



Daily Islamabad POST

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Humanitarian space
of SCO connected with
names of thinkers**

**Indonesian envoy
all praise for
Pakistan doctors**

**Azerbaijan
artists show
rare solidarity**

HAFEEZ TELLS ECC

Pak says no to commercial loans refinancing

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh while chairing the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here at the Prime Minister's Office said that Pakistan will not go for commercial loans refinancing.

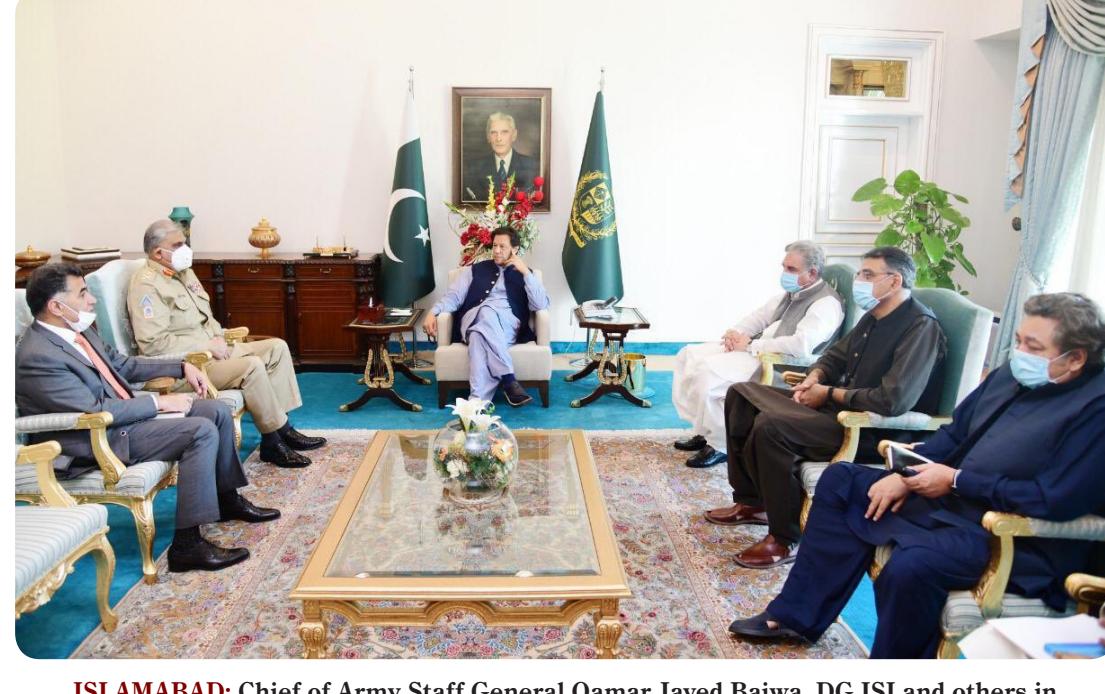
On the recommendations of the Committee formed under the Chairmanship

of Adviser to PM on Institutional Reforms and Austerity and comprising Secretary Finance Division and Secretary Power Division to look into the issues of servicing of power sector loans and stock handling in a holistic manner, ECC allowed allocation of Rs.10 billion from Stimulus Package as a stop gap arrangement for the payment of interest on the Pakistan Energy Sukuk II for a period of six months or amendment in NEPRA

Act whichever is earlier. Subject to the approval of the Cabinet, ECC approved in principle to allow EAD to sign an MOU for availing the G-20 relief initiative. Pakistan is required to enter into this MoU with all official bilateral creditors including Paris Club creditors to implement the debt relief initiative of G-20. Chairman ECC unequivocally informed the forum that Pakistan has no intention of seeking any kind of relief for repayment

of its commercial loans/borrowings. He also informed that Pakistan has the means and will to honor its commercial commitments.

ECC also assigned the role of Chairman, to Mr. Hammad Azhar, being the Federal Minister for Industries and production, of the Committee to oversee the effective utilization of subsidies, Ramazan relief package and PM's relief Package of 50 billion by Utility Stores Corporation.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, DG ISI and others in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

Briefs

Indian troops violate LoC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Indian Army troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation using mortars and automatics in Nikial Sector along LOC deliberately targeting civilian population. Due to indiscriminate fire in Khanni and Ooli villages, three innocent civilians received critical injuries. All injured evacuated and being provided with medical care.

PM Imran stresses Ulama's vital role

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the role of Ulama and religious leaders was vital in raising awareness about adopting safety measures against coronavirus. The Ulama presented several proposals for improving system of regulating mosques and shrines.

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Palestine ends security accords with Israel, US

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday declared an end to the agreements and understandings signed with Israel and the United States and turned over responsibility on the occupied territories back to Israel.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization and the State of Palestine are absolved, as of today, of all the agreements and understandings with the American and Israeli governments and of all the obligations based on these understandings and agreements, including the security ones," Abbas declared at an emergency meeting held in Ramallah, the Palestinian city located in the West Bank. The meeting was held to



discuss Israeli plans to annex parts of the occupied Palestinian land as declared in the new Israeli government's coalition agreement, the embassy of Palestine in Islamabad stated.

President Abbas said the Israeli occupation authority had to shoulder all responsibilities and obligations in front of the international community as an occupying power over the territory of the occupied state of Palestine, "with all its consequences and repercussions based on international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949". The president mentioned

that the Convention held the occupying power responsible for the protection of the civilian population under occupation and their property, criminalized punishment, banned theft of resources, appropriation and annexation of land, banned forced transfer of the population of the occupied territory and also banned transfer of the population of the occupying state (the colonialists) to the land it occupies.

In his speech, President Mahmoud Abbas referred to the provisions of the Israeli government coalition agreement, which stated that "the Prime Minister will be able to bring the agreement that was reached with the United States on applying sovereignty starting on 1 July 2020 to the Cabinet and the Knesset".

UAE can now test virus in seconds

ISLAMABAD: Quant-Lase Imaging Lab, the medical-research arm of the Abu Dhabi Stock Exchange-listed International Holdings Company (IHC), Tuesday announced that it had developed an equipment for faster mass screenings with test results available in seconds of coronavirus suspects. The technology will reinforce the UAE's position as a hub of research and innovation, as scientists around the world scramble to devise a faster method of testing for coronavirus suspected patients.

CPEC pioneers battle corona

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese company, China Railway 19 Bureau Group Mining Investment stated that it has provided necessary infection prevention and control material to its staff at its coal-mining project (Thar-block II) in Tharparkar, Sindh, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. It was noted that during COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan stands one of the worst-hit countries in South Asia.

German spy agency asked to curb intel gathering

The foreign intelligence service violated the constitution by spying on internet data

DNA

BERLIN: Germany's foreign-intelligence agency, which is banned from spying on Germans, now faces strict limits on its overseas activities after the country's constitutional court decided that the protections against arbitrary surveillance Germans enjoy applied to everyone world-wide.

The ruling marked the first time the Constitutional Court clearly stated that the BND must respect fundamental rights accorded by the constitution even when operating abroad.

German intelligence services are already not allowed to monitor the internet traffic of Germans

in such a vast way. The case was brought by journalists and civil society groups who were outraged after the BND was granted sweeping new powers to carry out "strategic telecommunications surveillance" under amended legislation in 2016.

This allowed the BND to tap into internet traffic from non-Germans abroad, often through monitoring the use of keywords, phone numbers or email addresses, and to share this information with other secret services.

One of the plaintiffs, Reporters Without Borders, argued that this allowed the agency to spy on journalists "almost without restrictions".

Indonesian envoy praises doctors' work

The ambassador hoped that things will soon return to normalcy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Iwan S Amri has extended his sincere appreciation for doctors and medical staffs who have been dedicating their services of saving human life in Pakistan during the



testing time of pandemic covid 19. The ambassador in his message thanked the PIA and Pakistan authorities for repatriation of Indonesian citizens who left few days ago through a special flight.

The ambassador hoped that things will soon return to normalcy.

China's biggest meet today

Two sessions will be held under strict measures

DNA

BEIJING: The long annual sessions of China's top legislative and political advisory bodies, the National People's Congress and the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which was delayed by COVID-19 for over two months,

will start on Thursday. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two sessions will be held under strict anti-epidemic measures, including social distancing, and will be significantly shorter and rely more on videoconferences.

The opening of the annual meetings was postponed from the usual date in early March due to the novel

coronavirus outbreak. The two sessions will see around 3,000 legislators gather in Beijing to discuss major laws and regulations as well as discuss and approve several key documents, including the Government Work Report and the national budget, along with more than 2,000 political advisers from the CPPCC.

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Rare show of solidarity by Azerbaijan artists

Singing of Pakistani song Dil Dil Pakistan by Ms. Turan and her family indeed won hearts and minds of Pakistani people

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are getting deeper and deeper with each passing day. The hallmark of these relations is growing interest on both sides to give these ties versatile dimensions.

Cultural cooperation happens to be the cornerstone of these splendid relations. Maintaining cultural connections even during the difficult times of corona pandemic is a clear manifestation of earnest desire especially on the part of the Azerbaijan to protect and preserve these re-

lations. The Azerbaijan embassy spearheaded by Ambassador Ali Alizada has been instrumental in promotion of bilateral

links in all fields. Just recently the Ambassador took an initiative of promoting Pakistani national songs in Azerbaijan with a view to further strengthening friendship and brotherly bonds.

In this connection a wonder family of Azerbaijan, well known for their singing skills performed Pakistani national song Dil Dil Pakistan on Piano. The performance of Ms. Turan

and her family indeed presented a mesmerizing performance and won hearts and minds of Pakistani people. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada in his Tweet said that the wonderful joint performance of the popular Pakistani song "Dil Dil Pakistan" by Ms. Turan Manafadeh and her parents Maestro Islam Manafov, the honored artist of Azerbaijan and Mrs. Shukra Manafova in solidarity with brotherly country Pakistan fighting coronavirus pandemic.

He further said that Ms. Turan is the honored artist of Azerbaijan, composer and one of the few women conductors of the world.



DNA



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Briefs

OGDCL injects nine new wells

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has injected nine new wells, producing 137,230 Barrels crude oil and 5,562 Million Cubic Feet (MMCF) gas, in its production gathering system during three quarters of the current fiscal year.

"As many as nine operated wells have been injected in the production gathering system viz., Qadirpur-14&61, Pasakhi Deep-4&5, Nashpa-9, Chanda-5, Qadirpur Deep X-1, TAY North-1and Uch-17A which cumulatively yielded gross crude oil and gas production of 137,230 barrels and 5,562 MMCF respectively, whereas installation of Electrical Submersible Pump at Pasakhi-5 produced a positive impact of 500 barrels per day," the company said in its third quarterly report for the financial year 2019-20. — APP

CTP launches operation against transporters

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against transporters, overcharging the passengers particularly those who are going to their hometowns to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with their near and dear ones and not following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Syed Ali Akbar, the transporters had been warned to avoid from overcharging and follow SOPs issued by Punjab Government to control spread of Covid-19, otherwise, strict action in accordance with the law would be taken.

The public service vehicles found involved in overcharging, overloading and other severe violations would be issued challan slips and imposed heavy fines.

He said that special squads of city traffic police had been formed that were conducting raids and checking the overcharging. The CTO directed the DSPs traffic, sector in-charges and wardens to perform their role effectively to check the overcharging and implementation of SOPs in public transport. — APP

Pakistan's earns US \$427 million

ISLAMABAD, May 20 (APP):Pakistan earned US \$ 427,024 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first three quarters of the ongoing fiscal year 2019-20.

This shows growth of 33.42 percent as compared to US \$ 320,070 million same services were provided during the corresponding period of fiscal year 2018-19, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said.

During the period under review, the personal travel services grew by 33.42 percent, from US \$ 316,620 million last year to US \$ 422,434 million during July-March (2019-20).

Among these personal services, the exports of personal expenditure and education related expenditure decreased by 60.43 and 32.67 percent respectively.— APP

40 % complaints resolution thru PCP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Citizen Portal (PCP) has been successful in achieving a complaint resolution rate of 40 percent, with redressing matters as grave as abductions, forgery and harassment.

As justice and fair play have remained a primary manifesto of the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Prime Minister's performance Delivery Unit was reorganized in October 2018 to promote citizen centric and participatory governance, said a press release. One of the most significant initiatives taken by PMDU has been the establishment of Pakistan Citizen Portal mobile application.

This portal was a complaint redressal platform which operates through certain standard operating procedures (SOPs). — APP

AIOU declares result of its SSC/HSSC programs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National DiISLAMABAD, May 20: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday declared its SSC/HSSC programs' result on the basis of the students' continuous assessment, in view of the current crisis situation in wake of COVID-19 in the whole country. The decision was taken in

line with the approval of Academic Council of the AIU and the policy of the government that aimed at saving the academic session of the students in the prevailing crisis. It also as per the University's annual academic calendar, according to which semester begins from this month. The result of both the programs has been uploaded at the University's official Website and the same is being communicated to the students through post. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Qayyum hoped that the students who have been promoted will take greater interest in their academic pursuits, while staying at the home and improving their intellectual skills. The University will continue to try its best to serve students' interest through Online learning system and other modes of distant education.



European Film Festival launched online showcasing European movie culture

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad, 20 May 2020: The European Union has launched the European Film Festival for a worldwide audience, including Pakistan. Unlike previous years when the festival included screenings, panel discussions and workshops in several Pakistani cities, it takes place this year online. The audience will be able to watch, free of charge, a selection of films until June 18th.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara explained: "We initially hoped to screen a wide range of films in cinemas,

universities and cultural centers across the country. This was to showcase the diversity of European cinema, but more importantly to engage with a Pakistani audience to discuss the stories behind the films and how these stories relate to their lives. Due to Covid19, we had to move the festival online. But we hope it will be a teaser that trigger curiosity for more. Because we hope to organize a real festival again, when the public health situation allows doing so safely."

The festival promotes European films that reflect the diverse cultures, languages and societies within, but also outside of Europe. The films cen-



EUFFestival - Online Film Festival

The European Union helps you getting through confinement through arts!

#stayathome #staysafe



tre around artificial borders and preconceptions that separate us despite the fundamental human traits that unite us. This topic remains more relevant than ever during the Corona Virus, which has destroyed and disrupted many lives, but it has also sparked global solidarity and cooperation across borders.

The selection includes a Finnish-Bulgarian biographical documentary about coping with childhood traumas, a tragic comedy about a dog not respecting borders, a family drama about a young boy feeling ashamed of

his younger brother with down syndrome, an Austrian documentary exploring what the footprint of humans will be once we are gone, and a documentary about the conspiracy theories surrounding the death of the former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. In addition,

short films focus, among other topics, on climate change and its impact on lives across the globe - a topic highly relevant for Pakistan, one of the worst effected countries.

The European Film Festival is hosted simultaneously by EU Delegations around the world and presented by the Goethe Institut, the Institut Français, the Lux Film Prize and Cineropa.

The five different feature length films and seven short films are available for the Pakistani audience until June 18th. However, only a limited number of virtual "seats" are available and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Ufone wins two Global Gold Awards



FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Ufone brings Pakistan pride by winning Two Golds in Global Eventex Awards for its Ufone Balochistan Football Cup 2019.

Amongst 444 entries from 39 countries, the Pakistani telecom operator emerged as the winner in two categories i.e. People's Choice Award and Best CSR Event Award.

Despite stiff competition

from renowned international brands and close scrutiny by a panel of esteemed judges, Ufone emerged victorious in not just one but two categories.

On winning the prestigious award, Ufone spokesperson said, "For Ufone it is important to bring a positive change into the life of an average Pakistani. Balochistan Football Tournament was one such effort through which we tried to create opportuni-

ties for the young sportsmen of the province. This award is a reflection of the exceptional performance put forward by the entire team to make this tournament an international success story."

"I'd like to congratulate and thank all contestants for the endless inspiration and innovation they bring to our industry - we feel privileged to be the ones recognizing the best among them! I am positive the industry will push forward in spite of the crisis and we will continue to support the event pros

community with different initiatives and activities", Ovanes Ovanessian, Co-founder of Eventex Awards commented.

Over 180 brands belonging to different regions i.e. Europe, South Asia, Asia Pacific and North America participated in various categories. In the CSR category, Ufone won the Gold award along with the Gold award in People's Choice category

Telenor introduces digital education

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Velocity, digital startup accelerator by Telenor Pakistan has introduced its "EdTech Innovation programme" forging strategic alliances with EdTech startups for making a rapid shift to online learning and skill development.

This initiative was launched in response to closure of educational institutions and offices due to coronavirus outbreak, said a news release issued here on Wednesday. The ongoing crisis has impacted students across the nation, but the circumstances have also resulted in a speedy transition to online learning, and e-education has become the need of the hour.

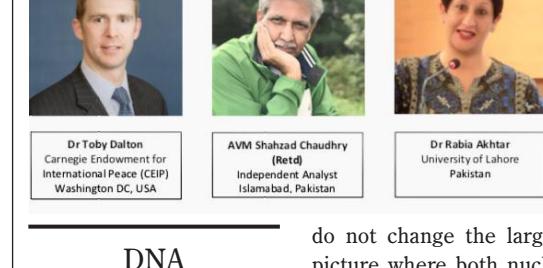
CASS conducts webinar on Kashmir

CASS

CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

The Recent Kashmir Crisis:

Are Pakistan-India Heading towards a Military Conflict?



DNA

ISLAMABAD: To discuss growing tension along the Line of Control (LoC) and its potential to end up into a serious military escalation between the two nuclear armed neighbours in South Asia, Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) organized an international webinar titled "The Recent Kashmir Crisis: Are Pakistan-India Heading towards a Military Conflict?"

Worthy panelists included, Dr Toby Dalton from Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) Washington DC, USA and Dr. Shahzad Chaudhry (Retd)

and Dr. Rabia Akhtar from the University of Lahore. Dr Dalton said that the use of air force by India and Pakistan during Balakot crisis was unprecedented and crossed ideational and military thresholds but did not bring any structural change, as the basics of the problem continue to be the same. He added that the Indian domestic politics and Modi factor

do not change the larger picture where both nuclear powers cannot claim to have a decisive victory in a war against one another. AVM Shahzad Chaudhry highlighted that India's actions in the Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK) following the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, and the J&K reorganization Act of 2019, could be termed as demographic re-engineering of J&K. While discussing the international response to a future Indian military adventure against Pakistan, he emphasized that Balakot crisis evinced an example where only a serious escalation induced reaction from international community.

Dr. Rabia Akhter, criticized the notion of a 'new normal', which India and some analysts are using to justify the Feb 2019 surgical strike against Pakistan. She emphasized that Covid-19 would not change anything as India's war mongering is only growing with time and fear of war on LoC is real and Pakistan must remain ready and vigilant.

Artists paint corona awareness messages

SHAEHEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Some senior artists of twin cities wearing masks and gloves participated in a coronavirus public awareness live painting event at the Rose and Jasmine Garden on Tuesday. They painted flocks flouting the precautionary measures while some wearing masks and living in the state of fear

and uncertainty. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN organized the event. The participating artists included Nahida Raza, Asrar Farooqi, Riffat Khatak, Riffat Ara Baig, Saima Aamir and Roobia Gulfaraz. Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad Deputy Mayor Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi was the guest of honour.

Nahida Raza in her oil-on-canvas painting reflected a woman covering her nose and mouth with a mask while the coronavirus is trying to enter through the glass-window. Her message was obvious that only preventive measures would help save lives. She said lockdown or no lockdown we need to observe all instructions given by the government and health experts. — APP

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Dishonourable murder

EVEN police officials fear there will not be a proper investigation into the murder of two young women who were killed earlier this week, allegedly after a video showing three girls in the presence of a young man went viral. For years, such apathy has been attributed conveniently to 'tradition' that does not have any sympathy for women who transcend the strict code of conduct, which prevents them from interacting with members of the opposite sex who are not directly related in any way.

The incident in question is said to have taken place in a village lying on the border between North and South Waziristan. The Razmak police station in North Waziristan has registered a case, with the state making the complaint, and the brother and father of one of the girls has been arrested. Local officials also say a priority is to protect the third girl seen in the video and the young man who was spotted at an outdoor spot with them.

The arrests made and the registration of the case are no doubt good news. In the past, police in many conservative areas have sometimes refused to take even this step. But there is still a long way to go. If the culprit escapes scot free, as has happened many times in the past, this gives rise to others choosing the same path and what they believe is an act to defend family 'honour'. In some ways, the case resembles the 2012 Kohistan case, which came to an end after the murder of Afzal Kohistani in 2019.

The question of 'honour' is one taken seriously in the country, with at least 1,000 women and hundreds of men killed each year in the name of this act. And it is not just 'remote' northern areas or places where conservative 'tradition' prevails where such murders take place.

They have occurred in major cities and in every province of the country. The problem grew after the promulgation of the qisas and diyat laws, first put in motion by the late General Zia-ul-Haq, which allowed the family of a victim to accept blood money and forgive the perpetrator. In a situation where the father of the murdered girl and her killer are the same, the blood money law obviously comes into effect even if no cash actually changes hands. There have been recent attempts to stop the abuse of this law, but even so 'honour killings' continue.

The fact that they are being reported more often may be a step forward. But the real gain would be if people could be persuaded that murder of any kind goes against religion, against humanity and violates basic rights.

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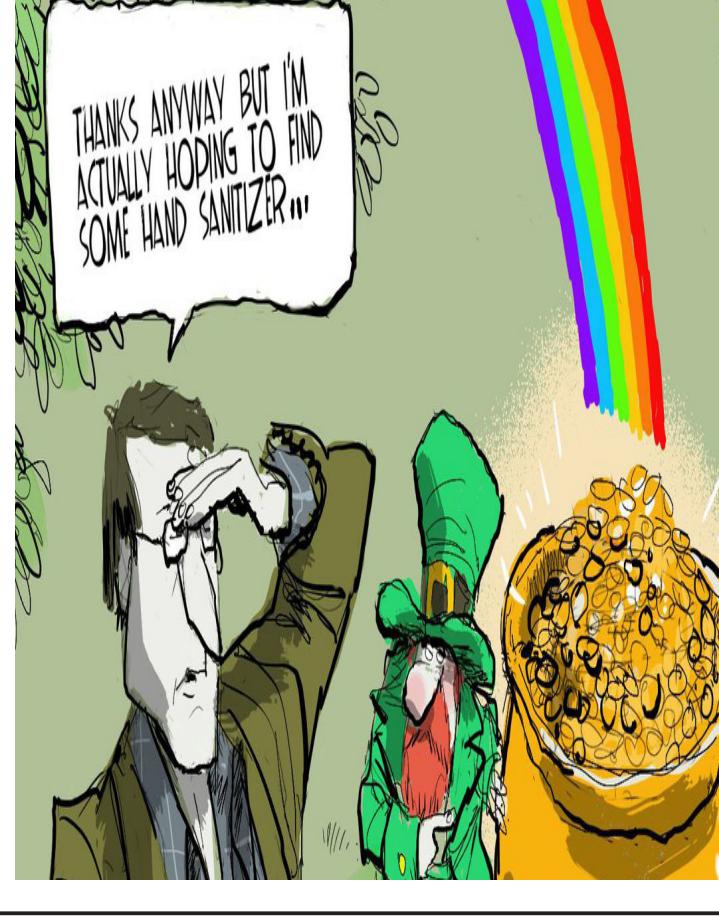
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Heroes die young: a tale of bravery and valor

Tahir Mehmood

"I am proud of my martyred son. He has shown us the way to love and serve Pakistan." These are the words of a proud father who lost his youngest son Captain Bilal Zafar, on 17 May 2009 while fighting against the terrorists in Peochar Valley, Swat. This proud father is Captain Zafar Abbasi, ex Pakistan Army officer who still cherishes the memories of 1971 War; he fought like a hero against the arch enemy. Captain Zafar and his family belong to village Karore, tehsil Kotli Sattian

I am proud of my martyred son. He has shown us the way to love and serve Pakistan." These are the words of a proud father who lost his youngest son Captain Bilal Zafar, on 17 May 2009 while fighting against the terrorists in Peochar Valley, Swat. This proud father is Captain Zafar Abbasi, ex Pakistan Army officer who still cherishes the memories of 1971 War; he fought like a hero against the arch enemy. Captain Zafar and his family belong to village Karore, tehsil Kotli Sattian. The village is located at a high plateau, dominating area up to Attock and is mostly inhabited by old and traditional Abbasi tribe. This lofty mountainous top has nurtured many Ghazis and Shaheeds. It is a town where soldierly is taken as inheritance, where offering life in the line of duty is a sacred custom. It is an eagle's nest where only eagles are born, live and fly, fight and die.

Bilal was born in 1983. He did his matriculation from St. Paul's Cambridge School, Rawalpindi. Just after completing his graduation from Government College, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi, he chose to follow his family tradition and joined the profession of arms. He joined 108 PMA Long Course and passed out with a cross belt distinction of being a Battalion Junior Under Officer. Capt Bilal descended from a genealogy where soldierry is the only profession for young lads. His great grandfather, Subedar Lal Khan, participated in WW I and was conferred with King George Cross for gallantry. Subedar Lal Khan's son and Captain Bilal Shaheed's grandfather, Colonel Tajamal Hussain wrote new chapters of bravery and commitment. He participated in WW II on the Singapore front. After creation of Pakistan in 1947, Colonel Tajamal volunteered to fight for freedom of Kashmir against the Indian aggression. He commanded a Mujahid Brigade on the Bagh-Uri front and halted the Indian advance, which was intended to reach Muzaffarabad. For his meritorious services, he was later conferred with Fakhr-e-Kashmir award.

Not only from the paternal side, Capt Bilal's veins had martial blood, but also from his maternal grandfather Major Majeed and uncle Major Haider. Captain Zafar, father of Bilal Shaheed also followed the family tradition and joined Pakistan Army in 1969. After getting relieved, he fully devoted himself for his two sons and four daughters. Mrs. Zafar extended full support to her husband in grooming his sons. The lady is a living example of patriotism and fortitude. Both her sons were 'Black Belt' much before joining the PMA. They were trained very hard to do the deeds which only heroes can dare to do. Family pride and soldierly spirit must be a strong reason. Once, Capt Bilal told his best friend and roommate, Capt Raheel, that Bilal would be a Shaheed and Raheel a Ghazi. He said so on the night of 15 May 2009 while he was preparing for his most exigent task in the high mountains of Peochar. Capt Raheel's eyes often get filled with tears, but still he maintains a soldierly composure and pride while narrating the proceedings of that night. Capt Bilal, who just returned from a successful operation in Buner, got a message from his CO that he had been picked for a difficult mission in Peochar valley under Operation Jahanbaz. It was important to open the Swat-Peochar road for operational purposes. For that, it was crucial to capture the Ghuzano Sar Top (now called Bilal Top) for the success of entire operation. Previous efforts to capture this Top could not succeed. Capt Bilal happily received the order and got busy in preparations along with his company commander Maj Sardar and fel-

low officer Capt Zafeel. While preparing for the mission, he kept talking with Capt Raheel. He told him to personally go to his home and inform his mother in case he embraced Shahadat. He told him to lead his Janaza prayers. While tying up his backpack, he asked Raheel that his body be wrapped in Pakistan Flag and buried with full military honour. Surely, as if, Bilal knew about the golden tomorrow. While on his way to the glory, he sent an SMS to Capt Raheel, which later went viral on social media after his martyrdom. It reads: "In the roars of bullets, in the thunder of bombs, there are few who just do not stop... knowing that they are surrounded by death... knowing that they could leave their parents and family alone... But they just keep on moving... because in their hearts... And flowing through their veins known as... HONOUR, DEVOTION, LOVE WITH MOTHERLAND, DEATH BEFORE DISGRACE, PAKISTAN ARMY ZINDABAD". How true, pure, dedicated and passionate was he in his love for Army and Nation. We all, too, are proud



of you, son!

On 16 May 2009, around 2 o'clock in the morning, Capt Bilal offered Tahajjud prayers. He had just two hours sleep and then got ready for the mosque. He was punctual in his prayers and often preferred praying in the mosque. After that he went upstairs to say goodbye to his elder brother, Captain Zarar, Capt Zafar's elder son, also serving the Pakistan Army. His brother knew where he was going and what was possibly coming ahead. He could feel his unusual behaviour. Tears touched his eyelids. He wanted to see off his brother with a happy face.

Only soldiers share this unique pride. He accompanied him to the airstrip. What a trying moment for a brother to say goodbye!

Bilal was on his way to martyrdom. His steps were guided. Quietly he moved in the helicopter where his fearless comrades were already waiting. Day time was consumed for necessary planning. The intended target was given a heavy dose by PAF as the enemy was well dug in at a difficult and most dominating peak. The creeping move forward to the target started late at night. By 0500 hours on 17 May, the brave SSG men reached close to the target. The decisive moment came. The time had come for which Bilal longed for. The battle began. Leading his men, he rushed to the target. The enemy responded heavily. But soon Capt Bilal and his men were able to clear the first objective. They overran the enemy, but the remaining terrorists were still occupying another dominating feature. Bilal kept on leading his men with courage, audacity and vigour. Major Sardar warned him of accurate and intense fire from the top but Bilal didn't stop. Even when he was hit by a bullet on left arm, he kept moving forward. The terrorists could not allow him anymore. They fixed a rocket launcher and fired. Capt Bilal received the direct hit. Badly wounded, he looked his soldiers and ordered them to move forward to the top. He wanted them to capture it at all costs. As the soldiers were busy in fighting, heavens smiled affectionately on this proud young man and gave him assurance of victory. Bilal breathed his last, and achieved an eternal life. His dream got fulfilled. The mountain top was captured.

Bilal is no more but he will be living as a pride for the nation, family and colleagues. The captured Ghuzano Sar Top must be proud to be renamed as Bilal Top and with a fluttering Pakistan Flag. Capt Naveed, a smart young company officer remembers Bilal with fondness and love.

"Soldiers adored Bilal, and remember him with tears in eyes. He was like a brother, a commander, a comrade, who remained greatly concerned about our training and welfare. With his personal example he has shown us the new meanings of devotion, valour and heroism. He is no more with us, but his memories are a great treasure for these sons of soil."

As Capt Bilal Shaheed's body arrived in the village, people witnessed a rare scene. His mother stopped everyone from weeping. "It was my son's last wish, so don't weep." Can mothers stop tears? Particularly when they lose such a young son? Somebody asked about her son, and she replied: "My son was the chosen one. He was a hero, and heroes die young".

Tahir Mehmood is short story writer.

Deteriorating image of Pakistani students in China

Dr. Mohammad Tamoor Azam



In fact, Pakistani students have spread out in every university in China with different level of scholarships. For instance, Master students get around 70,000 Rs, PhD students get around 80,000 Rs, and Post-Doctorates more than 200,000 per month, of particular note, these students enter China without qualifying HSK, ILETS, TOFEL, GRE, GMAT, etc.

CHINA has laid bare an educational policy after announcing the Belt and Road Initiative which has transformed China into a hub for international students. The student body jumped from almost 55,000 students in 2006 to nearly 440,000 students in 2016, according to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). While the CPEC is the flagship project, Pakistani students are flocking to China to enroll in technical courses and mostly to attain professional degrees. Last year, a data released by China Scholarship Council (CSC) – a nonprofit organization headed by the Chinese government's Ministry of Education – revealed that there was an astronomical surge from about 9,500 Pakistani students in 2012 to around 30,000 students in 2019. It stands as the fifth-largest source of international students flowing into China after US, Russia, South Korea and Thailand.

In fact, Pakistani students have spread out in every university in China with different level of scholarships. For instance, Master students get around 70,000 Rs, PhD students get around 80,000 Rs, and Post-Doctorates more than 200,000 per month, of particular note, these students enter China without qualifying HSK, ILETS, TOFEL, GRE, GMAT, etc. If I would discover the exceptional feats of Pakistani students in China, people in my country would go into the state of numbness and shock. As we know the image of our country in international arena is marked with unbalanced economy, fragile governance and security to rampant terrorism, but China and Turkey ignored this poor image and embraced us. When a Pakistani person introduces himself in China, he will be welcomed with

Chinese proverb "ba-tie" meaning "Iron brother" and same is true in Turkey. As a nation, a nagging foible in our attitude has tarnished our image everywhere. Can Pakistan be considered a fortress of Islam? Of course, not. It has never demonstrated any Islamic teachings practically since independence. We have inherited the political, bureaucratic, educational, judicial to societal systems from British. It is the universal truth that you can not be creative in some other language. One of the grave problems in our country is that we speak multiple languages with respect to the rendezvous like at home we speak our mother tongues, in schools and universities we have to speak our official language English, while in rest of place we speak our national language Urdu. Resultantly, we have no command on any single language which makes us a confused nation. Hence by having traits of confusion in personality, we are verbally Muslims and practically Non-Muslims. Unfortunately, we are manifesting this dual personality in China.

Chinese society is an invaluable asset to the world because it has no definite order or shape in today's date. On one hand it has five thousand years of rich historical culture, philosophy, tradition, architecture, religion, festivals, music, on the other hand, the lives of Chinese new generation are caricature of western norms and culture. Their family structure is collapsing with each passing day because of adapting western life styles. Being namesake Muslims, Pakistani students in China are going far beyond the footsteps of Chinese new generation. Here is a tip of an iceberg: students are busy in cultivating illegitimate relationships; they are notorious for debauching young girls and divorced women, they attend late night parties at bars with concubines, and are excessively drinking. Even the holy month of Ramadan is not honored, mostly medical to PhD students are earning hundreds of Chinese Yuan by teaching kindergarten kids with fictional representation of western to African nationalities as English is not their native language, if they apply job as a Pakistani they would be rejected out rightly, in this way their actual names reconstruct from Daniel to Deneal, Maryam to Merry, Jaffer to Jeffery and they conned their way in to the job which is illegal by having student visa. Their eccentric conduct gives an impression that they have just been released from some dungeon.

The purpose of traveling to China was to earn knowledge through research and hard work, but all in vain and unfortunately went astray. With this phony character in hand, these students left no stone unturned in accusing Pakistani politicians for corruption, maligning Pakistan Army in interfering politics and blaming Pakistani media for blacking out the news, instead they must ponder on this idiom "Doing a little soul searching of one's own" or "apnegreban may jhanka". Only a handful of students out thousands are engaged in studies, research and busy in achievement of ambitions. With the passage of time, the image of Pakistani students is tarnishing. Their wickedness towards Chinese girls and deception towards purpose in China are exposing gradually, with hindsight, the time soon may arrive when Pakistanis might be banned to enter China.

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Staying alive

THE 'smart' lockdown in Pakistan never really took off, with people thronging the bazaars as soon as they opened up. And now the Supreme Court has ordered the reopening of shopping malls that had been closed to contain the spread of Covid-19. The main concern of the Supreme Court appears to be 'hunger' and the court has unambiguously observed that restrictions must be relaxed during the last week of Ramazan ahead of the Eid holidays. The court has also ruled that markets should remain open even on Saturdays and Sundays. Though most business people have applauded the court verdict, there are a few points that all of us must keep in mind and observe as safety precautions, if we don't want to die in our shop-till-you-drop spree.

After the court orders now it seems the sole responsibility to stay alive and make sure others stay alive is on us: the Pakistani 'awaam', the weary citizen. We have seen a rapid spike in the number of infected people in the past couple of weeks and our doctors and paramedical staff are under tremendous strain to save lives. Ultimately, if we get infected we don't turn to shopkeepers for cure or put on new clothes before going into quarantine; we depend on doctors, nurses, and ventilators.

These are our heroes in the medical profession and the cleaning and janitorial staff who will be present in hospitals while we shop to our hearts' content. Looking at the hustle and bustle on roads and streets, one wonders if this is a nation with minimum health facilities available and where charity organizations have been distributing food aid to millions of people who are at the mercy of the elements. It is now both the federal and provincial governments' responsibility to establish at least some semblance of order in terms of safety precautions.

The court order should not be taken as a license to flout all health and hygiene considerations. Wearing masks and keeping physical distances will play a crucial role in our battle against covid-19. There must be a mass media campaign to educate and warn people against the possible consequences of taking liberties against a disease that has shaken the world. The Supreme Court did also ask about the details of the measures that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has taken. The court also inquired about how much money is being spent and where. These questions by the Court are pertinent and their answers must be made public. Nearly every day we see doctors complaining about the lack of personal protective gears (PPGs), testing kits, and ventilators. The opening of markets may result in a deluge of new patients and not only the NDMA but also the federal and provincial governments must be ready for a new health crisis in the offing

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Briefs

India's COVID-19 death toll rises

NEW DELHI: India's health ministry said Wednesday morning that 140 new deaths due to COVID-19, besides fresh 5,611 positive cases were reported since Tuesday in the country, taking the number of deaths to 3,303 and total cases to 106,750. This is the highest one-day spike in COVID-19 cases so far in the country. "As on 8:00 a.m. (local time) Wednesday, 3,303 deaths related to novel coronavirus have been recorded in the country," reads an information released by the ministry. On Tuesday morning, the number of COVID-19 cases in the country was 101,139, and the death toll was 3,163. According to ministry officials, so far 42,298 people have been discharged from hospitals after showing improvement. — APP

Spaniards ordered to wear masks

MADRID: Everyone in Spain aged six and above must wear a mask in public places where social distancing is not possible, officials said on Wednesday.

A government decree declared the new rule would be enforced from Thursday, without specifying penalties for failing to comply.

Commuters are already obliged to wear masks on public transport in Spain, one of the hardest-hit countries with almost 28,000 deaths from the pandemic.

But the death rate has slowed and the strict lockdown measures are being gradually eased, although population centres including Madrid and Barcelona have not been allowed to relax their rules. — APP

More virus cases in Russia

MOSCOW: Russia on Wednesday reported its highest daily coronavirus toll with 135 fatalities as the number of infections surpassed 300,000. Health authorities reported a total of 2,972 deaths while the number of infections hit 308,705 after 8,764 new cases were registered, the lowest daily increase since May 1. — APP

OIC rejects India's domicile law in IoK

ISLAMABAD, May 20 (dna):The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned and categorically rejected the India's recently introduced 'Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020'.

Humanitarian space of the SCO is connected with the names of the greatest thinkers

It is quite symbolic that in the year of UNESCO's adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001, the SCO was established, one of the most important activities of which is cultural and humanitarian cooperation. Recognizing the need to strengthen the potential of culture, our Organization makes a significant contribution every year to support cultural diversity through prosperity, sustainable development, and global peaceful coexistence

VLADIMIR NOROV

ON 21 May, the world celebrates World Cultural Diversity Day for Dialogue and Development, launched by UNESCO in 2001. In 2002, the UN General Assembly proclaimed a resolution on World Cultural Diversity Day for dialogue and development.

This year marks this momentous day for the 19th time. This holiday date has taken on special significance in promoting and preserving culture, intercultural dialogue, and sustainable development. The events on this day aim to promote the importance and value of cultural diversity and the rich civilizational heritage of mankind.

It is quite symbolic that in the year of UNESCO's adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001, the SCO was established, one of the most important activities of which is cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Recognizing the need to strengthen the potential of culture, our Organization makes a significant contribution every year to support cultural diversity through prosperity, sustainable development, and global peaceful coexistence.

Today, the SCO unites 18 states, the number of which reaches more than 44% of the world's population. The SCO family, which includes various peoples, with its original culture, is a colorful palette of ethnic groups, nations, religions, and civilizations, ready for further rapprochement and fruitful cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Speaking of this cooperation, it is important to keep in mind that the peoples of the "SCO family" are united by several objective factors that form a solid basis for the successful development of mutually beneficial relations. We are connected by many historical, cultural points of contact, common cultural heritage, common traditions, the similarity of languages and cultures, ethnocultural proximity, good-neighborly relations, and much more.

The humanitarian space of the SCO is connected with the names of the greatest thinkers and scientists who have made an invaluable contribution to world culture. In the Ancient and Middle Ages, the geographical area of Eurasia was one of the most developed in the world. Thanks to the Great Silk Road, one of the most advanced models of economic devel-



opment has been developed in the region, and the most advanced cultural policy has been created. Revenues from the operation of the Great Silk Road allowed the countries of the region to invest in cultural construction.

Today, every ninth UNESCO World Heritage Site, listed in the World Heritage Fund, is located in the SCO space. Currently, in the SCO states, along with the important work to preserve the historical cultural heritage, active activities are being carried out to revive the past intensive cultural contacts between the peoples of the region, on the model of humanitarian communications of the Great Silk Road, to promote the popularization of the traditions and customs of the peoples living in the SCO space. One of the main mis-

sions in the SCO's activities is consistently and purposefully implemented - strengthening mutual understanding between peoples, cognition and convergence of their cultures and civilizations.

The basis for building such multifaceted cooperation is the SCO Charter, a fundamental document that defines the main areas of cultural and humanitarian cooperation of our Organization.

Practical work on this area of cooperation is entrusted to the Meeting of Ministers of Culture of SCO Member States, a coordinating and advisory mechanism for cooperation, the functioning of which is in line with the provisions of the SCO Charter and other documents adopted within the Organization.

The results of practical coop-

eration are reflected in the documents adopted at the annual SCO summits. At the summit of Heads of State in 2007 in Bishkek, the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation was signed, and at the summit of Heads of Government in 2016 in Tashkent, further outlines of improving multifaceted cooperation within the SCO, including in the field of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, were identified.

United by the "Shanghai spirit", SCO Member States,

based on the principles of mutual respect and equal dialogue, from year to year intensify practical work in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, health, sports, tourism, and youth contacts.

These aspects of cooperation will continue to be an essential part of the Organization's activities and will continue to serve the goals of cultural construction in the SCO space.

The SCO's expanding cultural and humanitarian cooperation from year to year contributes to the further deepening of interstate cultural dialogue, in order to bring the SCO countries and peoples closer together.

A striking example of this is the comprehensive SCO-our Common Home program, which includes the days of

SCO culture, the cycle of piano concerts "Nine Magic Notes", the annual "SCO Marathons" and the "Eight Wonders of the SCO" project aimed at creating a single tourist space.

The world community is now facing serious challenges related to a sudden attack called COVID-19. The consequences of the pandemic for further favourable world development are unpredictable and may cause dramatic changes in the modern world order.

All this further actualizes the value of a single human civilization with the diversity of its forms of existence, the self-identification of the peoples and ethnicities of the world and their responsibility for its future.

We need to raise our many voices in defence of the importance of a day of cultural diversity in the name of dialogue and development. This is the best response and moral support in the fight against humanity's most dangerous enemies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am convinced that, based on the rich cultural traditions of our peoples, we will be able to overcome all difficulties and trials together and in close cooperation.

The writer is the SCO Secretary General

Three Pakistani universities join efforts to fight COVID-19

In addition, S&SE ASIAN UN will launch anti-pandemic vlog competition and promote international cooperation in public health research

DNA

their special role in combating the pandemic.

Besides Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Karakoram International University, and University of Peshawar from Pakistan, other universities that co-signed the Statement are from South and Southeast Asian countries including China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The Statement has put forward ten proposals to universities and colleges around the world, including actively supporting the anti-pandemic efforts made by government of all

countries, giving full play to advantages in scientific research and strengthening the international cooperation in vaccine research and development, material support and experience sharing, and supporting global and regional international organizations to play a greater role in fighting against the pandemic.

The Statement also called on universities and colleges to fulfill their social responsibilities in educating the public and popularizing knowledge and skills in COVID-19 prevention, oppose pursuing of benefits at the expense of others and politicization of the pandemic, enhance researches on post-pandemic

countries, and to provide intellectual support for regional and global economic recovery.

Based on the Statement, Secretariat of S&SE ASIAN UN will hold a series of online workshops themed "Fighting against COVID-19 in Campus and Online Teaching during the Outbreak" for member universities to share experience.

The first webinar will be held on May 20, presidents or representatives from 12 universities will gather to exchange ideas and experience.

In addition, S&SE ASIAN UN will launch anti-pandemic vlog competition and promote international cooperation in public health research.

PM asks public for caution on Eid



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday urged upon the general public to follow safety procedures against coronavirus during Eid holidays.

In a meeting with his Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan, the prime minister said the government was devising

strategy to effectively control the spread of disease in the country.

UK welcomes Afghan accord

LONDON: The United Kingdom (UK) on Wednesday welcomed the agreement between Afghan leaders on forming an inclusive government.

Lord Tariq said that a strong and unified government was vital at this critical time for Afghanistan. "There is a real opportunity to end decades of conflict, the devastating impact of which has been brought into focus by recent attacks, and a need to slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country. — APP

Rupee weakens

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ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee declined by 03 paisas against US dollar in the interbank on Wednesday to close at Rs 160.77 compared to the last closing of Rs 160.74.

However, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of Dollar in open market were recorded at Rs 161 and Rs 162, respectively.

The fight against the pandemic requires concerted multilateral efforts: SCO

The SCO countries have demonstrated a high level of solidarity in the fight against the pandemic, said Secretary-General of SCO

DNA

BEIJING:

The member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have demonstrated solidarity and mutual support in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, said the SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov on Wednesday.

In his opening remarks, at the video-conferencing of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, V.Norov expressed his gratitude to the Russian Federation on the initiative to convene the meeting, in its capacity as current chair of the SCO.

"The SCO member states, guided by the principles of the 'Shanghai Spirit', have shown a high level of solidarity and mutual support in combating the Coronavirus epidemic", said Norov.Considering China's experience, the Secretary-General

further added that the Chinese side received timely information about the impending threat and took appropriate preventive measures accordingly.

V. Norov noted the importance of increasing the efficiency of the organization's mechanisms for rapid response to new outbreaks of infectious diseases, as well as the need for SCO's effective interaction with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant international institutions.

Referring to a draft regulation on the Coordinating Council for Joint Counteraction to Epidemic Threats", developed by the SCO Secretariat, would help develop and implement comprehensive early measures to prevent and reduce the negative impact of epidemic diseases, added the Secretary-General.

Overcome the consequences
Besides the issues of overcoming social and economic impacts of the pandemic, the SCO Secretary-General called

for strengthening cooperation in the field of food security, and proposed development of an Action Plan in this regard.

Stressing the importance of wide application of digital technologies in public administration and business leading business enterprises, he expressed concern over the growing cyber security challenges related to Internet fraud and hacker attacks on government and financial institutions and proposed measures to be incorporated in the "Action Plan for Implementation of the SCO Concept of Cooperation in Digitalization and ICT".

Afghan problem

Since the epidemic has suspended many SCO mechanisms involved in the process of harmonizing documents for consideration by SCO leaders, the Secretary-General proposed further enhancing the role of the mechanism of permanent

representatives of the SCO Member States to the SCO Secretariat.

Regardless of the pandemic, the member countries of SCO continued to provide comprehensive assistance for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, he noted the growing importance of the organization in promoting the solution of the Afghan problem within the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group mechanism.

About SCO

The SCO currently comprises of eight Member States (India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), four Observer States (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six "Dialogue Partners" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, and Sri Lanka). The Secretariat of SCO is the primary executive body of the organization – headquartered in Beijing, China.

