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Pak rejects Indian counsel statement, says Aisha Farooqui

Shibli salutes mothers of martyrs



Aid from China manifestation of friendship



Briefs

Shibli salutes mothers of martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shibli Faraz says on Mothers' Day, we especially salute to the mothers of martyrs, who offered great sacrifice of their sons. In a tweet on Sunday, he said mothers of Pakistan are distinctive in the world as they thank Almighty Allah on martyrdom of their sons. The Minister said the nation salutes to Major Nadeem Abbas and other security personnel, who embraced martyrdom in a landmine blast in Balochistan, as well as their mothers and families. These heroes are our pride.

Asad in hospital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser is recovering from the coronavirus, his spokesperson said on Sunday. He confirmed that Qaiser was admitted to a private hospital the day before but said it was so that he could receive better care. He should be discharged from the hospital today, said the spokesperson. He doesn't have a fever anymore and has only a slight chest infection, said the spokesperson, adding that the speaker's cough was better than before.

27,000kg of wheat seized

MULTAN: The Multan district administration has begun cracking down against hoarders and profiteers. In two raids on Sunday, it seized a collective 27,000 kilograms of wheat. The raids were conducted at two warehouses. — DNA

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Kulbhushan Jadhav case

Pak rejects Indian counsel statement

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries, the Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aisha Farooqui has said we have noted the statements made in an online lecture on 03 May 2020 by Mr. Harish Salve, India's legal counsel in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case. While suggesting that India may have to go back to Inter-

national Court of Justice (ICJ), Mr. Salve has made certain statements which are contrary to the facts of the Case. "We firmly reject the Indian Counsel's baseless and inaccurate assertion that Pakistan has not complied with the ICJ's judgment in the case. Pakistan has fully complied with the judgment and remains committed to continue doing so as the case proceeds further".

She further said Pakistan has granted India consular access to Commander Jadhav and is processing measures for effective review and reconsideration as per the guidelines provided by ICJ in its Judgment. Being a responsible state, Pakistan abides by all its international obligations. It is regrettable that Mr. Salve has chosen to make statements which are inaccurate and misrepresent facts.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing. They discussed progress on ML-1 rail project. — DNA

Azerbaijan national leader remembered



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada and Embassy staff of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan laid flowers at the statue of Heydar Aliyev, Na-

tional Leader of the Azerbaijani people in the Embassy to commemorate his birth anniversary. Heydar Aliyev the national leader of Azerbaijan contributed for the people of Azerbaijan. In 1990s, when Azerbaijan was in havoc, Heydar proved that the situation can be changed through economic development and social reforms. The current leadership of Azerbaijan is following the footsteps of Heydar as Azerbaijan was facing multiple territorial issues. The national leader played a vital role to address these issues and turn Azerbaijan into a vibrant, developed and prosperous country.

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Detailed disinfection policy on the anvil

Asad Umar underlined the need for providing access to the website to the provincial health authorities to ensure regular updating of data regarding the availability of beds and ventilators in all the hospitals

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) was informed on Sunday that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination would devise a comprehensive disinfection policy to ensure sanitization of places at rational basis. "In a meeting with the health ministers of all the provinces, we have agreed on five things that include systematic investigation of COVID patients' deaths, zero prevalence study of

the virus, post-quarantine policy, guideline for disinfection and resource management in hospitals," Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Zafar Mirza told the NCOC. The NCOC, which met here with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, was also attended by NCOC National Coordinator Lt Gen Hamood Uz Zaman, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security

Moeed Yusuf and others. Dr Zafar Mirza said that it was agreed that regarding the disinfection of the areas detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) need to be issued. "We need to be more systematic while investigating deaths of the COVID-19 patients," he said, adding that a uniform approach for the provinces had been informed about the system built by the National Information Technology Board (NITB) to indicate availability of vents and bed occupancy in the country's hospitals.

PAF pays tribute to mothers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the world celebrates Mothers' Day today, the Airwomen of Pakistan Air Force also pay tribute to the most loving creation of the world. In this regard, Directorate of Media Affairs, Pakistan Air Force has produced a short promo to extol all mothers who selflessly contribute towards the upbringing of future generations. The promo, especially highlights the self sacrificing services of the mothers belonging to the medical profession and is a sincere acknowledgement of their frontline role in the fight against Covid-19 in the country. It is worth mentioning that women are also serving shoulder to shoulder with men in all branches of Pakistan Air Force.

COVID-19 testing must for delivery boys

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has made testing of the novel coronavirus compulsory for all restaurant employees delivering food across the capital. According to a notification, only those employees who test negative for the deadly virus will be allowed to deliver or prepare delivery items.

China's Hubei sends experts to Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: China's Hubei province has sent a team of medical experts and medical supplies to Pakistan to provide medical assistance amid COVID-19 pandemic. The medical team comprising two doctors and four nurses and led by He Wenke, the Deputy Chief Physician from the Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine of China's Yichang No.1 Hospital also took 250 kilograms of medical supplies with them.

All of the six members of the team have been fighting on the front line against COVID-19 before. He Wenke said that the team will spare no effort to provide anti-epidemic medical services and work together with the Pakistani friends to overcome difficulties in wake of COVID-19. It may be mentioned that the medical personnel was sent at the invitation of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) to provide medical support amid COVID-19 for the Pakistani and Chinese staff working for the Karot Hydropower Project.

Workforce related to the project includes 3,500 Pakistanis and some 500 Chinese. As the project reaches a crucial point in process while COVID-19 is still on rise in Pakistan, the arrival of China's experienced medics is of great significance. Planned on Jhelum River, the Karot Hydropower Project, one of important investment projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an under construction run-of-river concrete-core rockfill gravity dam in Pakistan, with a planned installed capacity of 720 MW.

SAARC countries laud NAB: Javed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: It is an honor for Pakistan that Country's apex Anti-Corruption Organization, NAB is role model not only for Pakistan but also for entire SAARC countries as NAB had been unanimously elected as Chairman of SAARC Anti Corruption Forum which is great achievement of Pakistan due to NAB's efforts. The performance of NAB has been lauded by SAARC countries including India. Owing to outstanding performance of NAB, reputed national and international organizations like Transparency International Pakistan, World Economic Forum, PILDAT and Mishal



Pakistan have also appreciated NAB's performance. According to survey of Gilani and Gallop Pakistan 59 people of Pakistan shown confidence upon NAB. Pakistan is the only country to whom China has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for eradication of corruption. Pakistan and China are now jointly working for ensuring transparency in China Pakistan economic coordination CPEC projects.

29,465 virus cases in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The nationwide tally of Coronavirus has soared to 29,465 with 1,991 new cases reported during the last twenty four hours. 11,093 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 10,771 in Sindh, 4,509 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,935 in Balochistan, 430 in Gilgit Baltistan, 641 in Islamabad and 86 in Azad Kashmir. 8,023 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 639 with 21 new deaths reported during the last twenty four hours.

Uzbek President announces steps to support export activities

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan was instructed to allocate, based on reasonable estimates, the funds necessary for the expenses of the Agency for the Export Promotion Agency from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the decree "On measures to further support to export activities". According to the document, businesses delivering export products by railroad and car will receive up to 50 percent subsidies for compensation.

The decree also adopts the list of products applicable for partial reimbursement for transportation by road, railway and air. Eggs, poultry and its products, fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, medication, household appliances, sewing and knitwear, shoes and much more are featured in the list. Businesses won't be verified for debts for all types of obligatory



payments and executive documents enforced toward individuals and legal entities during customs clearance of goods until January 1, 2021, while crossing the border of Uzbekistan on exporting purposes. Export Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan will provide compensation for reimbursement of the

insurance premium when exporters use insurance services as bail. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan was instructed to allocate, based on reasonable estimates, the funds necessary for the expenses of the Agency for the Export Promotion Agency from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020; starting from 2021 to consider funds on annual basis.

Pak 20th most affected country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan climbed to the 20th spot on the global coronavirus ranking on Sunday after the nationwide tally of COVID-19 patients crossed 30,000 after Sindh reported 709 new cases. According to the coronavirus tracker by John Hopkins University, the country is now ranked 27th with 648 deaths. Earlier today, the national dashboard in its daily update had stated that 1,991 cases were detected in the country in the last 24 hours taking the national tally to 29,465. — DNA

Briefs

'Low insurance price dangerous'

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Leading insurance expert Tariq Hussain in a discussion organised by FPCCI said that following the coronavirus losses the economy will pay the price for low insurance penetration.

He blamed a lack of awareness and over regulation behind sluggish growth of the insurance sector therefore liberal investment environment should be introduced.

Speaking at a panel discussion on video link organised by FPCCI, the keynote speaker Tariq Hussain said that insurance has not picked up in developing countries due to many reasons but Pakistan is far behind in it as compared to neighbouring countries.

The primary purpose of insurance is to alleviate losses after a catastrophe, pandemic unforeseen event and help people financially to get back on their feet but here it is considered against the religion therefore Islamic insurance industry should play its role, he said.

Martyred Lance Naik Khizar laid to rest

DNA

ATTOCK: Lance Naik Khizar Hayat who embraced martyrdom in Baluchistan, has been laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in village Bandalkhel (Dhok Ghazikhel) of Tehsil Jand District Attock with full military honour.

Martyred Lance Naik Khizar Hayat was serving in 126 Wing of Makran Scouts where during routine patrolling of the area, embraced martyrdom along with other five army personnel including a Major on Friday.

A smartly dressed contingent of Artillery Center Attock presented general salute to the martyr, laid floral wreath and hoisted national flag on his grave. The martyr soldier is survived by two widows and a minor son. A large number of people of the area attended funeral prayer.



ISLAMABAD: High Commission of Sri Lanka illuminated on the occasion of Vesak. - DNA

Inclusive strategies needed to reach out to daily wagers

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians and civil society representatives while participating in a virtual conference urged the government to urgently develop an integrated mechanism engaging different stakeholders and active civil society organizations to reach out to variety of daily workers and freelancers. Daily bread-earners are not only poor and marginalized communities and laborers, but they include teachers and other semi-skilled and skilled persons too. They are suffering from the crisis but being neglected due to inefficient approach adopted by the federal and provincial governments.

Easing lockdown at the moment

when the infection is spiking up, the miseries would multiply. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the virtual conference on Saturday on the topic 'Covid-19: Reaching out to daily wagers and freelancers - Challenges and Strategies'. The distinguished panel included Senator Lt General (Retd) Abdul Qayyum, Senator Musadik Malik, Senator Sitara Ayaz and Zafarullah Khan, social scientist and former director general of the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). Others who participated in the virtual conference included Dr Amena Hassan, TS Bhutta, Tahir Hanfi, Yousaf Ali, Shaaref Munir and Riffat Ara Baig. Host of the virtual conference and Devcom-Pakistan Director Mu-

nir Ahmed introduced the topic. Senator Musadik Malik said: first two weeks of lockdown were very effective but afterwards government could not maintain it. It has proven to be fatal as we have seen spike in the curve of infected population. Total confusion and chaos was observed in handling the crisis, and the government despite having all the resources could not manage it as required. First two weeks of lockdown showed that government could have done it for four to six weeks to flatten the curve of coronavirus infections. Secondly, due to inefficient approach and having no adequate system, federal government could only reach out to fraction of poor communities while the daily wagers and freelancers re-

mained untouched. While having its own funds, and grants from different international sources and philanthropists, federal government could have reached to all estimated 50-60 million people if the right mechanisms were adopted. Senator Lt General (Retd) Abdul Qayyum was the view that neither federal government could impose strict lockdown nor successfully implemented its own SOPs except locking its horns with the provinces. Sindh has been on its own policy that was partially failure because of the federal government's confusing statements. Senator Sitara Ayaz said Awami National Party (ANP) said we don't see any government plans to reaching out to daily wagers and professional freelancers

except to open the markets to push them to the hell of crisis. Zafarullah Khan said first of all the federal government should switch over from charity model to clarity model by getting out of the confusion to handle the crisis. A sum of 12000 was distributed to poor families without knowing the size of the family. A three-member family got what a 10-member family. So there is a deficit of definition too then how the government would do the justice. BISP surveys and NADRA databases have clear identification of social and financial strata of the society, and the utility bills also reflect the segregated income groups. This data should have the main source of financial support and facilitation instead of inventing the wheel.

Emirates' special flights to repatriate Pakistanis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Emirates operates special flights to repatriate Pakistani nationals from the UAE. These special flights to Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar facilitated travel for residents and visitors wishing to return home. Flight EK612 carrying passengers from Dubai International airport arrived in Islamabad at 1630 hours on 07 May, and EK608 arrived in Karachi later on 07 May at 1810 hours. The last one of these three special services is flight EK636, which will be operated from Dubai to Peshawar on 10 May, landing at 1510 hours local time. On the return routes, the airline operated cargo-only flights to Dubai. Mohammad Sarhan, Emirates' Vice President Pakistan said: "These are difficult times for everyone, and we understand how stressful it must be for those Pakistanis who are away from home, and in some cases, are stranded because of the COVID-19 travel restrictions. We are committed to Pakistan, and we are fully cooperating with the authorities in repatriating Pakistanis at the earliest. We are taking all necessary actions and precautions to fly Pakistani nationals back home safely, comfortably and in the best way possible."

AIOU launches academic of administrative sciences

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has launched an academic program of MSc-level to promote administrative sciences. According to Faculty of Social Sciences, the program has been offered for semester, spring 2020. Last date for enrollment in this specialized program is June 5. Interested people are encouraged to apply for the admission through Online.

The program has been designed according to the market needs and demands of the relevant stakeholders. It aimed at developing administrative skills and a mature sense of leadership, a high level of personal and professional ethics and an understanding and comprehension of major elements of the social and political environment. The admission entry requirement in this program is at least 2nd Division (45% marks) in bachelor

14 years of education or equivalent degree from any HEC recognized university/institution. The program has been being offered through tutorial system of AIOU under Distance Learning Mode. There will be 14 tutorials (non-mandatory) and compulsory workshops per course each semester as per AIOU rules and regulations. The relevant department will arrange online classes with blended mode as and where required.

NDRMF audit demanded

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) has requested the Auditor General of Pakistan to hold special performance audit of National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) for enhancing its capacity and transparency. Secretary MoCC Naheed Shah Durra had written the letter on the directives of the Prime Minister mentioning that the NDRMF was a not-for-profit company incorporated with the SECP, under Section 42 of Companies Act 2017. - APP

Slum COVID-19 response Programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam would inaugurate on Monday Pakistan's first Urban Slum COVID-19 Response Programme in collaboration with the UN Habitat. Other collaborating partners for the initiative "Pakistan Covid-19 Urban Slums Response Programme (PCUSRP)," included Shehersaaz, Na-

tional Cleaner Production Center (NCPC), Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT), Aman and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company, a news release said. The decision regarding launch of the a novel initiative, which aimed to respond to growing vulnerabilities of the urban settlements to COVID-19, was made during a meeting held in the Ministry of Climate Change, chaired by Malik Amin Aslam.

CDA resumes work at G 7 underpass

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has resumed work on under construction G-7/G-8 under pass at Faisal Avenue. Work on the project for construction of overhead pedestrian bridge at Constitution Avenue few days back as well during smart lock down. In this regard the Authority has issued Instructions for coordination with Islamabad Traffic Police for implementation of traffic diversion plan devised for ensuring smooth

traffic flow on both sides of the Faisal Avenue. Similarly the Authority has issued instructions to properly cordon off the construction area to avoid any unwanted incident. Construction of underpass at Faisal Avenue is a long awaited public welfare project, which was direly needed to cater for the traffic issues faced by the commuters. On the completion, the project will not only improve the flow of traffic on Faisal Avenue, but will also provide the swift access to the residents of Sector G-7 and G-8. CDA has requested to general public for better cooperation with the Authority and use alternate routes to reach their destinations during the construction on the Sector G-7 / G-8 Faisal Avenue underpass.



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Ceasefire violations

AS a result of action by Indian security forces, tension has been growing along the Line of Control and international border which divides Kashmir. There has been a marked escalation in firing by India across the LoC over the past six or seven days, according to the Pakistan Foreign Office. The Indian side has accused Pakistan of responsibility for the attacks using heavy artillery and guns. The Foreign Office said on Friday in Islamabad that it had summoned a senior Indian diplomat to protest the ceasefire violations. According to the FO, in 2020 India has so far committed 989 such violations. Recently, six civilians were seriously injured due to unprovoked Indian firing across the LoC in the Neza Pir and Rakchikri sectors, including at least three children and their mother. The tensions over the issue of attacks targeting villages across the LoC has continued throughout the year and shows no signs of simmering down. Pakistan has called on the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to ensure New Delhi respects the 2003 ceasefire and to investigate the various incidents of violations of this agreement. New Delhi has for the most part remained unrepentant over the attacks, accusing Pakistan of initiating them. It has also not responded to demands from leaders in Indian-held Kashmir that efforts be made to protect the people of Kashmir from the coronavirus pandemic and has continued to report Pakistani action across the LoC, notably since the Pakistan army shot down a second Indian quadcopter spying along the LoC in April this year. Reports in the Indian media have stated that Pakistani militant forces have been active along the LoC and have played a part in inciting violence. The mainstream India media has continued to back the narrative from New Delhi without questioning its logic. There is no evidence that the aggressive, hostile approach adopted by New Delhi since the Modi government came to power in 2014 is changing in any way. Indeed, the arrogance from India and its refusal to follow the international agreements it has signed agreeing to a ceasefire have been ignored with greater and greater impunity. The consequence is that villagers living close to the LoC are facing an increasingly dangerous situation, with panic growing among them. There does not seem to be any attempt to solve the problem. It is unlikely that this will happen unless the international community steps in and takes India to task for endangering lives and breaking agreements. There has already been far too much suffering in Kashmir. The people deserve a break from it as they attempt to deal with the oppression already being faced in Indian-held Kashmir as well as additional issues such as those posed by Covid-19 and the shutdown that continues in Kashmir even after almost nine months.

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Remember the FATF

DUE to the corona crisis, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has postponed its June-2020 plenary meeting, giving Pakistan some relief. But it should not prompt us into a gloating mode, as still there will be an evaluation of Pakistan's progress on the 27-point action plan in Beijing in the last week of June, 2020. Though it will not be a plenary, there will be a joint working group meeting of the Eurasian Group and the FATF to discuss the issues. Regarding Pakistan, the main focus will be the country's performance to meet international commitments and standards in the fight against money laundering and terror financing. It is worth recalling that the Paris-based global watchdog against financial crimes had met in its last plenary in February this year and gave Pakistan a four-month grace period to complete its remaining obligations per the 27-point action plan against money laundering a terror financing. The international community has been concerned at the slow pace of progress which resulted in the delivery of just 14 points whereas we missed 13 targets again, even after repeated allowances given to us. Pakistan must take this coming assessment next month pretty seriously and not expect to rely on any excuses for its failure to meet the targets. Pakistan needed a broad-based strategy to complete its outstanding commitment with the FATF, and to some extent it did manage to put in place a framework, but sadly that was not enough to demonstrate full commitment and convince the world community to remove it from the grey list. We must be able to show that we are actively making progress in all directions per the FATF directives. Since we have exhausted all deadlines to complete the 27-point action plan, and still we could manage only 14 items, we must be fairly concerned now to accomplish the remaining targets. We need to swiftly complete the full action plan by June 2020, if we are serious about avoiding the much dreaded blacklist. The blacklist means we would move to the list of monitored jurisdiction, which is an ignominious slide by all counts. One of the demands by the FATF is showing significant and sustainable progress in penalizing and prosecuting terror financing. As India is keen to show that any happenings in Indian-held Kashmir fall under the category of terrorism supported by Pakistan, there is more urgency for us to counter such efforts. If we fail to show substantial progress yet again, the FATF may call its members and urge all jurisdiction to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan. We must make all efforts to avoid that outcome.

UAE's medical innovations & humanitarian diplomacy

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



The World Health Organization (WHO) has appreciated UAE's diversified but integrated efforts to control, contain and cure the COVID-19 in its country. It has rated its national health system is the best in the region. The World Bank has certified its meaningful economic policies towards its business community and especially SMEs

HUMANITARIAN assistance is one of the salient features of the UAE foreign policy. The UAE model of "human philanthropy" is not based on exchange of goods or services. It is totally deviated from the "warm glow" theory and "perfect altruism". It is derived from true spirits of humanity, international cooperation, coordination and collaboration. It carries out numerous humanitarian assistance programs around the globe. UAE's charities can nurture local economic growth as well as social capital. It is indeed a pioneer country of "economics of charity" in the GCC, MENA and beyond.

People and communities are struggling against widespread of covid-19. Global economies have now been subsumed. Societies have been decomposed. Political systems have been decaying because of infectious chemistry of COVID-19. Even so called good governance models/modules have been under severe criticism around the world. Humanity has now become easy prey of this deadly invisible virus which has a vicious life cycle. In this global doom and gloom UAE has now emerged as a beacon of hope for the regional people and international community alike. Most recently, the UAE has succeeded to develop an aerosol medication that has shown promising results in the treatment of Covid-19. It has developed an innovative and promising treatment for COVID-19 infection using stem cells which could be a game-changer in the global fight against the virus. It was researched and developed by a team of doctors and researchers at Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Centre which was clinically administered to 73 coronavirus (COVID-19) patients who have each gone on to recover. UAE's Ministry of Economy said it had granted a patent to the centre to develop the treatment using stem cells. It involves extracting stem cells from the patient's blood and reintroducing them after activating them. The patent was granted for the method in which the stem cells are collected. Subsequently, it has been nebulised into a fine mist, the treatment is inhaled into the lungs of a patient. According to participatory researchers it has a "therapeutic" effect caused by regeneration of lung cells. It is also thought to modulate the immune response to keep it from overreacting to the Covid-19 infection and causing further damage to healthy cells. Moreover, the treatment has successfully undergone the initial phase of clinical trials, demonstrating its safety. Fortunately, none of the patients who were treated with the mist reported immediate adverse effects. Moreover, trials to demonstrate the efficacy of the treatment are now ongoing and expected to be completed in a couple of weeks. Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Centre is a specialist healthcare centre that focuses on cell therapy, regenerative medicine and cutting-edge research. On its part, the UAE's leaders thanked the team of doctors who developed the said treatment. President Sheikh Khalifa, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said the doctors' efforts will add to the global efforts to fight the pandemic. They further reaffirmed that UAE would continue to take proactive measures to ensure safety of its citizens, residents and visitors. Special tribute was also paid to front-line healthcare professionals, including nurses, doctors, and paramedics. The World Health Organization (WHO) has appreciated UAE's diversified but integrated efforts to control, contain and cure the COVID-19 in its country. It has rated its national health system is the best in the region. The World Bank has certified its meaningful economic policies towards its business community and especially SMEs. The IMF has now praised its fiscal and monetary policy measures to minimize the spillover repercussions effects on its national economy and associate sectors. Many international studies and publications have termed its national health system more effective than the USA. According to UAE official statistical data (May 1, 2020), it has provided more than 320 metric tons of aid to over 30 countries, supporting nearly 320,000 medical professionals in the process. The United Arab Emirates has already sent three medical consignments containing more than 35 metric tons of medical and food supplies to Pakistan which will bolster the country's efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. It will assist approximately 7,000 medical professionals as they work to contain the virus. UAE government sent multi-dimensional humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan not confined to medical masks, life saving drugs, testing kits, food items and ventilators. It dispatched variety of medical assistance in shape of medical masks, medicines, food items and life saving drugs to China. It sent approximately 33 metric tons of medical supplies to Ethiopia to assist approximately 33,000 healthcare professionals. Indonesia receives \$765,000 worth of medical supplies from the UAE. A chartered Etihad Airlines plane carried the 20-ton supplies that include 100,000 units of personal protective equipment, 500,000 pairs of medical gloves, 50,000 surgical masks and respirators and 20,000 hand sanitizers, among other things. His Excellency Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, said: "As part of the bilateral cooperation that has underpinned the brotherly relations between our two countries for decades, the UAE is proud to extend assistance to Pakistan in furtherance of global solidarity in the fight against COVID-19." Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi

while speaking to his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan thanked him for his country's support in battling COVID-19. According to the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) its total foreign aid contributions in 2018 exceeded AED 28.5 billion (USD 7.79 billion) to 42 countries. It reflected the UAE's continued success in exceeding the 0.7 percent United Nations target for the sixth consecutive year by providing 0.93 percent of Official Development Assistance as a proportion of Gross National Income in 2018, qualifying the UAE as one of the world's largest donors in terms of ODA/GNI. Commitments made by the UAE in 2018 to global development and humanitarian assistance in numerous countries, including 14 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reached AED 10.33 billion (USD 2.81 billion). These programs include emergency health, transportation, education, power generation, medical, and food aid offerings, among others. The said report also details how from 2014 until 2018, the UAE supported details in Africa with aid reaching AED 61.80 billion (USD 16.83 billion). UAE support to Asia reached AED 48.04 billion (USD 13.08 billion) in that same period. United Arab Emirates (UAE) miraculous socio-economic development has transformed it into a befitting proposition in terms of doing business, making investment, launching joint ventures, tourism and last but not least re-exports. Strategic vision of its successive leadership has successfully turned sands into artificial intelligence hubs. Their love and compassions of humanity has established the best national health system in the GCC & MENA. UAE has now even surpassed the USA in its national drive of combating COVID-19. Moreover, its recent scientific discovery of stem cell treatment (aerosol medication) has uplifted the depressing souls of international communities. Its relentless efforts of international campaigns relating to humanitarian assistance have won unlimited hearts and souls of dying people around the globe. Being prominent regional expert of UAE & GCC I conclude that its continued annual foreign aid contributions are now trying to create new world of hope, happiness, harmony, comfort, cooperation, coordination and reshaping the spheres of geopolitics and geo-economy by strengthening persuasions of peace and justice, economic growth, and poverty elimination initiatives.

Democracy and the pandemic: an overview

Fahd Humayun

A decade on, while we rightly can and should debate the imperfections of the 18th Amendment, we cannot deny the validation of that vision in a system where power is all too frequently centralized or usurped only to be exercised by fiat. Despite being resource-poor, with fiscal constraints and an inadequate public healthcare system, the response to the pandemic has shown that barring a few (major) missteps, federalism in Pakistan, has largely worked. While the Center was slow to spearhead a whole-of-country response to the pandemic, decision-making autonomy allowed provincial governments, led by Sindh, to innovate in the face of the virus

PAKISTAN still has a long way to go in the fight against Covid-19, with almost 20,000 confirmed cases, and doctors and hospitals facing a harrowing shortage of testing kits and PPEs. The downstream consequences of the pandemic now include the inevitability of an economic contraction. Data from the Ministry of Health suggests that over 150,000 citizens will be infected with the virus by the end of May. But instead of focusing political energies on ramping up testing and critical care capacity, a few observers have begun attributing the country's unpreparedness and structural path-dependencies to Pakistan's federal arrangement. Scapegoating the ideals of a federal republic, as envisioned by the 1973 Constitution, or threatening the rollback of provincial autonomy, is an all-too-familiar decoy in moments of fiscal or administrative crisis. As with the debate between lives and livelihoods, the choice of stronger federating units on the one hand and enhanced governance and disaster preparedness on the other is not only a forced one, but also a false one. The health of any participatory democracy hinges on the broadest possible distribution of power and, in Pakistan's case, employing constitutional forums to resolve inter-provincial disagreements, including on the allocation of resources. If the consensual passage of the 18th Amendment in 2010 marked a watershed in the structural reform of the Pakistani state, it did so because it recognized that efforts to manage democratic sustainability, diversity and political grievance depended on crossing party lines to re-envision the relationship between the Centre and the provinces and improve governance standards. A decade on, while we rightly can and should debate the imperfections of the 18th Amendment, we cannot deny the validation of that vision in a system where power is all too frequently centralized or usurped only to be exercised by fiat. Despite being resource-poor, with fiscal

constraints and an inadequate public healthcare system, the response to the pandemic has shown that barring a few (major) missteps, federalism in Pakistan, has largely worked. While the Center was slow to spearhead a whole-of-country response to the pandemic, decision-making autonomy allowed provincial governments, led by Sindh, to innovate in the face of the virus. Provincial governments were able to announce significant re-allocations of their existing budgets towards emergency response. This saved lives (how many, we may never know) and meant that early disagreements on the scale of the problem were not a kill switch for provinces to implement their own formulas for social distancing, mass testing and quarantining. It also meant that provincial leaders could provide templates for each other to emulate, eventually throwing down the gauntlet for the Centre. While democracies around the world have varied widely in their ability to cope with the pandemic, the one takeaway that stands out across the world is that local governments are better placed to understand the needs of affected communities and better equipped to service those needs when backed by revenue streams that do not run dry. This is an important lesson and one that should be benchmarked because once the pandemic ends, both the Center and the provinces must face the reality that greater devolution and fiscal discretion for local governments will be imperative if representation and decision-making are to impact at the country's grass roots and improve the lives of ordinary Pakistanis. Empowering local governments also serves an expanded redistributive umbrella. Since March, Pakistan has overseen payments to over 600,000 female heads of households under the Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) programme. Eventually 18 million families, a third of Pakistan's population, are expected to receive relief in the largest emergency cash transfer undertaken in the

country's history. This deepening of the social contract is another opportunity for democratic consolidation. The Ehsaas program is basically a re-branding of the country's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) (the work and legacy of which has lasted three governments) and thus can be seen as a bellwether of policy continuity in a landscape otherwise marked by fragmented policy agendas. For welfare policies to be sustainable during post pandemic reconstruction, they will have to be backed by an expanded tax base and scaled up administrative capacities at the local government level. This will require provinces becoming less centrist too, and evolving governance frameworks beyond patronage-based mechanisms so that people feel they belong in the polity they live in, regardless of partisanship. The Center's inability thus far to govern Pakistan effectively during the crisis includes its stonewalling of the provinces and of consensus-building. This is a failure of leadership and should not be confused with a failure of federalism. While we contend with the growing medical and subsistence crisis unfolding on our doorstep, it is clear that the pandemic's second-order effects vis-à-vis demands for accountability, legitimacy and effective governance will definitively shape the format of the country's democratic politics in the months to come. With Pakistan's urban population growing at the fastest rate in decades, and along heterogeneous dimensions, achieving multilevel democratic governance is going to be vital for public trust in the country's political institutions once the Pandemic is over. Devolution may not be an unalloyed good; but when correctly implemented and supported from the Center, it can dramatically make governance structures more efficient and responsive to local needs. For Pakistanis who have worked hard to build a democracy that is inclusive and representative, recognizing these links will be essential to nurturing long-term democratic gains.

Briefs

'Indian agencies hatching plot'

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, said here on Sunday that the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Indian occupation forces and intelligence agencies are hatching a plot against Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, taking advantage of the world's focus on COVID-19 and diversion of attention from the ongoing genocide in Kashmir the occupation authorities have intensified killing of Kashmiri youth and escalated the situation along the Line of Control. In the past month, they have killed more than forty young men in IOJK in staged encounters, he said. "These are all extrajudicial killings and crimes against humanity", said Masood Khan. The occupation authorities did not expect two reactions to their murderous campaign in the occupied territory. First, the Kashmiris, despite being under a nine month old siege and COVID-19 lockdown came out in large numbers to openly protest against Indian repression and scorched earth policy. "The uprising is reminiscent of the mass protests and boycotts by Kashmiris after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani in 2016", he said.

Infections rise anew in Iran

TEHRAN: While many residents in Iran's capital are taking advantage of loosened COVID-19 controls, some worry about a new spike in infections in what remains the Middle East's deadliest virus epicentre. "The line of fools," muttered shopkeeper Manouchehr, peering disdainfully at a queue of customers outside a foreign currency dealer in the Sadeghieh district of western Tehran. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan and embassy staff laying flowers at statue of national leader Heydar Aliyev. - DNA

Aid from China manifests its peaceful national character

DNA

BEIJING: "We have received critical medical supplies worth millions of RMBs from Chinese donors including major SOEs, entrepreneurs engaged in several projects in Pakistan, provincial governments of China and also from private individuals. These donations have reinforced Pakistan's efforts to combat COVID-19 pandemic and helped us contain and curb this disease," Ambassador of Pakistan to China Naghmana Hashmi said here in an interview with China Economic Net. Hashmi highlighted, "I must appreciate our donors for providing us with the abundant supply of urgently needed medical provisions.

Their magnanimity and concern for health and safety of fellow human beings is not only a manifestation of their humane character but also offers an insight into peaceful and benevolent traits of Chinese civilization." China was the first country to face the brunt of COVID-19 pandemic and the only country in the world to have comprehensively curbed the disease. After its remarkable success in people's war against the pandemic, China is now playing a commendable role by leading the international community in global efforts against COVID-19. "As iron-brothers, all-weather strategic partners and most reliable friends, Pakistan looked forward to China in its fight against the CPVID-19 pandemic.



The Chinese public, state institutions and leading entrepreneurs have made generous donations of an overwhelming number of critical supplies and medical equipment to the Mission," ambassador Hashmi said, adding that China's assistance to Pakistan at this critical juncture has again proved that Pakistan and China are strategic partners, and such bilateral ties remain unaffected by myriad

challenges and continue to grow from strength to strength. In order to manage the continuous supply of donations being received on daily basis and its shipment to Pakistan, the embassy constituted a team of four Embassy officers under the guidance of ambassador Hashmi to liaise with the donors and assist them in every way possible. "We also made elaborate logistical arrangements including spacious ware house, cargo handling and customs clearing facilities which were necessary for a swift and smooth processing of donations till the final shipment. Some of the equipment like testing kits were temperature-sensitive and they had to be kept under specific temperature conditions for which

we made appropriate arrangements," Hashmi added. Responding to the adversities posed by COVID-19, Pakistan has mobilized its institutional, capital and human resources for coordinated efforts for disease prevention and control. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government is at the forefront to fight the epidemic. Talking about challenges the embassy met in coordinating donations to Pakistan, the ambassador said when China was still grappling with COVID-19 and many cities were sealed, their ability of physical movement was greatly impeded, and the situation was further aggravated by suspension of normal air linkages.

NDMA supplies PPE for doctors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NDMA has started supplying fifth consignment of personal protective equipment for doctors to provinces. According to spokesperson for NDMA, protective equipment has been dispatched to four hospitals of Balochistan. The equipment dispatched to Balochistan today includes three PCR testing machines, twenty thousand testing kits, twenty thousand surgical masks, six thousand D-95 and ten thousand KN-95 masks, fourteen thousand protective suits, six thousand pairs of gloves and five hundred gowns. The spokesperson said the equipment of fifth consignment is being dispatched to other federating units as well.

Uzbekistan commemorates Day of Remembrance

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan is commemorated as a Day of Remembrance and Homage, the 75th Anniversary of the Great Victory over fascism. The people of Uzbekistan has made a huge contribution to the common victory over fascism. Out of 6.5 million people who lived in

Uzbekistan back then, 1.5 million people joined the battle. 420 thousand lost their lives; 640 thousand sustained varying degrees of injuries. The Republic formed 15 divisions and brigades. 120 thousand Uzbekistani were awarded orders and medals for fortitude and courage demonstrated at times of war. 338 received "Hero" title, 53 became

the holders of the Order of Glory. Uzbekistan maintained a robust work to adjust the national economy for war conditions, mobilized labor and economic resources for the needs of the battle. For the time of war, more than 200 large industrial enterprises produced weapons and military equipment. Additionally, another 100 industrial enterprises

were evacuated and put into service in the country. Uzbekistan's industry supplied the battle with 2,100 planes, 17,342 aircraft engines, 17,100 mortars, 22 million mines, 560 thousand ordnances, more than 2 million air bombs, around 1 million grenades, 330 thousand parachutes, 5 armored trains, 18 military-sanitary trains and other necessary products.

'Trump's handling of pandemic disaster'

WASHINGTON: Former president Barack Obama has launched a scathing attack on Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, calling it an "absolute chaotic disaster." In a leaked web call Friday night with former members of his administration, Obama also said the Justice Department's decision to drop charges against Michael Flynn, the former Trump national security adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia probe, endangers the rule of law in the US. In the audio, first obtained by Yahoo News, Obama urges former staffers to join him in rallying behind Joe Biden as he prepares to take on Trump in the November presidential election. The United States by far leads the world in the number of coronavirus infections, at nearly 1.3 million, and deaths, with more than 77,000.

NHA revenue up by 73%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Murad Saeed has said the revenue of NHA has increased by seventy three percent during the tenure of PTI government. In a statement on Sunday, he said the authority has completed the first phase of geographic information system survey.

Kyrgyzstan celebrates 75th anniversary of the victory in Great Patriotic War

KYRGYZSTAN, being one of the 15 republics of the USSR, contributed to the defeat of the most strong and ruthless enemy and saving the world from inhuman Nazis' regime. More than 360 thousand of our compatriots or every fourth in the country fought at the war frontline and more than 100 thousand of them embraced shahadat. They covered themselves with unfading glory. For the stamina, courage, heroism and courage shown in the battles against the fascist yoke, more than 150 thousand soldiers and commanders were awarded orders and medals. 22 Kyrgyz citizens became full holders of the Order of Glory and 73 awarded the highest rank of Hero of the Soviet Union. 30 thousand Kyrgyzstanis were sent to the military industrial enterprises outside republic. The legendary 316 rifle division under command of major-general I.V.Panfilov, formed in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, heroically defended Moscow in November 1941 and prevented fascists from entering the capital of the USSR from their position. The commander of the German 4th tank group colonel-general Erich Gepner in his report to field marshal von Bock characterized the opposing him soviet fighters as 'Wild division, which fights in violation of all military charters and rules of combat and its soldiers not surrendering, extremely fanatical and not fearing to die'. Due to heavy

two months fighting this division, which initially had 11 thousand personnel, lost 3620 of soldiers and commanders - killed, captured or disappeared without trace, including death of its commander major-general I.V.Panfilov, and 6300 were injured. Later this military unit was renamed as 8th guards rifle division named after the Hero of the Soviet Union I.V.Panfilov. Other military units - 4th, 40th, 153rd rifle brigades, 385th rifle division and others, formed in Kyrgyzstan, participated in liberation from fascists of Russia, Belarus, Poland and other European countries. Many Kyrgyz compatriots fought with enemy not sparing their life and their names are inscribed in gold letters in the annals of the Great Patriotic War. Here are some stories from the war. On August 6, 1942 in Voronezh oblast of Russia an immortal feat was conducted by young Kyrgyz soldier Cholponbai Tuleberdiyev, who being injured closed by his own body the loophole of the machine-gun bunker and prevented it from firing for a short time, which allowed to his comrades to destroy that enemies position. Pilot junior lieutenant Ismailbek Taranchiev crashed his plane, which was hit

by anti-aircraft fire, into a concentration of German tanks in Estonia in March 1944. On June 25, 1944 in Belarus, machine-gunner corporal Jumash Ananaliyev substituted heavily injured commander of the machine-gun unit and after loss of all others from his regiment, continued to fight alone. When his ammunition finished, he used hand grenades and encircled by fascists exploded himself and enemy with last grenade not willing to surrender. All of them were awarded posthumously the highest military rank of Hero of the Soviet Union. After start of the war Kyrgyzstan hosted many refugees arriving from western part of the Soviet Union. Only in 1941 62 thousand people and 24 orphanages with 1,5 thousand children from

Ukraine and Russia, came to our country. The following years the number of refugees arriving to Kyrgyzstan reached more than 300 thousand of women, children and elderly people. At the same time many military training institutions were dislocated to Kyrgyzstan, including aviation school for preparing pilots of the fighter planes, military-naval school, military-engineering academy, infantry school as well as 25 evacuation hospitals, which saved the lives of thousands of injured military Personnel. During the Great Patriotic War more than 30 industrial enterprises were evacuated to Kyrgyzstan from temporarily occupied regions of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, which in short time started to work providing Soviet army with necessary products. At the same time, 38 new industrial enterprises were established. In spite of difficulties and hardships, the Kyrgyz agricultural sector managed to provide for the frontline more grain, cotton, meat

and wool in 1941 than during pre-war 1940. During the war, 74 thousand tons of grain and more than 8 thousand tons of meat were sent to defense fund, as well as 54 thousand horses provided to Soviet Army. Due to absence of men, who went to frontline, all works at the industrial and agricultural sectors of economy of the country laid on the shoulders of women, elderly people and children. 2812 tractor drivers were prepared in 1941 at short term courses, among which 2787 women. Kyrgyzstani people also sent hundreds of railroad wagons with gifts full of hand-made clothes to Soviet troops, transferred more than 140 mln rubles for buying several tank columns, military planes and other equipment. Today, decades after that terrible war, the Victory Day of May 9th remains one of the major national holidays in Kyrgyzstan, when people pay tribute to the heroic exploits of their fathers and grandfathers. It is difficult for many to imagine not only the horrors of what they experienced, but also the incredible unity with which the peoples of the Union republics acted contrary to all the plans of the enemy. But it is precisely because of this - cohesion, sacrifice and the debt given to the Motherland - new generations of Kyrgyzstanis today live in a peaceful and free republic.

