded the performance of the Prime Minister's Tiger Force volunteers and said that they were playing an active role in implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent spread of coronavirus and trying to provide relief to the masses.

Addressing oath taking ceremony of the Tiger Force volunteers of Rawalpindi Cantt Circle here at Rawalpindi Arts Council as chief guest, he said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking exemplary steps to fight the deadly virus. — APP

## 7 workers die from toxic gas

CHAMAN: At least seven workers were killed on Monday after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning an underground tank.

According to police, one worker fell unconscious after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning an underground tank. Others rushed in to help him and also fell prey to the gas.

Police confirmed that an emergency had been declared at the hospital where the workers were taken to as the rescue operation began. — APP

## 'Govt committed to complete CPEC projects'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Monday said the government was committed to complete the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In his tweet, he said the government was also committed to produce indigenous clean energy.

"The signing of 1.5 billion dollars 700 MW Azad Patan hydro power project, days after signing of 2.4 billion dollars 1100 MW kohala hydropower project is a manifestation of the Government's commitment to both CPEC and development of indigenous clean energy," he added. — APP

## Alleged target killer involved in 35 murders arrested

DNA

KARACHI: The east zone police arrested an alleged target killer on Monday who is accused of being involved in 35 murders and the May 12 incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) East Zone, Sajid Saduzai, said the accused, Muhammad Aslam, was also involved in the May 12 carnage when at least 27 people were killed and over 140 injured after a major portion of Shahrah-e-Faisal turned into a battlefield as opposing political groups had clashed with one another.

The clash took place upon the arrival of then chief justice, Itikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, to Karachi.

According to police, the accused has confessed to being involved in the target killings of businessmen and political opponents.

## Relationship of four thousand years, with clay and hands

Making pottery doesn't just take much effort but also have to stay calm. And then I saw small pottery being made I wondered if it were just hard work so everyone would do it

MUHAMMAD TAHIR

FAISALABAD: If you go back in past, where the potter's Relationship Began. Iran is said to be the first pottery in Asia Became four thousand years old. First Iranian potters started making pots, then the clay and pottery reached Baluchistan and the Indus Valley. When the potter's wheel turns sharply and fingers are smelling of wet and smelly mud In these moments, if you look with the eyes of the heart So this wet mud and soaked Fingers And then the relationship of clay and hands give this art a new dimension. This art set up camp everywhere where man breathed. This was said by Farzana Siddique, a potter That our whole family makes pottery, our children. They start making pots from childhood by playing with clay as long as they grow up so they become great potters. We don't find it difficult to teach pottery a potter. An artisan from Pottery Making on Sheikhpura Road His name was Siddique (Potters

are called Pottery Making in Pakistan because of their work) Making pottery doesn't just take much effort But also have to stay calm. And then I saw small pottery being made I wondered if it were just hard work so everyone would do it. But apart from hard work here keep calm you have to trust your hands, and the important thing is that the soil is respected here.

If you want to see the dignity of the soil it should be seen in these courtyards of potters where pots are made. And then with that respect comes the sugar of love. When we need the soil so the eyes do not move away from the dust. And what a man loves how can she look away from it then when pots of different shapes from this clay such as chaati, tus (in which flour is kept) Kane (curry cooking pot), children's toys, Pots and pans are made of chalk, so you have love in those fingers and eyes. Love and compassion will be seen. Still older people to stay healthy. They like to drink water from earthenware because the jars do not heat up in the heat, I asked an

old man named Muhammad Ehsan said in a happy mood is it true that forty or fifty years ago today when weddings took place, you would provide all the utensils what a day that was. The first address to get married was to a local potter, who is getting married? Before the wedding, the girl's family used to come to Kumar's house to make utensils In the village, all the utensils were given at the weddings of the girls At that time villagers and artisans would be very strong in the middle of there was a relationship Craftsmen such as carpenters, blacksmiths, barbers, potters, etc. provided their services to the villagers free of charge throughout the year. And when the crops are ready All of them were paid in the form of grain.

The hardest work would have been for the 'potters'. They say That's when a pot reaches your hands So it goes through more than fifty stages. The reward that the potter received for his hard work and love for the soil is also highly esteemed. And since it's steel and plastic Diseases have come in people Has also increased tremendously.



## Agri sector facing enormous problems, challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government should realize the enormity of the challenges facing agriculture and make efforts to overcome them to ensure food security and avoid expensive spillover effects on the country's social, economic and political system, speakers at a workshop said.

There has been no significant impact of Covid-19 on the agriculture sector which recorded a remarkable growth of 2.67 percent

in 2019-20 compared to 0.58pc growth achieved last year except for cotton and sugarcane crop, said Dr Murtaza Mughal, President of the Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) and Convenor FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Insurance. Speaking to the workshop organized by the Rural Development Foundation (RDF), he said that water scarcity, substandard seed and fertilizers and recent locust outbreak resulted in heavy losses to the main crop production areas in Balochistan, Punjab, and

Sindh provinces. Over 115,000 hectares of crops including wheat, oilseed crops, cotton, gram, fruits, and vegetables, besides grazing field have been damaged and another wave of the locust is also expected while federal and the provincial governments are too busy to do something serious about it, he added. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the agriculture sector has the capacity to not only produce for the domestic population but to have surplus production for exports which can contribute

towards foreign exchange earnings for which development of rural areas, filling productivity gaps and improving value addition is imperative. The former government launched the much-needed food security policy towards the end of its tenure but the current government has so far not started implementing that policy for attaining sustainable agricultural growth and ensuring food security of a rapidly growing population, he said.

Director RDF Brig (retd) Aslam Khan said that that

the incumbent government has rolled out an agricultural revival package, but with less input from Sindh, the country's second-largest food-producing province which is a matter of grave concern.

Agriculture should not suffer from a lack of harmony between federal and provincial governments, he added. Guest Speaker Israr Muhammad Khan, DG NCRD and others said that government has announced a mega agriculture package which should be implemented as soon as possible.

## Ch. Fawad asks UK to extradite Nawaz, Altaf

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry has asked United Kingdom to handover former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and founder of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Altaf Hussain to Pakistan.

The former information minister Fawad Chaudhry said that both Nawaz Sharif and founder of MQM are wanted by courts in Pakistan and stay of both accused in United Kingdom (UK) is against basic principle of Justice.

Earlier, the foreign ministry wrote a letter to the British government seeking the deportation of Nawaz Sharif, who is currently in London for medical treatment. Nawaz Sharif went to UK in November 2019 after court ordered federal government to remove his name from Exit Control List (ECL). — APP

## Petrol crisis due to PTI govt: Khaqan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday has said that the petroleum crisis in the country is due to incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

While addressing a press conference, the PML-N leader claimed that the federation has taken advantage from the petrol crisis.

Prime Minister Imran Khan should leave the government as he has failed to run the country in smooth way, he suggested.

Abbasi further said that those who worked for the

development of the country have been declared culprits in fake corruption cases. PML-N had ensured electricity at cheap rates in its tenure to provide relief to the nation, he added.

The former PM has also urged everyone to work together for Pakistan's best interest.

Earlier, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that PM Imran and his government has lost all faith and trust of its allies.

"Where is the government taking the country? The economy is all but destroyed, commissions and committees have been ineffective in bringing sugar prices below Rs 90 per kg and petrol price increased by a record 34%, he added.

## JS Bank Crosses Rs. 400 Bln in Deposits

DNA

ISLAMABAD: JS Bank, one of the fastest growing financial institutions in Pakistan, recorded another milestone with its deposit base reaching the Rs 400 billion (approx. USD2.3Billion) mark.

Acknowledged as one of Pakistan's largest SME banks and mortgage providers offering diverse individual and institutional banking solutions; JS Bank has been recognized by the State Bank of Pakistan as the best performer under the Rozgar Refinance Scheme, a concessional credit scheme for SME's that ensure zero job layoffs. The Bank is also driving entrepreneurship amongst women and differently abled persons through

provision of targeted lending facilities. Earlier this year, JS Bank won 'Best Bank for SMEs' and 'Best Bank for CSR' awards at the Asiamoney Awards 2020, as well as the Best Bank for SME (Pakistan) at the Asian Banking and Finance Awards.

"Deposit growth is a key indicator of customer confidence and financial stability", said BasirShamsie, President and CEO - JS Bank. "It is the support and patronage of our clients that has enabled us to scale so rapidly despite our relatively short time in the market." Growing from strength to strength, the bank's continuous rise in deposit base and accounts, reflects highest standards of service and satisfaction experienced by an ever-increasing customer base.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing & Development Authority, Lt Gen (Retd) Anwar Ali Haider, being presented crest by Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman ISE REIT Management Company, after a meeting on ISE RMC's participation in the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme. Maj Gen Amir Aslam, Deputy Chairman NPHDA, and directors ISE RMC, Mr. Sohail Altaf and Mr Aftab Chaudhry also attended the meeting. — DNA

## Car sale, production fell by 53.78%

ISLAMABAD: The sale and production of cars decreased by 53.78 percent and 54.54 percent respectively during the eleven months of financial year 2019-20 compared to corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, as many as 89,130 cars were sold against the sale of 192,863 units while the production of cars decreased from 196,415 units to 89,284 units, showing negative growth of 53.78 and 54.54 percent respectively, according to Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Among cars, the sale of Honda cars went down by 66.96 percent from 37,083 units

in last year to 12,252 units during current year while Suzuki Swift sale also dipped by 63.77 percent from 4,488 units to 1,626 units during this year. The sale of Toyota Corolla went down from 52,314 units to 21,285 units, showing decrease of 59.31 percent, the data revealed.



Similarly, the sale of Suzuki Cultus also went down from 21,775 units to 11,477 units, witnessing decrease of 47.29 percent while the sale of Suzuki Wagon-R witnessed a sharp decline of 78.29 percent from 29,988 units to 6,508 units during the period under review.

Meanwhile, the sale of Suzuki Mehran production of which has been suspended by Pak Suzuki was recorded 1,702 units against 30,929 units during July-May (2019-20). The sale of Suzuki Bolan also witnessed decline of 70.20 percent from 16,286 units to 4,853 whereas the sale Suzuki Alto was recorded at 29,260 units during July-May (2019-20). On the other hand, the production of Honda cars went down by 70.58 percent from 38,281 units to 11,259 units during the period under review whereas the production of Suzuki Swift witnessed decline of 74.51 percent from 5,070 units to 1,292 units during eleven months of FY 2019-20. — APP

## 'One man show' culture is over: CM Buzdar

DNA

LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that his government has ended a negative culture of 'one man show' in the province and now all decisions are made through consultations. According to details, MNAs from several districts called on Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and congratulated him on appointment of officers for South Punjab Secretariat. During the meeting, Usman Buzdar assured that lack of resources cannot hinder government's resolve to fulfill its commitments and all under construction development projects will be completed.

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Briefs

PTDC is still functional:  
Zulfikar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari Monday negated the claim of senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Ahsan Iqbal about shutting down of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).  
“Perfect example of why you should not comment on things you have zero knowledge of. PTDC is still functional. Where was Mr Aristotle when PTDC had losses of 700+Mil in 5yrs of PMLN?,” he wrote on his twitter, while responding to Ahsan Iqbal who criticized the present government for its policies regarding tourism promotion in the country.  
Zulfikar Bukhari said the PTDC was fully functional and being operated with a clear vision and comprehensive plan. “This organization finally has a clear vision and a comprehensive plan opposed to what your government was ever capable of,” the SAPM added to his tweet. – APP

Mainly hot, humid weather forecast,

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department Monday forecast mainly hot and humid weather in most parts of the country during next 24 hours. However, rain/wind-thundershowers is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Eastern/southern Punjab, Northeastern Balochistan, Sindh, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan during evening/night. Seasonal Low lies over northeast Balochistan. Moist Monsoon currents are penetrating northeastern and southern parts of the country. Weak westerly wave is also affecting upper parts of the country. During past 24 hour, Rain/wind-thundershower occurred in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and Karachi along with Sindh. Weather remained hot & humid in other parts of the country. Rainfall (mm) was recorded at Sindh: Karachi (Saddar 43, Faisal Base 26, North Nazimabad 22, Masroor Base 12, Met Observatory 10, Jinnah Terminal 09, Landi 03, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Surjani Town 01), Hayderabad 03, Dadu, Sukkur 02 and Jacobabad 01,Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Pattan 13, Mulkajabba 05, Saidu Sharif 03, Balochistan: Zhob 11, Sibbi 10, Barkhan 02, Gilgit-Baltistan: Astore, Gilgit, Bagrote 03, Gupis 01, Kashmir: Muzaffarabad, GarhiDopatta 06, Punjab: Gujranwala 03, Multan 01. – APP

IESCO power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued power suspension programme for Wednesday 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 04:00am to 10:00pm, 132KV Chakri-Chakwal Circuit., 132KV GSS Gujjar Khan, Jattli, Padshahan, Chakwal, Bhagwal, Talagang, D.S Bilawal, Pak Lafra Cement, D.G. Khan C/Factory, Chakri, Dandot, Dandot C/F, C.S.Shah, Noorpur Sethi and Best-way C/Factory. 07:00am to 12:00pm, Behkri feeder, 07:00am to 11:00am, CM Pak Zong, Behria Enclave, PHA, Azad Shaheed, Rehara, Ahmedabad, Islam Pura, Kot Dhamaik, Lakho Road, Officer Colony and Chakra feeders, 07:00am to 01:00pm, Nogazi, Fazaia feeders and surrounding areas. – APP

CGSS Corner inaugurated at University of Peshawar

Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd), Vice President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China and Central Asia), University of Peshawar inaugurated the ‘CGSS Corner’ at the Library of Area Study Center (China, Russia & Central Asia)



**DNA**  
PESHAWAR: Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd), Vice President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China and Central Asia), University of Peshawar inaugurated the ‘CGSS Corner’ at the Library of Area Study Center (China, Russia & Central Asia). Both the Centers have signed aMoU regarding the event.  
Area Study Center and CGSS are in close collaboration for organizing joint events and webinars.



Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director, Area Study Center also participated in various Webinars organized by CGSS. The M.Phil/Ph.Dscholars of Area Study Center, Peshawar are also contributing towards the research publications of CGSS, Islamabad. Both the Centre are committed closely to cooperate in future research purposes regarding Russia, China and Central Asia.  
The CGSS Corner will comprise of Publications and Reports published/printed by CGSS. CGSS has a wide range of Publications to its credit pertaining to international affairs, regional integration, global security and Belt & Road Initiative. All these special publications and reports will provide the students with firsthand knowledge from the experts and will assist in better understanding of thesesubjects.  
A detailed presentation about CGSS was given and it was decided that CGSS and Area Study Center (China, Russia & Central Asia) will jointly organize International Internship Program for students across the region and globe.  
Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS and Dr. MinhasMarwatMajeed, Chairperson, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar were also present during the occasion.

SECP introduces Professional Clearing Member Regulations

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued draft Professional Clearing Members (PCM) Regulations, 2020 for public consultation. Professional clearing members denotes the concept of a third party independent institution, which will offer custodial and clearing/ settlement services to securities brokers and their customers. PCM can be a financial institution, such as a commercial bank, Non-Banking Finance Company etc., or a specialized entity formed for this purpose.  
PCM will handle the custody and clearing/ settlement functions for brokers that will significantly reduce compliance burden, ensure efficiency in businesses and allow brokers to focus on their key competencies. The new regulations will evolve a new business model, which will support ease of doing business, and reduce operational costs. The draft PCM Regulations lay down licensing, conduct and operational requirements for PCM which include eligibility criteria, development of important policies and procedures, measures for ensuring customer asset protection and segregation, confidentiality of customer information and compliance with corporate governance requirements etc. Earlier, SECP had introduced the concept of categorization of securities brokers and segregation of trading and custodial/ settlement functions, whereby only those brokers which fulfill the eligibility criteria can offer custodial/ clearing services. As per the new model, Trading Only brokers can transfer their custody/clearing services to brokers which meet significantly higher eligibility criteria and licensed as Trading and Clearing brokers. – DNA

3942 COVID-19 patients recovered

Presently 366 COVID-19 confirmed patients were admitted in different hospitals of the district

RAWALPINDI: More than 3942 COVID-19 patients have been recovered so far while 244 were died in the district. According to daily situation report issued by Directorate of Public Relations (DPR) Punjab,15352 C virus suspects have been brought to the quarantine facilities of the district,out of which 5365 cases were tested positive who were provided the required treatment and 3942 discharged after recovery. The DPR said that results of 313 people were awaited while 9955 were tested negative. “Presently 366 COVID-19 confirmed patients were admitted in different hospitals of the district including 180 belonged to Rawal Town,62 Potahar town,59 Rawalpindi cantt,16 Gujjar khan,25 Taxila,11 Khutta,9 Kalar Syeda and 4 Murree,”he said. The DPR said that 813 patients were quarantined in isolation at homes while 244 were died in the district. – APP

DC pays tributes to front liners

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad, Hamza Shafqaat on Monday paid tributes to the services of doctors, paramedics, graveyard staff and law enforcement officials in fighting against the novel coronavirus. “Let’s all thank and appreciate to those who put their own life on stake to saving the lives of ailing humanity,” he said while addressing a ceremony held here to mark the 100th day of determination of the frontline workers who served tirelessly.

District Admin conducts 480 raids against profiteers

RAWALPINDI: Under an ongoing campaign against profiteering and hoarding, Rawalpindi District government has conducted 480 raids in different areas of the district and imposed fines amounting to Rs 110,000 on 74 violators.  
According to a District Administration spokesman, the District Administration constituted teams to check profiteering, hoarding and rate lists of daily use items and on the recommendations of the teams, cases were also being registered.  
He said, the administration under vigorous campaign against profiteering and hoarding conducted total 21,959 raids during June while the violators were imposed fines amounting to over Rs 6.5 million.  
Following the directives of the Punjab government, special teams were constituted to conduct raids against hoarders, profiteers and adulterers and those found indulged in violation of the law were sent behind the bars while several persons found involved in profiteering, not displaying price lists and violating hygiene standards were also issued warnings, he added.  
He said, the special campaign against profiteering would continue to ensure the provision of daily use items on controlled rates. The steps were being taken aimed at providing relief to the consumers, he added. He informed that under disinfection activities being conducted in different areas of the district to control spread of coronavirus, 216 places were also disinfected during last 24 hours. – APP



ISLAMABAD: A gypsy woman prepares meal on mud stove in the outskirts of city. – DNA

ICCI calls for complete automation of all tax refunds

This situation demanded that FBR should ensure speedy payment of tax refunds to taxpayers to mitigate their liquidity issues so that they would be able to revive business activities

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has welcomed Mohammad Javed Ghani on taking over the charge as Chairman FBR and hoped that he would take measures to address the key tax issues of the business community on priority basis. He said that the current government and SBP have made many commitments to streamline tax refunds of the business community, but the pace of work on this process was quite slow due to which the business community was facing liquidity issues.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic has created extraordinary problems for the business community, while the lockdown has put many businesses at risk of permanent closure. This situation demanded that FBR should ensure speedy payment of tax refunds to taxpayers to mitigate their liquidity issues so that they would be able to revive business activities. Mohammad Ahmad Waheed urged that Chairman FBR should focus on automation of all refunds including customs duty, sales tax and income tax so that all refunds were automatically transferred to the bank accounts of the concerned taxpayers and they do not have to go to FBR for this purpose.

He further said that another better solution to the problem of refunds was to allow taxpayers to adjust their payable taxes against refunds. Such a mechanism would not only address the liquidity and refunds issues of taxpayers; it would also improve the tax revenue of the government. The ICCI President said that under Section-8B of Sales Tax Act, taxpayers were currently allowed to claim input tax of only 90 percent of the output tax while they have to deposit 0.10 percent of the sales tax amount in cash at the time of depositing sales tax returns. However, in these tough conditions paying cash of sales tax amount was very difficult for the business community as they have to incur expenditures on salaries of employees and on other expenses. He stressed that FBR should abolish the cash payment of sales tax amount while filing sales tax returns to ease the problems of the business community, otherwise many businesses could face permanent closure.

He said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce had repeatedly demanded from the government before the budget that taxpayers should be allowed input tax of the 100 percent of output tax but the government did not pay any attention to this issue in the budget. He requested that the new Chairman FBR should pay special attention to this issue and allow the taxpayers to claim input tax of the 100% of the output tax that would reduce their financial problems.

Efforts underway to tackle dengue

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Anwar ul Haq Monday said that all resources were being utilized for eliminating dengue and concerned departments were fully mobilized for carrying out the task.  
Chairing a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements here at his office, he said that all concerned officers were well aware about their responsibilities to combat dengue,adding that surveillance activities for tracing of larva and its eradication was underway so that growth of dengue larvae could not be spread. – APP





## Briefs

## Pak made ventilators handed over to NDMA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Monday disclosed that the first batch of Made in Pakistan ventilators have been handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday.

In a tweet, the federal minister said "Prime Minister Imran Khan has handed over the first batch of "Safe Vent" to the NDMA which is a landmark achievement". The first batch delivered to the NDMA carried 12 ventilators. — APP

## IT export remittances surge to 20.75%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) export remittances comprising of computer services and call center services surged to US \$1.11 billion at growth rate of 20.75 % over the first 11 months of Financial Year 2019-20 (July-May), in comparison to US \$917.875 million during the same period in Financial Year 2018-19.

According to performance report of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), an organization under Ministry of IT and Telecommunication IT Industry has been a star in Pakistan's economy and has achieved positive year on year growth as a result of strong government support, skilled entrepreneurs and a talented workforce. The Ministry of IT is taking all possible steps to ensure sustainable growth of Pakistan's IT Industry and to ensure close coordination with the IT industry and associated stakeholders. The generous incentives from the government, and various projects to enhance capacity and capability of the IT Industry have resulted in strong industry growth rates. — APP

## ITP issues 58,600 fine tickets during ongoing year

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has launched an aggressive crackdown against those involved in careless and negligent driving on roads and issued 58,600 fine tickets during the ongoing year.

Reviewing the performance of ITP against those involved in negligent driving, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that a total of 58,600 fine tickets have been issued during the last six months. He said that special squads have been constituted to take action against careless drivers putting the lives of others at risk. He said that all Zonal DSPs have been directed for strict action against such drivers and to ensure steps for safe road environment in the city. He said that directions have been made to ensure renewed efforts for awareness about traffic rules among citizens by ITP's education wing. The SSP (Traffic) said that purpose of action against such drivers was to ensure their own as well as others safety. — APP

## Role of women in democratic governance vital

ISLAMABAD: The role of women in democratic governance and sustainable development is critical in all processes and at all levels. Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Munaza Hassan said that "Our government is keen to scale new heights in establishing effectual democratic values and good governance in the country", said a statement. She said that it is our belief that the importance of women in attainment of these goals cannot be underestimated. In this regard the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) is a cross-party forum and a nerve centre for women parliamentarians, and can contribute tremendously" she added. — APP

## Fawad offers full support to COMSATS activities

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidin a meeting with the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, briefed about the ongoing programmes and activities of COMSATS in various fields of science and technology for the benefit of its Member States, including Pakistan.

Mr. Fawad who is also the ex-officio Chairperson of COMSATS' Consultative Committee. The meeting was also attended by Capt. (R) Nasim Nawaz, Secretary Science & Technology, Dr. Hussain Abidi, Member (Science and Technology), MoST; Dr. Ahsan Feroze, Director (IL), Pakistan Science Foundation; and other high officers of COMSATS Secretariat and Ministry of Science and Technology.



Dr. Zaidin made a detailed presentation on COMSATS and its programmes. He informed that COMSATS, being an inter-governmental organization based in Islamabad, is the apex forum of science and technology for the developing countries represented by Heads of State/Government in the Commission. Other important organs of the organization are Minister-level Consultative Com-

mittee; Heads of Centers of Excellence-level Coordinating Council; and Technical Advisory Committee. It was informed that Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (President of the Republic of Ghana) is the current Chairperson of COMSATS, which currently has 27 Member States and a Network of 24 International S&T Centres of Excellence. The Executive Director apprised the Hon. Minister regarding the capacity building programmes, International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs), South-South & Triangular cooperation endeavors; national, regional and international collaborations; scholarship & fellowship programmes, etc.

He stated that despite having limited resources, COMSATS has made enormous contributions in the fields of science and technology in Pakistan via its flagship projects including COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) — established in 1998 that is a leading educational institution in Pakistan; COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) — established in 1996 as pioneer internet services provider in Pakistan; and COMSATS Telehealth Services (CTH) — initiated in 2001 as pioneer e-health service in Pakistan. The Executive Director

also deliberated upon the planned programmes and initiatives of COMSATS for sustainable development of the member countries. The COMSATS' Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) is one such initiative which has been taken in order to promote regional and global partnerships for climate action and sustainability in which over 15 countries are participating. It was recalled that COMSATS is also acting as a conduit between Governments of Pakistan and China for establishing an S&T Park in Jhelum, Pakistan. The future plans of the organization also include establishment of the COMSATS Innovation Lab in Islamabad; upgradation of CIS; provision of wireless broadband services for socio-economic development in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK); Distance Learning Support Network; establishment of 50 Rural Telehealth Clinics in Pakistan; and promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Pakistan.

## IsDB will provide \$ 60m for Polio

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) will provide sixty million dollars to Pakistan for Polio Eradication Program. The new financing was approved by the Bank during a virtual meeting of Board of Executive Directors in Jeddah. The statement issued after the meeting said there is still much work to do to end transmission of poliovirus in Pakistan particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## AIU declares BA results 2019

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University has announced result of its bachelor programmes Autumn Semester 2019. Controller of Examinations, Dr. Tauqir Ahmed Khan has informed that results of BA (General), B.com, BA Library & Information Sciences, BA (Mass Communication) BA (Dars-e-Nizami) have been declared and the same have been uploaded onto the University website (www.aiou.edu.pk). — APP



ISLAMABAD: Owners of All Pakistan Marriage Hall Industry Action Committee hold a protest in favor of their demands outside NPC. — DNA

## Anti-locust operation completed over 2.592 mln acres: NLCC

The locust control operation was carried over 1,893 acres with over 1,308 people and 119 vehicles. So far 30.532 million acres of land had been surveyed with anti-locust operation on 1,146,606 acres

ISLAMABAD: The anti-locust operations have been carried out in 10,947.07 square kilometers, approximately 2.592 million acres of land across 31 affected districts of the country in order to eradicate the locusts swarms. As many as 966 joint teams comprising over 5,664 people took part in the anti-locust operations across the country, according to details released by the National Locust Control Center (NLCC).

The joint teams of the Ministry of National Food Security, provincial agriculture departments and the Pakistan Army were conducting a comprehensive survey and control operation against the locusts in

different districts and so far 394,701.67 square kilometers (90.75) million acres had been surveyed. About 5,082 people and 648 vehicles took part in the anti-locust operation, the NLCC data said. In the Punjab province, about 238,054 acres had been surveyed during last 24 hours and while control operation was performed over effected areas. More than 2,282 people and 323 vehicles took part in the exercise, it added.

So far the survey was completed over an area of approximately 20.90 million acres and anti-locust operation carried out on 1,131,347 acres. In the Sindh province the survey was conducted over

96,880 acres and the locust presence was confirmed in six districts, while anti-locust operation was carried out on 6,326 acres. More than 97 vehicles and 627 people, including the Pakistan Army personnel, participated in the campaign. So far, the survey was completed on 20.03 million acres of land in Sindh, with locust control operation carried out on area of 159,919 acres.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 175,976 acres of land was surveyed with the help of 847 people and 106 vehicles during the last 24 hours. So far an area of 10.50 million acres had been surveyed, with locust control operation on 154,527 acres. In Balochistan, during the

last last 24 hours 251,563 hectares of land was surveyed, with infestation confirmed in 25 districts, including Khuzdar, Awaran, Noshki, Chaghi, Washhak, Quetta, Dara Bugti, Ziarat, Othal, Kharran, Panjgour and Kharran and others. The locust control operation was carried over 1,893 acres with over 1,308 people and 119 vehicles. So far 30.532 million acres of land had been surveyed with anti-locust operation on 1,146,606 acres.

In addition to aerial spraying with the help of planes and helicopters, non-conventional methods were also being used for effective control of locust during control operations, the NLCC said. — APP

## 2 bike lifters held, four motorcycles recovered

ISLAMABAD: Koral Police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered four stolen bikes from them, a police spokesman said. He said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, DIG (Operations) Waqar Ud din Syed assigned task to Zonal SPs to accelerate efforts against auto-thieves and car-lifters. Following his directions, SP (Rural-Zone) Malik Naeem Iqbal constituted police's team under the supervision of DSP Qasim Naizi including SHO Koral police station Inspector Asjad Mehmood. This team arrested two bike lifters identified as Zahid and Waqas, and recovered four stolen motorbikes from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, they confessed to lift these motorcycles from various areas of twin cities. They have already remained jail birds and cases have been registered against the nabbed persons. — APP

## HEC announces scholarships to study in Thailand

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited applications from Pakistani/Azad Jammu and Kashmir(AJK) nationals to study in Chulabhorn Graduate Institute Post-graduate Scholarship Program for Academic Year 2021.

According to HEC on Monday, the scholarships are offered to study their Master's Degree (18 years education) in Thailand in the fields of Applied Biological Sciences including Environmental Health, Environmental Toxicology, and Chemical Sciences. All awards will be made on the basis of the academic merit, potential of the candidate and the likely impact of the work on the development of Pakistan, it added. The Scholarships are open to the Pakistani/AJK applicants who meet the criteria including under 30 years of age as on as on 30th October, 2020, hold 16 years Bachelor Degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00/4.00 in one of the following sciences: Chemistry, Biology, Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology, Environmental Sciences, Medical Sciences: Medicine, Medical Technology, Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Sciences. The students must have experience in scientific laboratory research. The applicants must have demonstrated English proficiency, preferably on one of two recognized test of language proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS). They must also provide a statement of purpose explaining their interests in the study. The award is tenable for a period of six weeks refresher courses in June 2021 followed by a period of 2 years Master Degree, subject to an annual review of the scholar's satisfactory progress. The Scholarship will cover tuition fees and all other academic fees, round airfare ticket, accommodation, monthly stipend, book allowance, health insurance and others. Refresher will tentatively commence in June 2021 while the academic programme will commence in August 2021, it added. — APP

## Rs.149.879 bln disbursed among lockdown affectees

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme has so far disbursed an amount of over Rs. 149.879 billion among over 12,384,243 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 6, a total of over Rs. 67.156 billion has been disbursed among over 5,547,709 deserving

families in Punjab so far while around Rs. 44.902 billion has been disbursed among 3,723,230 families in Sindh. Over Rs. 25.874 billion has been disbursed among more than 2,131,284 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over Rs. 7.604 billion has been disbursed among 625,934 persons in Balochistan. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, over 2.473 billion have been distributed among 202,464 persons while Rs. 1.081 billion has been distributed among more than 88,429 people in Gilgit-Baltistan. — APP

## Int'l flights suspension resulting in delay of Postal dispatches

The service is available in major cities and links the country with 173 countries worldwide

ISLAMABAD: Owing to an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the international flight operation had been badly affected which is resulting in delay in the Postal dispatches to different countries. Director General Pakistan Post Muhammad Akhlaque Rana said that all the postal circles and regions are directed to encourage customers to book EMS Plus, adding that EMS Plus articles are being delivered in 6 to 7 working days, a press release issued here on Monday said. He said that during next week Pakistan Post will be in a position to put the right system in place for transportation of mail internationally. However, Pakistan Post has been using all available resources especially the flights which operated for bringing overseas Pakistanis from different parts of the world for transportation of its mail" he added. In order to harness the opportunities that are emerging from the market and thus to enhance the quality of service, Pakistan Post is offering a new product for export sector companies (small & medium Enterprises) and fast, reliable and economical transmission of documents for students. He said that this is a new product that is time sensitive and offers end to end tracking facility to the esteemed customers of Pakistan Post. The service is available in major cities and links the country with 173 countries worldwide. It is highly reliable and secure but in case of loss a compensation is guaranteed up to USD 100. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Tika Islamabad Programme Coordinator, Gokhan Umut, visited Dr. Sibel Bayram, Head of Turkish Department at National University of Modern Languages (NUML). Some possible collaboration areas were discussed in the meeting. — DNA



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# Ameer Muazzam reviving PML Qayyum

SAHAR ZAREEN KHAN

DESPITE many shortcomings, Pakistan is self sufficient in the field of political parties. There more than 200 registered and unregistered political parties working in this country. Majority of these parties are such that their entire membership is not sufficient even to fill a motor car. It is an established facts that no political party can claim of having an ideological foundation. But in this bizarre panoramic situation due to COVID-19, an old political party has been revived in Pakistan. Yes u heard it right. The very old Pakistan Muslim League (Khan Qayyum group) has been revived on June 27 this year. No doubt it was a bold and rather strange step. The prominent supreme Court lawyer Mr Muhammad Ameer Muazzam has been chosen as a its central President who is famous for his pro Pakistan politics. When he was asked for the reasons to reviving an old party instead of establishing a fresh one, his reasoning was very interesting. According to him the History of Pakistani politics is a chequered one. Islamic Ideology, necessity and its westernised elites turned this country into a battlefield for different political forces. The province of NWFP( now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) had a peculiar significance since the creation of this country. It was the only province were referendum was held to decide whether its inhabitants would join India or Pakistan. One person who came as saviour for Muslim League was Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan who played a pivotal role in defeating the dissenting voices. He was nominated as the first chief minister of NWFP by the none other than Quid e Azam himself. The first challenge which Khan Qayyum had to face was that of Pro Pashtunistan elements. He went to the extent of using extreme measures to counter his opponents. Instead of going for hundreds of indirect taxes over the masses, our party will introduce simplified taxation system for the “Haves” and the “Haves Not” We will rely more on domestic earnings instead of foreign loans. Special measures shall be taken to ensure women participation in all walks of life. By ensuring participation of all under privileged communities we can achieve the dream of “All inclusive Pakistan”. By adopting such systems, Pakistan can flourish both as a society and a state. The agenda of Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum seems promising but only time will tell whether they can steer through the power corridors in the presence of mafia and cartels creating hurdles for their vested interests.



# Sopore: Indian barbarity at peak

Farooq Alay

Thousands of enraged people in Occupied Kashmir staged widespread protests on July 1 against the killing of innocent elderly man, whose grandson was later left badly weeping and wailing helplessly sitting on Bashir Ahmed Khan’s dead body, dazed and traumatized. The forces, according to eyewitnesses, dragged the elderly man out of his car and shot him dead, leaving his body in pool of blood. Later, the troopers in uniform put the child on his chest as the grandfather lay dead on the road; they took photographs to make the mockery of his corpse. The toddler was accompanying his grandfather for drawing cash from a bank situated in the heart of Sorpore town

THE horrific incident of July 1, 2020 in Sopore has shocked the world. The brute Indian forces shot a 65-year-old man dead in front of his three-year-old grandson, who was accompanying him in the middle of town where they had come to draw a cheque from the bank. The goons in uniform dragged Bashir Ahmed Khan out, shot him several times and did not stop here. They threw his grandson on his dead body and snapped photographs to send across through social media, making mockery of the misery of that senior citizen lying dead in the pool of blood. This incident has really shocked the world, the heads may kneel in shame, but the question is whether the world community will condemn India and Modi’s fascist government that, analysts believe, is deliberately committing such incidents which are aimed at diverting world’s attention from New Delhi’s embarrassment at the hands of the Chinese in Ladakh and Galwan. The picture went viral on social media like a jungle fire and has drawn widespread hatred against the brute Indian forces and the barbaric Modi government. The picture staged in a way to mock the misery of the child wailing on the blood stained corpse of his grandfather is not just a heart wrenching sight, but it is a killing pain in the heart. Thousands of enraged people in Occupied Kashmir staged widespread protests on July 1 against the killing of innocent elderly man, whose grandson was later left badly weeping and wailing helplessly sitting on Bashir Ahmed Khan’s dead body, dazed and traumatized. The forces, according to eyewitnesses, dragged the elderly man out of his car and shot him dead, leaving his body in pool of blood. Later, the troopers in uniform put the child on his chest as the grandfather lay dead on the road; they took photographs to make the mockery of his corpse. The toddler was accompanying his grandfather for drawing cash from a bank situated in the heart of Sopore town. Later, in the afternoon, hundreds of Kashmiris gathered at the old man’s funeral, chanting slogans of “We want freedom.” Bashir Ahmed Khan’s daughter said that her father had gone to the bank to cash a cheque and on the way he was dragged out of his car and then shot in cold blood. Without naming anyone, she said her father’s killers did not care about the 3-year-old child who was accompanying him. “Who shoots a person in front of a 3-year-old kid?”, she asked in deep anguish. The victim’s wife said that her 3-year-old grandson was deliberately made to sit on the corpse of her husband. “My brother was not a militant. He did not carry a gun. Why was he killed?”, asked Nazir Ahmad, the brother of victim Bashir Ahmed. “If you want, I can come with you to meet the top police officers to counter their claims.” “We received a call that my father had met with an accident,” Bashir’s son, Suhail said. “When we reached Sopore, we were told he was killed in a crossfire. If it was a crossfire, his body should’ve been inside the car, but it was found on the road.” Ajiaz Ahmad Qudsi, Bashir Ahmed’s nephew, told Anadolu Agency that his deceased uncle’s car was unharmed, with not even a scratch. He claimed that the 65-year-old was dragged out from

his car and then shot by the armed forces. The family members also accused the security forces of putting the child on the deceased civilian’s body “for taking pictures”. “They dragged the body out and put the child on top. The child’s clothes were drenched in his grandfather’s blood”. The family said the man was a small-time employee who earned Rs 6,000 per month. The incident echoed the killing of 12-year-old Palestinian child Muhammad al Durra in September 2000, whose father, Jamal al Durra, tried his best to shield him from Israeli gunfire, taking several injuries. The boy’s killers were never brought to justice but the photograph of young Durra screaming behind his father remained etched in the memory of almost every Palestinian. Reacting to the July 1 Sopore incident, Amnesty India said that the security forces had violated the law by disclosing the identity of the minor. “It is also a breach of the ‘best interests of the child’ principle as required to be the basis of any action by authorities under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which India is a state party.” Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the image of the three-year-old sitting on his grandfather’s “lifeless, bullet-ridden body” exposed the real face of Narendra Modi’s “fascist India”. Leader of the opposition Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the killing. In a tweet, he said: Widespread human rights abuses by fascist Modi government constitute an acid test for the international community.” Tweeting the picture

of the deceased’s grandson sitting on his chest, Pakistan FO spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said she was “searching for words to describe (...) the grief and helplessness of the Kashmiri people.” Terming killing of a civilian right in front of his 3-year-old grandson by the Indian forces as a chilling reminder of Nazi oppression, senior vice chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front Altaf Hussain Wani said that the soul-wrenching photo of toddler crying on the chest of his dead grandfather speaks volumes about India’s fascism and its racial undercurrents. The world felt the pain and anger of the Kashmiris and cited against this horrific incident. Kashmiris have been suffering at the hands of Indians for a long time. The decades of brutality and human rights violations are unimaginable and inconceivable. As hundreds of children lay blinded by the pallet guns, this incident adds fuel to the already igniting fire of freedom for the Kashmiris. Oppressed and tortured Kashmir is driving India to a point of no return. As Nazi inspired Indian government gets bolder in its brutality against Kashmiris, India is gradually being compelled into isolation for the crimes against humanity. It is about time that India is brought to answer for the innocent blood spilled in Kashmir and the decades of atrocious and bare barbaric are accounted for. – The writer is freelance columnist based in Islamabad



# Modi’s comic claim to victory

Iqbal Khan

China being more powerful, controls the dynamics of crisis termination, while India has no choice but to keep ceding space. Likely End-State of crisis: There would be no worthwhile war. Territory taken by China will stay with China, and 1993 LAC alongside all agreements signed in 1996, 2005, 2012, and 2013 would not be worth the paper each is written on. And vacation of Siachen by India occupation forces is only a matter of time. Longer the crisis prolongs, more precarious would keep evolving India’s position

ON June 28, Prime Minister Modi declared victory over China. His June 19 statement had already hinted at all pervasive preservation of sanctity of Line of Actual Control (LAC); that according to him had not be disturbed. His “Victory Declaration” was pegged around “20 brave soldiers” giving “befitting reply” claiming as if India had won the tactical battle. Infact Chinese never envisioned or fought a tactical battle. According to Modi’s earlier statement there was Chinese incursion across Indian side of the LAC. So why is he indulging in hate mongering against china? Latest act of banning over 59 Chinese Apps adds to earlier frenzy of breaking Chinese TV sets. Most Indians live in delusion, so such gimmicks are aimed at strengthening such public delusions—a perceptive win. In an interesting development, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has cited Chinese threat to India and Southeast Asian countries, like Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and the South China Sea, as one of the reasons the US is shifting its troops from Europe. He said so while responding to a question when he spoke at the Virtual Brussels Forum on June 25. He added that the US military is “postured appropriately” to meet these “challenges of our time.” According to Pompeo, President Donald Trump’s administration had carried out a fundamental relook at the threats it faced and how it should allocate its military resources, including intelligence and cyber. Speaking about the Chinese threat, he cited the violent border confrontation with India, China’s increasing activities in the South China Sea, and its predatory economic policies as evidence. Of these, the US is actually worried about the economy part. Will the US really send its armada to fight India’s war? No, Never! Even Trump is not stupid enough to fight a direct military confrontation with China. However, it may employ some expandable proxies for getting the beating. Will India fight America’s war against China? No, Never! Modi is not Nehru! Will China go for an all-out war with any country? No, Never. Cardinal mistake on the global chess board has been America’s selection of a nuclear proxy—India— to take on a stronger and a bigger nuclear power— China. Indo-US strategic clock got stuck somewhere in the 1960s. Indian Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has messed up handling of China-India tiff in Ladakh so much that it’s interesting to observe that most of retired In-

dian generals want war with China and most of serving ones want to retire before that war. While the war may already be over; only Rawat is unable to perceive that. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has realized the consequences and is busy in damage reduction through denial, in fact he is in a state of mental paralysis. Of late, India’s former foreign secretary Nirupama Rao has been sharply critical of Indian government’s overall communication on the India-China situation; what India has ended up with is “a compounding of confusion.” Rao said she was very concerned about this. During an interview, Rao spent a lot of time talking about the impact of the India-China tussle on India’s image in the South Asian neighbourhood. Calling it “a very dark hour”, she said the outcome was “a great blow to our prestige in the neighbourhood”. She distressingly added: “I grieve for India”. Rao said India needs to rethink its neighbourhood policy which, at the moment, she said was in “shambles”. She said “we need to be more generous, more giving”. Rao put a lot of stress on the need to improve relations with Pakistan. She said there was a need “to reopen the channels for communications”. She added we need to “dissect what went wrong in our Pakistan policy”. Rhetoric by India’s Home Minister to reclaim parts of Chinese territory, meant for home consumption, led to pre-emptive action by China. By “inventing” a rhetorical position around the issue of Aksai Chin, a territory India may never have intended to take back by force from China, New Delhi aggravated the existing Chinese sensitivities on it. India ignited the matter by annexing its already occupied portion of Kashmir on August 05 and bifurcating it into two union territories. India also laid claims on Chinese & Pakistani areas of Askai Chin and Azad Jammu & Kashmir and threatened to capture these by force; and hence violated the UN Charter. Rao said government communication must be “more precise and less ambiguous”. She added “every word is weighed carefully”. As she put it, it’s “masticated, there is no doubt about what is being said, there is no ambiguity”. In a 41-minute interview to Karan Thapar for The Wire, Rao, said the PMO must clarify what it means by the phrase “across the LAC (Line of Actual Control)”. Rao criticised calls to boycott Chinese goods as well as the public breaking and throwing of Chinese television sets.

On side-lines of Victory Day Parade, India urged Russia to expedite delivery of Fighter planes, S-400 Missile system and other already ordered war munitions, keeping in view ongoing China-India tensions in Ladakh. However, Russia has conveyed to India that it would be difficult for her to out-rightly side with her in its conflict with China. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on June 23 at a virtual meeting of RIC (Russia-India-China) foreign ministers: “I don’t think India and China need any help from outside. I don’t think they need to be helped, especially when it comes to country issues. They can solve them on their own.” In India, these are rough times for the sane voices. India’s jingoistic media strategy is in disarray, it continues to make rash and irresponsible calls for teaching China a lesson. Government is striving to construct a fake narrative through anchors on retainer ship, and doesn’t want anyone to challenge it. Those attempting to put up factual position are being coerced. China being more powerful, controls the dynamics of crisis termination, while India has no choice but to keep ceding space. Likely End-State of crisis: There would be no worthwhile war. Territory taken by China will stay with China, and 1993 LAC alongside all agreements signed in 1996, 2005, 2012, and 2013 would not be worth the paper each is written on. And vacation of Siachen by India occupation forces is only a matter of time. Longer the crisis prolongs, more precarious would keep evolving India’s position. China remains the winner as long as PLA is camped on Indian side of LAC. The PLA has capability to end war decisively in its favour without loss of its soldiers. No credible analyst expected the PLA to start a shooting war with India. Modi Era is a carefully scripted drama to fool its domestic audience, even in the presence of satellite imagery. Since Modi’s arrival to PM House, every crisis has two sides: perception— India wins; reality —the other side wins. And in the process India is losing respect, within and outside. Now as consolidation measure to Modi style victory we eagerly wait for a Bollywood movie themed on a hunter carrying Lady Major of India army single handily beating a hell out of Chinese brigades! Writer is a freelance contributor; e-mail: Iqbal.khan9999@yahoo.com



## Briefs

## Fiji reports first corona case in 78 days

SUVA: Fiji's 78-day run without coronavirus is over, with Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama confirming Monday a 66-year-old man tested positive after returning from India. It is the 19th case in the small South Pacific island nation, and more are now expected.

"We've confirmed a border case of COVID-19 among a returning citizen while he was securely in the confines of government-funded quarantine," Bainimarama said. All arrivals to Fiji have to undergo 14 days of quarantine. The acting permanent secretary for health, James Fong, said Fiji had deliberately refrained from calling itself 'COVID-free' and was not surprised when the positive test was recorded Sunday.

"While Fiji may be free of community-based transmission of COVID-19, this pandemic is still raging beyond our shores," he said. "We don't expect this to be Fiji's last border quarantine case." — APP

## Grant Flower issues apology for his statement

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan batting coach Grant Flower has issued an apology for his 'knife to throat' statement about former Pakistan batting great and incumbent batting coach Younis Khan. The 94-year-old Zimbabwean in an interview had claimed that Younis once held a knife to his throat when he offered him batting advice, during a tour to Australia.

"I apologise for my remarks regarding Younis Khan," Flower said as quoted by website cricflare.com. "I gave that answer in response to a question, after the interview had finished, but I did not know that it would get so much hype in media," he added. Flower served as Pakistan's batting coach in a tenure that started in 2014 and ended in 2019. — APP

## 'Duke ball is bowler friendly'

DNA

LONDON: Young fast bowler Naseem Shah has described the Duke ball used in England as "bowler-friendly" and something he is enjoying as compared to the Kookaburra used in Pakistan. Naseem, who is in England for the first time in his career with the seniors, had a chat with fellow fast bowler Mohammad Abbas during a two-day intra-squad match. The 17-year-old seemed content with his first taste of England under new rules as he explained how the balls used in England and Pakistan were starkly different. "The Duke ball is [bowler] friendly. At times, the Duke ball does what you say," he said. "The Kookaburra, on the other hand, is difficult to shine and it also goes bad pretty quickly. It doesn't swing or seem that much either. Duke ball remains new for a while so this is good."

## Kenya to reopen to international flights

NAIROBI: Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday announced a "phased reopening" of the country, with the resumption of international flights from August 1 as well as the lifting of internal travel restrictions.

The move comes as pressure mounts to kickstart the country's ailing economy after four months of coronavirus restrictions which have devastated key industries such as tourism. Kenyatta said in a televised address that "international air travel into and out of the territory of Kenya shall resume effective 1 August 2020". He also announced the lifting of a ban of movement in and out of the capital Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa and northeastern Mander, and warned he would not hesitate to "revert to lockdown" if the situation worsened. — APP



**TOKYO:** Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad hosted & honored the largest importer of Pakistani salt in Japan Nakagawa who has introduced a variety of salt products sourcing from Pakistan for over eight years. — DNA

## COVID-19: Turkey sends humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan

According to the statement, assistance included 30 devices of IVL, 55,000 overalls, 50,000 masks N95, 100,000 surgical masks, 5,000 medical glasses, 200,000 gloves and 40,000 boxes of the various medicines used for treatment of a virus

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey has sent a humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan in the fight against coronavirus infection, Embassy of Turkey reported on its official Twitter page on July 5.

According to the statement, assistance included 30 devices of IVL, 55,000 overalls, 50,000 masks N95, 100,000 surgical masks, 5,000 medical glasses, 200,000 gloves and 40,000 boxes of the various medicines used for treatment of a virus. It should be noted that earlier, on June 9, Pres-



ident Ilham Aliyev said that Azerbaijan made individual donations to the World Health Organization, and humanitarian assistance to 29 WHO member countries, including \$5 million to Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic. Azerbaijan first introduced quarantine regime on March 24, and on June 18 decision was taken to extend special quarantine regime until August 1. As of July 6, Azerbaijan, the nation of ten million has registered 20,324 COVID-10 cases and 250 coronavirus-related deaths. Over 11,742 people have recovered from the disease.

## Georgia boosts tea imports from Azerbaijan

DNA

BAKU: Tea imports from Azerbaijan to Georgia increased by 30.8 percent from January through April 2020 compared to the same period last year. As reported, in the first four months of 2020, 250 tons of tea worth \$1.55 million were imported from Azerbaijan to Georgia, compared to 194.7 tons of tea worth \$1.18 million imported from Azerbaijan to Georgia in the same period of 2019. In the first four months of 2020, tea took tenth place in terms of import volume among the top 10 goods imported from Azerbaijan to Georgia. According to Geostat, the ninth place in the top ten

was occupied by the product group "Coke petroleum, petroleum bitumen and other residues from the processing of petroleum or petroleum products" in the amount of 9,039.5 tons. The eighth position is occupied by the commodity group "Crude oil and crude petroleum products obtained from bituminous rocks (4,164.6 tons). Import of cement ranked seventh, and the import of steel bars (9,843.5 tons) ranked sixth. In the reporting period, Georgia imported 2,311 tons of copper ores and concentrates worth \$5.9 million from Azerbaijan, which is 1,595 tons more compared to the same period last year (fifth position). Meanwhile, 8.5 tons of

parts and accessories suitable for use with typing or calculating machines worth \$11.1 million were imported by Georgia from Azerbaijan (fourth position). From January through April 2020, Georgia imported 41,870 tons of petroleum and petroleum oils worth \$13.5 million from Azerbaijan (third position). Georgia imported from Azerbaijan electricity worth \$21.2 million (second position). The first position is occupied by petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons, the most popular products imported by Georgia from Azerbaijan. Georgia imported 802,768 tons of petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons in a total amount of \$136.8 million from Azerbaijan

from January through April 2020, which is 545 tons less compared to the same period of 2019. Azerbaijan ranked third in Georgia's commodity circulation in the reporting period from January through April 2020, the foreign trade turnover between Georgia and Azerbaijan amounted to more than \$367 million, which makes up 10.6 percent of the total trade turnover of Georgia. During the reporting period, Georgia exported products worth \$221.8 million to Azerbaijan, which comprises 9 percent of total exports from Georgia. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan exported products worth \$145.1 million to the Georgian market, which is 14.5 percent of total imports to Georgia.

## Federer 'missing' Wimbledon

PARIS: Roger Federer on Monday said he is "missing" Wimbledon after the grass-court Grand Slam was cancelled, but hopes to play the tournament in 2021.

The 38-year-old, who has undergone two knee surgeries this year, had already announced he will not play again until next year.

This week was scheduled to be the second week of Wimbledon, where Federer has won a record eight men's singles titles, but the tournament was cancelled for the first time since World War II due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Personally, it has been very pleasant to stay in the same place for a long time, I hadn't experienced that for more than 25 years," Federer said at the launch of the "Roger Center Court" running shoes created by Swiss brand On. "But of course I miss Wimbledon, of course I would like to be there currently playing on Centre Court for a place in the second week. — APP

## Matic signs new contract until 2023

DNA

MANCHESTER: Manchester United midfielder Nemanja Matic has extended his contract with the club until June 2023.

The Serbia international, 31, joined United from Chelsea in 2017 and was due to be out of contract in June of 2021. "As a player, I still have a lot more to give and achieve in my career and to do that with Manchester United will be a huge honour," Matic said.

"This is a really exciting team to be part of, we have a good balance of youth and experience within the squad." Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said he was "delighted" Matic has extended his deal, adding: "I know his experience, professionalism and leadership will be invaluable to this young talented group."

## 1,000 jobs to go at German aircraft engine firm

BERLIN: German aircraft engine manufacturer MTU Aero Engines said Monday it is planning to cut at least 1,000 jobs as the impact of the coronavirus continues to hammer the aviation industry. "By the end of 2021, the company aims to reduce capacity at its German and international locations by a total of around 10 to 15 percent," the company said in a statement.

Headquartered in Munich, MTU Aero Engines employs more than 10,000 people worldwide and provides maintenance services as well as engines for military and commercial planes. "As a result of the pandemic, the aviation industry will remain under pressure for some time to come," CEO Reiner Winkler was cited as saying. "It will be years before air traffic - which is the foundation on which our activities in series production and our maintenance business rest - returns to pre-crisis levels," he added. The company hopes however to avoid compulsory redundancies, making the savings instead through partial retirement, early retirement and other arrangements.

Travel restrictions introduced to slow the spread of the coronavirus since March have put a stranglehold on the aviation industry around the world. European aircraft maker Airbus said last week it is planning to cut around 15,000 jobs worldwide, 11 percent of its total workforce, in response to the "gravest crisis" the industry has ever seen. Germany's Lufthansa, Europe's biggest airline group, has been granted a nine billion euro (\$10 billion) bailout from the German government, saving it from bankruptcy as a result of crushed travel demand. — APP

## Younis' sweep shot best in world: Saqlain

ISLAMABAD: Former spinner Saqlain Mushtaq believes the way Pakistani batting legend Younis Khan played the sweep shot, was the best in the world, saying he hasn't seen any player play that shot better than the 2009 ICC World Twenty20, winning captain.

"Younis played a lot of shots but his sweep was very good. Whether, if it was Australia's Shane Warne or Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan, Younis played them very well. He knew how to play from high to low and vice versa," he said in a video on his YouTube channel. He said he hasn't seen Younis getting out or not being successful in hitting the sweep shot, when he attempted for it. "Might be it may have happened but it hasn't gone through my eyes. Younis sweep shot was the best in the world. Many players do hit it but it doesn't

## Afridi makes startling claim about Indian team

DNA

KARACHI: Former Pakistani cricket team captain Shahid Afridi has made a startling claim that Indian cricketers have asked for forgiveness from the men in green on multiple occasions after losing the cricket match to Pakistani players. Afridi in an interview on YouTube, said that he has always enjoyed playing against the arch rivals and on some occasions in which Pakistan dominated, the neighbours extended an apology.

"I have always enjoyed playing against India. I believe we've beaten them so much that they used to ask us for forgiveness after the match," Afridi said.

"I have enjoyed a lot playing against India and Australia, you have more pressure. They are big teams."

The former cricketer's comment is likely to stir a reaction on the other side of the border.

## Louvre museum reopens

PARIS: The Louvre, the world's most visited museum, reopens after its coronavirus closure Monday, but with nearly a third of its galleries still shut.

The vast former palace of France's kings has lost more than 40 million euros (\$45 million) in ticket sales during the near-four-month lockdown, and director Jean-Luc Martinez admitted it could have a few more lean years ahead as the world adapts to the virus.

Although most of the museum's most popular draws, like the "Mona Lisa" and its vast antiquities collection will be accessible, other galleries where social distancing is more difficult will remain closed.

Nor will there be any crowding in front of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece for a selfie, with visitors warned that they will have to stick to standing on well-distanced spots marked on the floor. To avoid bottlenecks, arrows will guide visitors through the labyrinth of galleries, with doubling back banned, the museum said. — APP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says he is struggling to understand why his side have lost nine Premier League games this season. City lost 1-0 at Southampton on Sunday - a third straight away league defeat.

It is the first time in his career that Guardiola has overseen such a run, while nine losses is the most the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss has ever had in a single campaign. "We played more than good but it is not enough to win the games," he said. "We cannot say we are not a team who score goals this season. We are leading in goals. We create a lot of chances. We are a team who concede less - no team conceded as few chances as us but we lost a lot of games."

"It's difficult even for me to find a reason why but you have to insist and talk about the game, the way they play and try to do more, concede as few as possible and score up front." Manchester City have faced the fewest shots in the Premier League Manchester City have faced the fewest shots in the Premier League with 249 - 59 fewer than Liverpool, who have conceded nine goals fewer City won back-to-back Premier League titles in 2017-

18 and 2018-19, recording a record tally of 100 points in the first of those successes and the division's second-highest tally of 98 in the second.

But they have missed out to Liverpool this season, with the Reds 23 points ahead of Guardiola's side with five games remaining. The biggest deficits a Guardiola-managed side had previously had to an eventual league winner was 15 in 2016-17 - his first season at Manchester City when Chelsea won the title - and

nine in 2011-12, when Barcelona lost out on the La Liga title to Real Madrid. City were hugely impressive in thrashing Liverpool 4-0 on Thursday but the defeat at St Mary's means they have lost four of their past nine Premier League matches. But the Spaniard believes his side will soon get back to their best and once again start finishing off the many chances they create.

He added: "I have confidence we can do it because we are the same guys and we did it in previous seasons. "This season the way we are playing is quite similar but it is not enough to win the games." Despite falling short in the league, City have already won the Carabao Cup and could end up with a treble, as they are 2-1 up against Real Madrid in the Champions League last 16 and still have an FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal to come.



## Briefs

## Saudi Arabia announces Hajj measures

DNA

RIYDAH: Saudi Arabia announced health protocols to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in the 2020 Hajj season, banning gatherings and meetings between pilgrims.

Saudi Arabia decided in June to limit the number of domestic pilgrims attending the Hajj to around 1,000 to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, after barring Muslims abroad from the rite for the first year in modern times.

Touching the Kaaba, the holiest site in Islam, will be banned during the Hajj this year, and a social distancing space of a meter and a half between each pilgrim during the rituals including mass prayers and while in the Kaaba circling area will be imposed, a statement by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) elaborated.

Also, access to holy Hajj sites at Mina, Muzdalifah, and Arafat will be limited to those with Hajj permits starting Sunday July 19 till Aug. 2 2020, and wearing masks all the time will be mandatory for both pilgrims and organizers.

## China Bubonic plague: Mongolia takes steps

DNA

LONDON: Authorities in China have stepped up precautions after a city in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region confirmed one case of bubonic plague.

According to state reports, the Bayannur patient - a herdsman - is in quarantine and in a stable condition. Officials issued a Level 3 warning, the second-lowest in a four-tier system.

The bubonic plague, caused by bacterial infection, can be deadly, but can be treated with commonly available antibiotics.

The new case was first reported as suspected bubonic plague on Saturday at a hospital in Urad Middle Banner, in Bayannur city.

It is not yet clear how or why the patient might have become infected.

The level 3 alert forbids the hunting and eating of animals that could carry plague and calls on the public to report suspected cases.

Cases of bubonic plague are periodically reported around the world. Madagascar saw more than 300 cases during an outbreak in 2017. In May last year, two people in the country of Mongolia died from the plague, which they contracted after eating the raw meat of a marmot - a type of rodent.

A World Health Organization official in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, had told the BBC that raw marmot meat and kidney was thought to be a folk remedy for good health.

## Italy: 180 migrants allowed off ship

DNA

ROME: Italy has given permission for 180 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean to disembark from a charity-run ship.

The decision comes after a stand-off that lasted more than a week. The Ocean Viking, operated by rescue group SOS Méditerranée, declared a state of emergency on Friday, citing fears for the safety of both migrants and crew.

The migrants are set to be transferred to a government vessel in Sicily on Monday and will quarantine for 14 days. Medics have already tested those on the Ocean Viking for Covid-19. Results are expected on Monday.

The migrants are from a range of countries including Pakistan, Eritrea and Nigeria. They had fled the coast of Libya when they were rescued in four separate groups between 25 and 30 June. They include 25 minors, most of whom are unaccompanied by adults and two women, including one who is pregnant. The ship had been awaiting permission to allow the passengers off the vessel in either Italy or Malta.

## EIAS &amp; ISRS discuss enhanced cooperation in combating COVID-19

According to the Press-service of ISRS, issues such as the experience of European and Central Asian countries in combating coronavirus and overcoming its socio-economic consequences, the role and importance of the Central Asian region for the European Union at the present stage

DNA

TASHKENT: A videoconference on "Prospects and opportunities for enhancing cooperation between the European Union and Central Asian countries. The role of Uzbekistan in implementation of the European Strategy in the region" took place.

The event, organized with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Kingdom of Belgium, was attended by representatives of the Institute for Strategic and Regional

Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Institute for Asian Studies.

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) is a leading think tank based in Brussels, the capital of the European Union, focusing on EU-Asia relations since its founding in 1989. As a policy research centre, its aim is to promote understanding between the European Union and Asia. In addition, it aims to strengthen ties between Asia and Europe through in-depth, comprehensive research,

as well as acting as a knowledge exchange platform and forum for dialogue between policymakers, members of academia and think tanks, civil society and the corporate sector.

According to the Press-service of ISRS, issues such as the experience of European and Central Asian countries in combating coronavirus and overcoming its socio-economic consequences, the role and importance of the Central Asian region for the European Union at the present stage, as well as promising areas for deepening cooperation between the

European Union and Uzbekistan, were considered.

Opening the event, the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Benelux countries Dilyor Khakimov positively assessed the dynamics of development of relations between Uzbekistan and the European Union. Participants of the videoconference paid special attention to further actions on accession of Uzbekistan to the World Trade Organization.

Discussing the main topic of recent months - the COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented consequen-

es, experts analyzed the main trends observed in the world.

Deputy Director of ISRS under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sanjar Valiyev emphasized that international cooperation should become a pillar for restoring broken ties and boosting the economy.

Participants also considered the relevant aspects of implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia. It is also important to involve in the regional programs in Central Asia the third parties traditionally present in the region - Russia, China,

the United States.

Speaking about the trade relations of Central Asia and with regard to Uzbekistan, EIAS experts noted the need for ensuring greater regional connectivity with other countries.

EIAS experts noted the high interest of the European Union in developing close cooperation with Central Asia. Moreover, this interest is also due to the dynamics of the rapprochement of the region's countries, which in an integrated form are more attractive for interaction with external partners.

## Coronavirus threatens to overwhelm Texas hospitals

DNA

WASHINGTON: Officials in Texas are warning that hospitals in the United States state could soon be overwhelmed if coronavirus cases continue to surge. The border between the Australian states of Victoria and New South Wales will be closed at midnight on Tuesday for the first time in a century. More than 11.4 million people around the world have been diagnosed with the coronavirus and 533,781 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. Nearly 6.2 million have recovered from the disease. India reported more than 23,000 new cases of coronavirus on Monday, overtaking Russia to become the country with the third highest number of coronavirus cases in the world.

## Iran reports new record one-day death toll

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran recorded its highest number of deaths from COVID-19 within a 24-hour period, official health ministry figures showed. The 163 deaths reported on Sunday exceeded the previous record from last Monday, when the health ministry reported 162 deaths in a day.

Coronavirus infections in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia rise after curfews were fully lifted last month.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said it was discontinuing its trials of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and combination HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir in hospitalised patients with COVID-19 after the medications failed

to reduce mortality.

Over 212,000 new coronavirus cases were reported globally by WHO - the highest single-day increase since the start of the pandemic.

Worldwide cases have reached 11.23 million while 6.04 million patients have recovered, according to the latest Johns Hopkins University tally. The number of deaths worldwide have totalled more than 530,000.

## Australia to close Victoria-New South Wales border



DNA

MELBOURNE: The border between Australia's two most populous states, Vic-

toria and New South Wales (NSW), is to close after a spike in Covid-19 cases in Melbourne. The outbreak in Victoria's capital has seen hundreds

of cases in the past two weeks - more than 95% of new Australian infections. Until now, the two states had maintained open borders even when others had shut them.

The closure, beginning on Wednesday, will restrict travel to permit holders. Victoria's Premier Daniel Andrews said it was a joint decision with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian. "This is one of those precautionary measures - it is one of those things that I think will help us in broader terms contain the spread of the virus," Mr Andrews told reporters on Monday.

## \$800bn plan to turn Riyadh into cultural hub

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is launching a SR3 trillion (\$800 billion) plan to double the size of Riyadh in the next decade and transform it into an economic, social and cultural hub for the region.

The ambitious strategy for the capital city was unveiled by Fahd Al-Rasheed, president of the Royal Commission for the City of Riyadh, ahead of key meetings of the U20, the arm of the G20 leaders' summit that deals with urban development and strategy.

"Riyadh is already a very important economic engine for the Kingdom, and although it's already very successful, the plan now, under Vision 2030, is to actually take that way further, to double

the population to 15 million people," he told media.

"We've already launched 18 megaprojects in the city, worth over SR1 trillion, over \$250 billion, to both improve livability and deliver much higher economic growth so we can create jobs and double the population in 10 years.

"It's a significant plan and the whole city is working to make sure this happens."

About \$250 billion in investment is expected from the private sector, with the same amount generated by increased economic activity from population growth, finance and banking, cultural and desert tourism, and leisure events.

"We must also ensure the growth is managed properly, so there will be

a focus on transport and logistics, including the Riyadh metro which will open at the beginning of next year.

"The aim is to increase productivity," Al-Rasheed said.

The plan involves the creation of a "mega industrial zone" focusing on advanced technology such as renewables and automation, and biotechnology and aquaponics. Another key feature is sustainability, with energy conservation, the circular carbon economy with its emphasis on reducing emissions, and water management, all priorities.

"You will see 7 million trees planted in Riyadh in the next few years, and King Salman Park will be bigger than Hyde Park in London," Al-Rasheed said.

## Top Trump campaign aide contracts virus

DNA

WASHINGTON: The girlfriend of President Donald Trump's eldest son has tested positive for coronavirus. Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News television personality who is dating Donald Trump Jr and is a top fundraising official in the president's re-election campaign, had traveled to South Dakota to see Trump's Fourth of July speech and celebration fireworks at Mount Rushmore on Friday.

She tested positive after part of mandatory screening required of those who come in close contact with the president, the New York Times reported. She did not fly on Air Force One with the president, a source told the newspaper.

## 40 feared dead in floods in Japan

DNA

TOKYO: Rescue workers in Japan continued to comb through the wreckage of houses destroyed by flooding and landslides on the southern island of Kyushu, as officials said at least 40 people were feared dead following torrential rain that hit the area over the weekend.

At least 21 people have been confirmed dead and a further 18 are presumed dead, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters on Monday. He said 13 people were also missing. "I offer my deepest condolences for those who have passed from the torrential rains," Suga said, adding that 40,000 members of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces were involved in the search.

## Tokyo's Koike re-elected governor

DNA

TOKYO: Yuriko Koike has been re-elected Tokyo governor, according to an exit poll released by public broadcaster NHK, after winning over voters with her handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the Japanese capital. Koike's victory in the city that will host the Olympic Games next year had been widely expected even though the capital confirmed 111 new coronavirus infections on Sunday, the fourth day in a row that the number exceeded 100.

## TCM used in treating corona patients in Beijing

Total of 108 medics from other Beijing hospitals have joined Beijing Ditan Hospital

BEIJING: Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has played an important role in treating confirmed COVID-19 patients in Beijing's latest cluster infections related to the Xinfadi market, said a veteran TCM doctor. The expert team on treatment has formulated the principle that asymptomatic cases and those with mild symptoms are mainly treated with Traditional Chinese medicine, and severe and critical COVID-19 patients are treated with joint consultation and combination of Traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine, said Liu Qingquan, president of the Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, at a press conference held Sunday on the city's prevention and control of COVID-19. From June 11 to July 4,

Beijing reported 334 confirmed locally-transmitted cases, all of whom received treatment at Beijing Ditan Hospital.

A total of 108 medics from other Beijing hospitals have joined Beijing Ditan Hospital to help with the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Liu said seven among the 10 patients, who had been discharged after recovery by Saturday, were cured with TCM treatment as the primary therapy.

For mild and asymptomatic COVID-19 infected people, doctors prescribed Traditional Chinese medicine decoction with functions of "clearing away heat, detoxifying and cooling blood" and proprietary Chinese medicine such as Jinhua Qinggan Granule, Yindan Jiedu Granule and Huoxiang Zhengqi Capsule.

## India third highest caseload in world

DNA

NEW DELHI: India now has the third-highest caseload in the world according to its health ministry, overtaking Russia

India says it now has about 698,000 cases with more than 19,000 deaths

New South Wales in Australia is closing its border with neighbouring Victoria to fight a surge there

Nearly 240 scientists want the WHO to take the airborne risk more seriously

Arts venues in the UK are getting a lifeline from the government to survive

Globally there have now been more than 11.4m cases and more than 533,000 people have died.

## What was India-China border clash really about?



TARIQ MIR

ON the evening of June 15, hundreds of Indian and Chinese troops laid aside their arms and took on each other in a brawl on the ridge of a mountain in Ladakh, a desolate high-altitude plateau in the northeast Kashmir.

The clashes, in which clubs and stones were used, left a bloody trail of dead and wounded soldiers on a frontier that had not seen

such violence in the last 45 years. And as India buried 20 slain soldiers from the fight, it began to contend with the high political cost of its ill-thought-out actions in the Himalayan region.

India's unilateral action to revoke the special status of the disputed territory of Kashmir in August 2019 was intended, in the grand strategy of its Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to usher in "peace and development" in the restive state.

What has resulted from it instead is a never-before-seen military confrontation between three nuclear powers - China, India and Pakistan - and the terrifying prospect of a whole region descending into the hellish vortex of war, mass suffering and widespread economic chaos. For nearly 70 years, a tacit understanding of sorts had

kept the three countries, all of which hold portions of the land of Kashmir, from doing anything drastic to bring about a change to its fragile status quo.

But India upended the agreement by annulling the autonomy and cutting the state into two halves, and as a result, the region, described once by former US President Bill Clinton as "the most dangerous place in the world", descended into a free-for-all.

In early May, a large contingent of Chinese troops crossed an ill-defined border that separates the two countries in Ladakh and hunkered down in trenches and camps, with a large range of artillery guns and heavy equipment flanking the troop encampment. The Chinese intrusion provided a peek into the contours of a new strategic competition

unfolding on the roof of the world. In the last decade or so, India has been bolstering its defence facilities across a wide swath of the forbidding glacial landscape with the construction of roads, bridges, tunnels and a large airbase.

After the annexation last year, the Indian political leadership has been making open threats to capture Gilgit-Baltistan, the northern area of Kashmir that went with Pakistan in 1947. What seemed to have forced China's hand was the fear that its \$60bn investment in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative that wound through Gilgit-Baltistan, could become a victim of any major Indian military thrust into the region. The Chinese move was to forestall any such Indian assault.

The face-off between Chinese and Indian troops in Ladakh might eventually turn out to be only a side-show to what could become a much bigger military confrontation this year between India and Pakistan along their long border in Kashmir.

If Modi were to suffer a debacle in Ladakh, which, whatever way you look at it, is a possibility, for the Chinese do not seem to be in a mood to retreat and the Indian army cannot push out a much superior military force, he would then mobilise the public opinion against Pakistan to boost his own falling ratings.

In February 2019, during his re-election bid for the office of prime minister, Modi ordered Indian warplanes to strike targets inside Pakistan. It was a high-risk retaliation for the suicide

bombing of an Indian parliamentary force bus by a young Kashmiri rebel fighter that left at least 40 of the servicemen dead in Pulwama, Kashmir. Although the aerial attack did not achieve anything substantial, and India went on to suffer embarrassment shortly after, when Pakistan carried out a tit-for-tat attack in Kashmir and shot down an Indian fighter plane too, Modi still projected himself as the strongman who could forcefully deal with Pakistan.

Modi's approach to Kashmir is no different, and his strong-arm tactics have fanned an air of desperation in Kashmir. The fear of loss of the homeland and how they could be turned into a minority pervades every Kashmiri home. The new domicile law brought in by the Indian government after removing

its special status last year now qualifies thousands of Indians, who have lived in Kashmir for 15 years or studied there for seven, to buy property and settle down in Kashmir.

The effect of the fear of dispossession, though, has galvanised Kashmiris at home and outside to rally together and mount a sustained campaign to bring the attention of the world to the unfolding calamity they are facing. Annexing a contested land might be a new mantra in international relations, but a strong native resistance could be the only means of defence against such onslaught.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance. - Courtesy Al Jazeera.



## Briefs

US dollar  
surges  
against PKR  
in interbank  
market

DNA

KARACHI: The United States (US) dollar gained 0.19 paise against the Pakistani rupee at the start of day's trading on Monday. According to forex dealers, the greenback is trading at 166.40 against the domestic currency at the interbank foreign exchange market.

Last week on Thursday, the exchange rate of Pakistani rupee strengthened by Rs1.45 against the US dollar in the interbank market. The greenback closed at Rs166.60 against the domestic currency at the interbank foreign exchange market.

Asian markets rallied out of the blocks Monday, with further signs of economic recovery continuing to resonate with investors more than a surge in coronavirus infections across the planet. The easing of lockdowns is providing hope the global economy will bounce back from an expected recession this year. Traders have piled back into stocks in a major way in recent months — with the help of vast government and central bank support — with analysts suggesting the gains are also being helped by a fear of missing out on the rally.

'K-Electric  
has become  
a 'Killer  
Electric'

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) Vice President and parliamentary party leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh has said that the K-Electric (KE) has become a 'Killer Electric' for the Karachiites and urgent action is needed to stop its brutal exploitation of electricity consumers in the megacity.

According to details, the PTI here Monday staged a sit-in in front of the head office of KE in Karachi. Haleem Adil Sheikh attended the sit-in, flanked by PTI MPs Dr Saeed Afridi, Shah Nawaz Jadoon, Raja Azhar, Rabistan Khan and others. They raised slogans against the exploitation of power consumers of Karachi by the KE.

Talking to media, Haleem Adil said the KE has already tasted the blood of the hapless power consumers of megacity Karachi and it has already become a 'killer electric'. He said this KE is sucking the blood of Karachiites. He said after electrocution of many people due to faulty supply lines of the KE in Karachi during last rainy season, the KE had made several promises but none of them was fulfilled.

Over 131,000  
people defeat  
virus in Pak

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The country recorded 3,344 new cases of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the past 24 hours, taking the country-wide tally to 231,817 and casualties to 4,762 with addition of 50 more deaths in the past 24 hours.

According to the National Command and Operation Centre, 3,344 new cases were detected when 22,271 tests were conducted in the previous 24 hours. 95,407 COVID-19 patients are undergoing treatment and 131,649 patients have recuperated from the disease.

94,528 cases have been detected in Sindh so far, 81,963 in Punjab, 28,116 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10,814 in Balochistan, 13,494 in Islamabad, 1,342 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and 1,561 in Gilgit Baltistan. The number of coronavirus cases across the world has surpassed over 7.5 million while the pandemic has so far claimed more than 536,000 lives.



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan witnessing the signing of Agreement with China Gezhouba for Azad Pattan Hydropower Project at a Ceremony in Islamabad. Ambassador of China Yao Jing is also seen in the picture. 0 DNA

CPEC, a parallel world  
order: Masood Khan

Masood Khan said that CPEC – a \$62 billion spanning around 15 years project – comprises of ports, power generation plants and infrastructure development, which has now been made holistic and substantive with the addition of socio-economic development projects like skill development, employment and people to people contacts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of six main projects coming under the mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project. Comparing the BRI to the Marshall Plan, he said that this project is of considerable economic and strategic importance as this unparalleled transcontinental project will connect countries and continents; thereby, creating a parallel economic world focusing on economic cooperation and

development. The President made these remarks while addressing a Q&A session organized by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its impact on Societal Emancipation of Pakistan and Afghanistan". The session was moderated by Maj. Gen. (R) Raza Muhammad, member IICR Advisory Board. Masood Khan said that CPEC – a \$62 billion spanning around 15 years project – comprises of ports, power generation plants and infrastructure development, which has now been made holistic and substantive with

the addition of socio-economic development projects like skill development, employment and people to people contacts. "The focus is not merely on Gawadar Port but Gawadar and every other city of Pakistan, skill development, improving our overall human resource capital and indexes. The CPEC has transformed into an organic relationship between two brotherly nations", he said. The President said that there is an overwhelming national consensus on CPEC, "All political leaders, political parties and stakeholders have been brought on board. The people of Ba-

lochistan are very optimistic for CPEC", he said while adding that India has been trying to jeopardize peace in Pakistan by carrying out proxy wars in not only Balochistan but other areas of the country. "We have to brush aside these risks and stay the course", he said. The AJK President that CPEC must not be mistaken as a substitute for the growing Pakistani economy rather it shall act as a catalyst for economic transformation, modernize its industry, develop its maritime economy, build its human capital, and diversify its trading partners and sources

of investment. Responding to a question, the President said that in 2015 when CPEC was finalized, the US State Department gave a very positive statement over this initiative saying it would help towards development. But later during the Trump administration, the US expressed reservations. India, he said objects because they cannot bear to see Pakistan economically progress. India has contested that CPEC passes through a disputed territory (GB and AJK) – which in turn accentuates Pakistan's stance that this area is a disputed territory while all the while

India claims it as their "integral" part, he said. "India's claims lack clarity and are instead counter-intuitive", said Masood Khan. President Masood said that India, the lynchpin of QUAD, has tried to garner the support of Australia, USA and Japan in an attempt to sabotage CPEC by claiming it to be a disruptive programme. "Despite the opposition of India and its allies, completion of the Corridor will not see any delays. We have to look at the bigger picture; this project not only benefits Pakistan and China but the whole region including CARs and Afghanistan.

NAB decides to take  
steps to arrest fugitives

DNA

ISLAMABAD:- A meeting of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was held at NAB headquarters under the chairmanship of Honourable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB. Deputy chairman, Prosecutor General Accountability, Director General Operations and other senior officers of NAB were present. While all Director Generals attended the meeting via video link. The meeting reviewed the overall performance of NAB. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NAB said that NAB firmly believes in pursuing the policy of accountability for all. NAB doesn't have affiliation with any political party, group or individual. The only affilia-

tion of NAB is only with the state of Pakistan. The NAB is mandated to recover the looted amount from the culprits, besides taking mega corruption cases to their logical conclusion. NAB officers are performing anti corruption duties by considering as their national duties. The meeting reviewed the progress in the cases of former Prime Ministers Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Shaukat Aziz, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, former President Asif Ali Zardari, former Chief Ministers Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Qasim Ali Shah, Nawab Aslam Khan Raisani; San-aulah Zehri, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, former Ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad

Rafique, Dr Asim Hussain, Ahsan Iqbal, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Miftah Ismael, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Aamir Kayani, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Babar Khan Ghouri, Manzoor Wasan, Agha Siraj Durrani, Sohail Anwar Sial, Adil Siddique, Rauf Siddique, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Khurshid Shah, Waseem Akhtar, Sardar Ashiq Khan Gopang, Barjees Tahir, Ejaz Jakhani, Rana Sanaulah, Sabtain Khan, Aleem Khan, Sahibzada Mehmood Zaib, Sher Azam Khan, Engineer Amir Muqam, Captain Safdar, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi. It merits mentioning here that Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan has granted stay order in BRT case. NAB will proceed ahead in this case in light of the instructions of the apex court in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food, Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam in a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Kuninori Matsuda at Ministry of NFS&R. – DNA

## UNSC urged to denounce India's atrocities

"The Council must denounce India's illegal actions in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and take urgent actions to reign in its fascist ambitions that are putting enormous strain on peace and security of our region and beyond," Pakistan's Ambassador Munir Akram told the 15-member body

China, India border disengagement  
process under way

BEIJING: India and China said on Monday that they had made progress disengaging frontline troops from a months-long standoff along a disputed part of their border where a brawl in June left 20 Indian soldiers dead. Special representatives on the border issue, India's national security advisor Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, spoke by phone on Sunday about the issues along the frontier known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC), according to India's foreign ministry. "The representatives agreed that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas was essential for the further development of our bilateral relations and to complete the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC expeditiously," the ministry said on Monday in a statement. – DNA

and disputed territories. "For over 10 months," he said, "the Kashmiris have faced crippling restrictions

on civil liberties and unrelenting human rights abuses at the hands of Indian forces. "The coronavirus has now

condemned them to a 'double lockdown' bringing them to the precipice of a vast human tragedy."

The prolonged Kashmir lockdown, the Pakistani envoy said, had already depleted essential medical supplies in hospitals, turning them into graveyards and rendering Indian authorities incapable of meeting the public health crisis. "While the world's attention is focused on the virus, India has taken advantage by implementing additional steps to consolidate its occupation, Ambassador Akram told the Council. "Besides the extended lockdown and communications blackout, India has introduced new 'domicile rules' to engineer a demographic change in Kashmir, to trans-

form it from a Muslim majority State into a Hindu majority territory," he said. "These measures are in direct contravention of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention." "Hundreds of senior Kashmiri political leaders and thousands of young men, including human rights defenders and journalists have been arbitrarily detained and incarcerated to stifle the call for 'Azadi' (Freedom) and suppress their legitimate struggle for right to self-determination.

Zardari's  
indictment  
deferred

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Monday again deferred the indictment of former president Asif Ali Zardari in Park Lane reference after his counsel Advocate Farooq H. Naek filed a last-minute petition against the proceedings. As the hearing of the case resumed today, Zardari's lawyer Farooq H Naek filed a petition in an Islamabad accountability court to stop the indictment against the former president. Zardari's counsel Farooq H Naek in his petition maintained that proceedings against his client were not legally justified so the court should stop the indictment. Naek asked the judge to issue a notice to NAB on the new petition and adjourned the proceedings till next Tuesday as he has to do some more research on the case. The loan in question was taken by a company, not Zardari, argued Naek, who said his client was never issued any notice by the SBP either. Judge Azam Khan asked Naek why he waited till the last moment to file this petition when he knew the indictment process was almost complete.

Tensions heat  
up in South  
China sea

DNA

HONG KONG: For the first time in six years, two US Navy aircraft carriers are in the South China Sea, the latest show of military might from Washington as it pushes back against China's sweeping claim to much of the contested region. The two US carriers arrived in the region as China wrapped up its own set of naval exercises near a disputed island chain, an apparent synchronicity not lost on Beijing's state media, which carried reports boasting of the country's readiness to repel any US attempt to challenge its claims. The Nimitz Carrier Strike Force composed of the USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups conduct dual carrier operations in the South China Sea on Monday.