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Azerbaijan exemplary country in fight against COVID-19

Afghan ties with Pakistan, other states stressed



US provides \$6 mln for healthcare



Gen Bajwa spends Eid with troops at LOC

Army Chief for UNMOGIP offices in Held Kashmir

Kashmir is a disputed territory and any attempt to challenge the disputed status including any political cum military thought related to aggression will be responded with full national resolve and military might

DNA

IRAWALPINDI - General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Line of Control in Puna Sector and spent Eid with troops. COAS offered Eid prayers at the front-line and prayed for peace, progress & prosperity of Pakistan in these difficult times particularly seeking Allah's blessings for the nation to overcome Covid 19 pandemic. While talking to troops, COAS lauded their professionalism, operational preparedness befitting response to Indian CFVs and morale in the face of evolving challenges. Performing ones duty away from home even on such festive occasions is a soldier's pride and we shall

continue to do so with utmost commitment and unflinching resolve, COAS emphasised. He expressed hope that international community will weigh in to ensure freedom of movement for UNMOGIP operations inside IOJK, as ensured by Pakistan in AJK, so that the tragic consequences of ongoing atrocities and inhuman clampdown inside occupied territory is reported to the United Nations Security Council and the world at large. Pakistan Army is observing Eid solemnly in solidarity with Kashmiris under Indian occupation particularly since 5th August 19 illegal, inhuman lockdown & ensuing atrocities. India is trying to shift the global attention away from worsening humanitarian crisis and violence in IOJ&K to LOC by

targeting innocent civilians across the Line. Kashmir is a disputed territory and any attempt to challenge the disputed status including any political cum military thought related to aggression will be responded with full national resolve and military might. Disturbing the stability matrix in South Asia can lead to dire consequences. Pakistan Army is fully alive to the threat spectrum and will remain ever ready to perform its part in line with national aspirations, COAS reiterated. Indian occupying forces can never suppress valiant spirit of Kashmiris who rightfully await plebiscite under UN resolution. Regardless of ordeal their struggle is destined to succeed, InshaAllah, COAS concluded.



LOC: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa interacting with troops at Line of Control (LoC) on Eid day. - DNA

America provides \$6 mln for healthcare

DNA

ISLAMABAD: - In a video message released on Eid on U.S. Mission Pakistan's social media platforms, Ambassador Paul Jones wished Eid Mubarak to all Pakistanis celebrating the holiday. "I would like to congratulate Pakistanis on the completion of Ramadan - on behalf of all of us at the U.S. Mission to Pakistan. We admire those who fasted and helped others during Ramadan, while looking forward to the joyous celebration of Eid," said U.S. Ambassador Paul W. Jones. Ambassador Jones also announced a new American contribution of \$6 million to strengthen Pakistan's response by expanding training for healthcare workers who take care of patients in hospitals with severe cases of coronavirus; preventing the spread of coronavirus in healthcare facilities; and providing a fourth mobile lab to test and treat Pakistanis living in virus hotspots.

The U.S. government has now committed a total of \$21 million since it declared Pakistan a priority country for coronavirus response. In the same message, the Ambassador also thanked Pakistan for its recent delivery of medical supplies to the United States as a gesture of friendship and partnership between our countries.

Pakistan keen to deepen ties with Africa: FO

The resounding success of the first-ever Pakistan-African Trade Development Conference, convened in January 2020 in Nairobi

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan joined the world community in celebrating the "Africa Day 2020". Marking the landmark establishment of the African Union (then called OAU) on 25 May 1963, this Day is observed across the globe to celebrate the African nations' heroic struggle for emancipation from colonialism, as well as the Continent's immense cultural and civilizational contributions, its tremendous economic potential, and its impressive strides in all fields of human endeavour. One of the most remarkable achievements has been the conclusion last year of the historic agreement on establishing African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), geographically

the largest trading bloc. While commemorating AU's 57th anniversary, we extend heartfelt felicitations to the leadership and people of all fraternal African nations said Foreign Office spokesperson, She said the African Union stands tall today as a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of tens of millions of Africans for forging a united and even brighter future, premised on common values and shared prosperity. This year's Africa Day assumes salience in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is also impacting African countries. The pandemic continues to challenge humanity to close ranks in the face of odds, and persevere to confront a common enemy - virtues aptly embodied by the African Union and its constituent Member States. Pakistan has a long and illustrious history of friendly relations, mutual support and beneficial cooperation with African friends and partners. Historically, Pakistan has played its role in lending support to African freedom struggles from colonial rule; combating apartheid; extending humanitarian assistance, where needed; and supporting building capacity through training programmes and initiatives. Pakistan is also proud of its contribution to peace and security in Africa since the 1960s. Under the UN auspices, Pakistani blue helmets, including women peacekeepers, continue to play their part in peace-keeping and peace-building efforts across the Continent.

Briefs

Japanese FM grieved over plane crash

DNA

ISLAMABAD: - Following the plane crash which claimed many lives in Pakistan on May 22, MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, sent a message to Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressing his condolences to those who lost their lives and the bereaved families.

KP Chief Secy tested positive

DNA

PESHAWAR: Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Kazim Niaz has been tested positive for Coronavirus. The KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has expressed good wishes.

Australian HC donates books to children library



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Geoffrey Shaw and his wife Gaynor Shaw donated 70 books to a Children's Library at SOS Children's Village. "From classic storybooks to books on science and history, we hope this Eid keeps 145 kids at the facility entertained while their schools remain closed," High Commissioner Shaw said.

In a special message on Eid ul Fitr, the High Commissioner sent his warmest wishes to Muslims in Pakistan, back home in Australia and around the world. "As we mark this holy festival, let us remember those who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash in Karachi and to the COVID-19 pandemic. During Ramadan and Eid, we see the very best of the values which unite us all: of tolerance, of unity, compassion for the other and of being of service to our communities. It is draw-

ing on these very qualities, illustrated and encouraged by the Prophet (PBUH) that can guide us in these challenging times," High Commissioner said. "Islam has become the second most common religion in Australia, and more than 60,000 Pakistani Australians make up the largest of Australia's dynamic Muslim communities. Their contribution continues to be integral in making Australia one of the most successful and vibrant multicultural societies in the world," he added. Highlighting the growing people-to-people links between Australia and Pakistan, Dr Shaw said, "The links between our two countries draw on over 70 years of friendship and are underpinned by a shared Commonwealth heritage, engagement on peace and security, steady trade ties, cooperation on education and our common love of cricket and sport. On behalf of my family and the Australian High Commission, Gaynor.

Plane crash: President Ilham offers condolences

DNA

BAKU- President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev has said I was deeply saddened by the news of heavy casualties as a result of a passenger plane crash of Pakistan International Airlines near the city of Karachi.

President said, on the occasion of this tragedy, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Azerbaijan, I extend my deepest condolences to you, families and loved ones of those who were killed. May Allah rest the souls of the dead in peace.

Azerbaijan exemplary country in fight against COVID-19, says Harmanci

DNA

IBAKU: Head of the World Health Organization's country office Hande Harmanci has hailed Azerbaijan's efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic, saying that the country is first to implement REACT-C19 project. "Azerbaijan is the first country implementing a project such as REACT-C19, and in this sense, it can be an example for countries in the world," Harmanci said on May 22, addressing the briefing on the REACT-C19

project results. The aim of the project is rapid development of basic skills related to the treatment of patients infected with COVID-19 in hospitals of Azerbaijan. During the briefing, she stressed that Azerbaijan aims to purchase new developed tests. "So far, PSR tests have been conducted to detect coronavirus. Currently, serological tests for coronavirus are being developed to detect whether a person has been infected with the virus or not, i.e. to detect the

presence of immune system antibodies



against the virus. Azerbaijan intends to buy these tests. As a result, the number of infected people will become known," said Harmanci. She noted that before

developing a vaccine against coronavirus, other issues such as compliance with certain rules to prevent the spread of infection must also be taken into account. It was noted at the briefing that the second phase of the REACT-C19 project, which aims to strengthen basic skills related to measures to combat coronavirus COVID-19 in hospitals in Azerbaijan, has been completed. The delegation of REACT-C19 worked in four hospitals in Baku, and also visited hospitals in Ganja,

Agdash, Goranboy and Shamkir, prepared an activity plan and gave recommendations. Over 400 medical specialists took part in the trainings during the period. Furthermore, Harmanci emphasized that more than 100 types of work related to the coronavirus vaccine are being carried out and already 8 vaccines have begun to be tested on humans. "We hope that one or two of them will be used by the end of this year," she pointed.

called a second wave of the pandemic. The REACT-C19 project has been launched upon the initiative of the World Health Organization, with support from the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, TABIB, and the Ministry of Health, in a bid to strengthen basic skills related to measures to combat coronavirus COVID-19 in hospitals in Azerbaijani regions. The project involves 19 Azerbaijani doctors working in Turkey. As of May 22, Azerbaijan has registered 3,749 COVID-19 cases and 44 coronavirus-related deaths so far. The total number of recovered patients is 2,340.

More Taliban prisoners released

KABUL: Afghan authorities plan to release 900 more Taliban prisoners Tuesday, as a rare ceasefire by the insurgents entered its third and last day. The pause in fighting, which came into effect Sunday to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, was for the most part holding out across the country, officials said. The government earlier responded to the Taliban's ceasefire offer by announcing plans to release up to 2,000 insurgent prisoners. On Monday they freed 100 people and will release another 900 on Tuesday, the government said, the biggest group of Taliban prisoners freed so far.

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Briefs

Govt urged to probe pesticides sector cartelization

ISLAMABAD: SLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Standing Committee on Agriculture on Saturday called upon the government to get rid of cartelisation in the seed and pesticides sector for development of agriculture sector.

"The substandard seed and pesticides may hit the agriculture sector to the next level and cotton crop is one of the novel example in this regard," the committee said in a statement issued here.

It said it was the second consecutive year that cotton growers seemed worried, as substandard seeds had again flooded local markets especially in Sindh province.

These seeds grow nothing or the germination rate is as low as 30-40 in the fields, former chairman of the committee Ahmad Jawad said adding that cotton cultivation had started in the southern parts of Sindh and South Punjab and farmers seemed troubled because of the non-availability of high productivity seeds according to the respective soil conditions.

Despite the fact that the country has best research institutes like Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) where we can produce local seeds for any crops through international cross breeding according to our weather conditions, there was no role of regulator who could check the quality of seed and pesticides on every shipment before landing in the market. —APP

'Pakistan capable in manufacturing PPEs'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Muhammad Afzal Sunday said Pakistan was fully capable in manufacturing ventilators, sanitizers, masks, personal protective equipments (PPEs) to effectively combat COVID-19 pandemic.

Talking to a private news channel, he commended the services of medical staffers including laboratory technicians and pathological experts working in the provincial and federal hospitals.

He appreciated the laboratories and hospitals for increasing the testing capacity of the coronavirus patients. For diagnosing virus-infected patients, he said, there were standard operating procedures (SOPs) and specific methodology for testing the people having symptoms of deadly virus.

The chairman said there was no need to test the people living across the country and suggested to bring the infected people only to the hospitals or laboratories for the coronavirus tests.

To a question about availability of required equipments for coronavirus, he said the NDMA had sufficient stock including kits for testing coronavirus patients.

He said if the provincial governments needed anything, they should send the request to the NDMA to meet their demands.

Over 50 labs available in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Nosheen Hamid Sunday said over 50 laboratories were available in Pakistan for testing coronavirus (COVID-19) patients.

Talking to a private news channel, she said after the 18th constitutional amendment, the health was the provincial subject.

Dr Nosheen Hamid said proper attention could not be paid in the past, due to which, the people were facing some trouble in provincial areas.

She said there was dire need to bring improvement in 18th amendment, to streamline the system in the health and education sectors. The consultation with political parties would be required to improve the law, she added. About lockdown policy, she said the policy introduced by the present government to protect people from virus pandemic, was not being followed. This initiative was acknowledged internationally.

He said that Pakistan Post would continue to provide postal services in every nook and corner of the country during risk of COVID-19 pandemic. He said that the department was providing delivery services to about 20 million households and businesses as community service without any cost considerations. — APP

President dedicates Eid to COVID-hit people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday dedicated his Eid to all the poor people trying to make a living in COVID-19 situation as well as the doctors and nurses struggling to protect the nation.

In a tweet, the president also dedicated the day to the coronavirus patients and those who lost their lives.

The president, who had announced to offer Eid prayer at his home as part of social distancing measure to contain COVID-19, dedicated Eid to Kashmiris enduring Indian atrocities, Indian Muslims suffering Islamophobia, to the Palestinians and to Muslim refugees of the world. He also urged all the Pakistanis to observe social distancing, wear masks, wash their hands to ensure safety of themselves as well as their family and friends from exposure to the pandemic.

Europe keeps easing

MADRID: Europe inched up its coronavirus shutters a little further Monday as nightclubs, museums and swimming pools re-opened in parts of the continent. While a post-pandemic life was gradually taking shape in what was formerly one of the worst-hit regions, the virus continued its rampage across Latin America, sparking a US travel ban for people coming from Brazil. —APP

Canadian High Commissioner for global efforts to respond Covid19 effectively

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Wendy Gilmour, the High Commissioner of Canada in Pakistan has said that the Canadian government highly values the bilateral relationships with Pakistan. In the aftermath of Covid19, Pakistan is being supported by Canada through a number of measures including direct support to fight the pandemic and by interventions through international support systems and financial institutions. The support that Pakistan has provided to most vulnerable groups of the society under Ehsaas Program has been quite appreciable and crucial step.

Ms Gilmour said this while sharing her mind with audience at online policy dialogue titled 'Canada-Pakistan relations and cooperation amidst Covid19' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Friday. A considerable number of audience including the civil society representatives, academicians and researchers made their participation in the webinar. "Canada has

been able to contain the spread of the disease through science-based responses and informed decisions-making," Ms Gilmour said and added further that Canada has a universal public healthcare system that has been crucial to deal with the unprecedented challenge and caters the healthcare needs of all the affected people.

She said that the healthcare in Canada is a provincial responsibility but it's ensured that all the population has access to similar health facilities. However, the testing is varied in accordance to particular situation of the localities. The response systems in Canada have been already well-established.

Ms Gilmour said that the Canadian government fully understands that the developing countries including Pakistan are facing financial constraints in supporting their populations and saving lives in the face of this global pandemic. Therefore, she said, Canada has played its role at G7 and G20 countries platform in order to provide fiscal space to these countries through the debt relief offers. She said that the Covid19 is being fought by every

country within their borders and with different kinds of situations and the strategies. However, the fact we need to keep in mind is that all the countries of the world are intertwined and therefore, a global response to the pandemic is imperative. A large chunk of the population across the globe cannot maintain social distancing nor are all of the governments able to provide the basic necessities to population in the situations such as lockdown.

However, she said, despite of fiscal constraints, the Government of Pakistan has taken appreciable steps to maintain the balance between the lives and livelihoods. The cash support provided to poorest of the poor under the Ehsaas Program has been a very timely initiative to cater the immediate needs of the families in the need of urgent support. Mentioning the role of Canadian-Pakistanis while responding the pandemic, Ms Gilmour said that Pakistani-original Canadian business persons have shown remarkable character during this testing time. She said that many of Canadian-Pakistanis approach the

authorities and offered different kinds of support services for the local communities. She said one of these Canadian-Pakistanis has been performing the lead role during the response activities in the province of Saskatchewan province.

On the future of bilateral trade and Pakistani exports to Canada, she said that curtailed shipment and ability to move would be the major hindering factor for the time being. However, Canada would continue to enhance mutual trade ties as and when the right solutions would be available. She said that except for this restricted social environment, the policy on migrants wouldn't be changed. Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI, earlier said that the life in the contemporary world after the arrival of Covid19 has been changed drastically. This fact applies on the bilateral trade relations between the countries as well and therefore, it would be crucial to understand that how the pandemic is going to have impact on Canada-Pakistan mutual trade relations. "The digital inequality in Pakistan has emerged as one of the crucial issues after the

Covid19 scenario and increasing reliance on the digitized ways of working." Dr Suleri said and added that the support by Canada could play a vital role in addressing this inequality in Pakistan.

Ms Wendy, while responding to questions raised by the participants, said that the Canadian government is taking various measures to reduce the impacts of climate change. She said that the climate change and renewable energy are priority areas for the Canadian government. She also said that we are supporting Pakistan in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and by provision of medical supplies. Moreover, the support as Covid19 relief through NDMA has also been channelized. She said that the digitization of the education could be an opportunity as well for the fact that the girls in Pakistan have been facing more hardships while accessing the educational facilities. The Government of Canada is already working in Pakistan to reduce the gender gap and to promote women empowerment through various initiatives, she concluded



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ukraine extending Eid greetings to the Pakistani staff of the Embassy. —DNA

President Erdogan calls President Alvi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan Sunday called President Dr. Arif Alvi and offered condolences to bereaved families who had lost their near and dear ones in tragic crash of PIA Plane on Friday.

He said Turkey would stand by Pakistan in every difficult time President Erdogan also extended best wishes of the government and people of Turkey for the people of Pakistan on the occasion of blessed Eid-ul-Fitr, a press release said.

President Alvi reciprocated heartfelt Eid greetings to President Erdogan and the people of Turkey and expressed hope that the current challenge of Coronavirus pandemic would be overcome soon.

IUNCN celebrates Biodiversity Day

DNA

PESHAWAR On International Day for Biological Diversity, IUCN Pakistan organized a webinar to commemorate the day and highlight the importance of Biodiversity and the nature based solutions.

The theme of the day this year was: "Our solutions are in nature", says a press release issued here on Saturday..

In her remarks, Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director IUCN Asia and Director - Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania, said that Nature based-solutions has been IUCN's concept that was developed many years ago and its understanding, analysis and its application

is constantly evolving. She further explained that given the current pandemic, IUCN continued to be safe and continued to think of the linkages we have with nature, and how nature-based solutions could serve as a way forward for us all."

Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan thanked the participants and recounted IUCN's works towards conservation of nature and natural resources.

He said that IUCN has been instrumental in putting together strategies, action plans for the federal and provincial and district governments. IUCN's works spans from coasts

to mountains in partnership with the government and NGOs.

He mentioned the Trophy Hunting Programme as an example initiative that has benefited local communities monetarily to the tune of US\$ 7 million.

The local communities also take interest in conservation of wildlife species if they get benefits from conservation activities.

IUCN has coastal areas experience from 12 countries and carried out numerous projects and programmes towards conservation of reforestation of mangroves, green turtle conservation, illegal trade of turtles, ecotourism etc.

He felt the need

to manage inland and marine protected areas in the country. He said that the government has an established regime at the federal and provincial levels, but there is an opportunity to go for partnership developed with provinces and local communities so as to give charge to the communities who dwell in and around these protected areas and are the real beneficiaries.

Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change talked of the Green Stimulus initiative of the government saying that it is based on two things: "one is nature's protection and the other to provide jobs to the jobless in the wake of COVID-19.

Construction package generating little activity

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD : Leader of the business community and former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said the package announced to reboot the dormant construction sector has generated little activity due to bureaucratic inertia.

The host of fiscal, monetary and policy measures will not produce the desired impact on the economic activity as the concerned authorities in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and other cities are not cooperating with the business community to make this great move of the government a success, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that a lot of people wanted to make investments in the construction sector while many sought to take full advantage of the amnesty on investments and bring their hidden money into circulation but now hopes are fading. He said that the package supposed to immediately propel

economic activity across the country is now facing resistance from the concerned officials which has frustrated the business community.

Many local businessmen and those settled abroad were willing to spend billions in the construction sector which is almost 12 percent of the GDP but now they have started to back off as they view circumstances as unfavourable, he informed.

He noted that some builders are of the view that amnesty given on fresh investments in real estate provided an opportunity to the people to legalise their existing holdings through new purchases to reverse the extreme slowdown but it is not working.

The business leader informed that efforts to document the economy sucked a large portion of liquidity out of the economy that the package aimed to bring back through sweeping tax incentives, waivers and subsidies and the fixed-tax regime.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying different kind of colourful balloons to attract the customers outside a Masjid.

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Crash investigations

HEART-RENDING stories from the PK-8303 crash on Friday have been trickling through: entire families wiped out, a son coming home on a surprise Eid visit to his parents who will never see him alive again, a young woman returning from a funeral in Lahore only to herself perish, and so on. At least 97 people are confirmed dead, with an unknown number on the ground sustaining injuries when the aircraft came down in a crowded residential locality just off the Karachi airport. Two passengers miraculously survived – pinpricks of light in an otherwise desperately sad episode. The survivors and their families, and the public at large, deserve to know the answer to the question: what led to the flight's catastrophic end? There has been much speculation, largely based on the last few moments of the cockpit crew's communication with the air control tower, which is grossly little information to go on. PIA on Saturday released a summary on the technical history of this particular Airbus A-320 which said there was "no defect related to the engine, landing gear or major aircraft system".

The plane crash must be investigated in a transparent manner so the findings are credible and provide the families the most definitive answer possible as to why their loved ones died. However, eyebrows are already being raised over the composition of the team formed by the government to probe the disaster with oversight from the Special Investigation Board. Of the four members that have been named, three belong to the air force. The CEO of PIA happens to be Air Marshal Arshad Mahmood Malik; the PAF officers on the committee are all junior to him in rank. Surely there are worthy civilians who could acquit themselves equally well in their task and whose objectivity, or deference to a senior air force officer, would not be an issue? The pilots' association has also asked that it, and international aviation bodies, be involved in the probe. Independent plane crash investigation bodies worldwide usually do include airline pilots and co-opt personnel from the relevant aircraft manufacturer. Doubts about how the inquiry into the crash of PK-8303 will unfold are not misplaced. After all, it has been nearly four years since another PIA flight, PK-661, crashed en route to Islamabad from Chitral. Yet the SIB has still not released its final report that explains why 48 people had their lives cut short that day.



Unheeded SOPs

With the number of coronavirus infected people crossing the 50,000 mark, we have seen a five-time increase in just one month. The main reason for this rapid spike is a complete disregard for any SOPs that the government would have willy-nilly imposed. Nearly all public transport is back on roads and there is no adherence to any health protocols. People are roaming around without any masks, while coughing and puffing at each other. The reopening of markets was also a major trigger for this record jump because most shops are committing blatant violations of the government's SOPs.

The authorities appear to be helpless and are simply issuing warnings. They have even tried sealing some overcrowded shopping areas but the people are as defiant as ever. This situation is not confined to just Karachi or Lahore, most cities and towns across the country have been presenting the usual hustle and bustle of Eid shopping. The chief minister of Sindh has been expressing his concerns over contravention of precautionary measures after easing of the lockdown, but in other provinces even that concern is conspicuous by its absence. Here are two elements to this unfortunate development: one, the people must not go out without masks and even with masks whenever they go they must keep social distancing of at least two metres. It is true that just before Eid, taking strict action and arresting people for such violations would have been an uphill task but something needed to be done.

At most shops it has been observed that salesmen are not using masks to protect themselves and their customers; this practice must stop. The worst part is that when the authorities try to impose some order, protesters are not far behind and come out on streets as if a big injustice has been committed against them. An increasing number of deaths and infected people should serve as an eye-opener to all those who are taking it lightly. Having said this, it must again be stressed that most common people are still facing acute financial difficulties which both the federal and provincial governments must address. Just by trying to impose protocols the people's problems will not vanish. There should have been a mechanism in place so that during the Eid holidays no family went unfed.

PIA plane crash and after: in-depth analysis

Fahd Husain



Seethe with anger and fury and rage at the criminal apathy and dereliction of duty that led to the PIA aircraft crashing on Friday. Seethe we must at all those who have contributed to the rot in all the institutions that are ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of passengers flying on the national airline; seethe we must at those who have nourished this rot, aggravated it and lorded over the stench all the while knowing full well their actions could – would – one day lead to beautiful and precious lives being lost.

Is now the appropriate time to ask this question? You bet it is. Now is the time to proclaim loudly that these people would not have died if someone somewhere had done what that someone was supposed to have done. The nation grieves. It should also seethe. Seethe with anger and fury and rage at the criminal apathy and dereliction of duty that led to the PIA aircraft crashing on Friday. Seethe we must at all those who have contributed to the rot in all the institutions that are ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of passengers flying on the national airline; seethe we must at those who have nourished this rot, aggravated it and lorded over the stench all the while knowing full well their actions could – would – one day lead to beautiful and precious lives being lost.

Red flags have been fluttering ominously for a while now. Here, there and everywhere. Lights flashing dimly. Sirens blaring silently. People screaming quietly. This is not right what we are doing, these lights and sirens and screaming people have been whispering to us. When you take institutions and staff them with underserving people recruited by unprofessional people for unmeritorious reasons then the outcome is fairly obvious. Human resource is compromised; systemic protocols are compromised and safety measures are compromised. The slow but sure degeneration of everything around us is an inevitable tragedy unfolding in slow motion.

Is PIA worth it anymore when it is bleeding lives, bleeding billions and bleeding all reasons to exist?

It is all coming crashing down. The standards, the expectations and the final outcomes. One big putrid heap of systemic carnage piled on top of decades of rot. It is such rot that obfuscates criminal negligence and dilutes the scale of re-

sponsibility. People die in crashes. They also die in vain. The living, somehow, have more to lose after the crash.

Prepare therefore to witness the rot in motion even before the dead are buried and mourned. Witness the slimy slithery tentacles of the system close around the rot in a protective embrace. Witness the finger-pointing, stonewalling and victim-blaming in all its remorseless glory as the shock of Friday's crash gradually dissolves into the inevitable fatalistic acceptance of a man-made disaster.

So, you may ask: why the outrage? Crashes do happen across the planet. People do die. True. Except, not really.

What happens afterwards – or does not happen in our case – is why the outrage. Who is held accountable afterwards – or not held accountable in our case – is why the outrage. What lessons are learnt afterwards – or not learnt in our case – is why the outrage. What corrective measures are taken afterwards – or not taken in our case – is why the outrage. And what systemic improvements are put in place afterwards – or not put in place in our case – is why the outrage.

This outrage should now be sustained and channelised so it can force the nation to ask those questions that should have been asked repeatedly till an answer was forthcoming: is PIA worth it anymore?

Is it worth it anymore when it is bleeding lives, bleeding billions and bleeding all reasons to exist? Let us ask this question. Then let us demand a decision.

The decision will enlarge the circle of responsibility. Who will be in that circle? Who will have stakes in the final call? Who dare have the crash on his conscience?

Such decisions have consequences. Weak people cannot deal with consequences. They do not want to deal with consequences. So they brush the filth under the carpet knowing they will survive the crash as long as they are in their plush offices and not in the aircraft.

But why just ask about PIA? Why not about all other institutions and organisations that contribute to the safety – or lack of it – of the national airline? Why not put them in the dock and make them answer for the loss of those beautiful and precious lives? Why not throw a dragnet of accountability over their protected heads and demand answers they rather not answer? Except, don't hold your breath. Really, don't. Things will happen as they do. Questions will be asked, but the not-so-hard ones; inquiries will be ordered, but the not-so-intrusive ones; people will be punished but the not-so-high ones; and measures will be taken but the not-so-critical ones. And then we shall do what we always do: move on he end, nothing really crashes after the crash. Till the next crash.

So let us wallow in our grief and marinate in our fury till grief settles down to a dull ache and fury evaporates away into nothingness. The funerals, the wailing, the photo-ops and hollow words, the headlines and special reports and a few shows debating superficiality – yes, lie back and let it all sweep over you like the guilt it is. The futility of expectations from a system cemented together with rot is now an organic part of life here. Let not sanctimonious fools tell you otherwise.

Pay for a ticket. Pray for a miracle.

The writer is Dawn's resident in Islamabad. The Article first published in Dawn

Choice Of Prime Minister Is Yunus Emre

Syed Shakil Gillani



A large number of tourists from different countries of the world visit every year Turkey to see the historical places, background and explore opportunities for business and trade as they are always fascinated by the beauty of different cities of Turkey as well. In a very short span of time YunusEmre Turkish Cultural Centre contributed lot of and arranged mega cultural activities based.

THE Prime Minister of Pakistan desired to watch next drama serial based on Theosophy and Sufism of Turkish Dervish (Theosophist) namely YunusEmre as the Turkish drama "Ertughral Ghazi" is being telecast by PTV, receiving high appreciation, in future joint venture between PTV, PBC and TRT can also be paved the way for production mutually in the field of Radio Broadcasting as well. More



than 4 Million people have watched uptill, while the number of viewers on PTV Home and YouTube channel increasing and this was the top trend on Twitter for five consecutive hours that day. Turkish plays have

been performed in Pakistan with Urdu translation and dubbing, but this is the unique popularity of "Ertughral Ghazi". Government of Pakistan must plan to establish Pakistani Cultural Center in Turkey to promote Urdu language and introduce our culture as the Turkey is the only country who always Euphonically pleaded for Pakistan everywhere in the world weather it is the forum of UNO or OIC and also presented the case of Kashmir loudly to support the cause on humanitarian, social and moral grounds.

This drama can be trend setter in Pakistan to promote Turkish language and increasing rapidly a large number of students turn to learn Turkish at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad (NUML), Government College University Lahore (GCU), University of The Punjab (PU) and YunusEmre Turkish Cultural Centre Lahore (TCCL).

The first YunusEmre Turkish Cultural Centre was established here at Lahore/Pakistan in January, 2017 under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of Turkey to introduce Turkish Culture, tradition and rights also to break the language barrier between two brotherly countries Turkey and Pakistan, to understand each other closely. The role of YunusEmre Turkish Cultural Centre is really integral and un-avoidable between two brave and egoistic countries to strengthen each other among the sophisticated communities of the world to accelerate the peace and harmony with moral, trade and value able support. YunusEmre Institutes are offering their profession-



al services more than 58 countries in the world to promote Turkish language, culture and heritage specially focusing on teaching, tourism and artistic activities. A large number of tourists from different countries of the world visit every

year Turkey to see the historical places, background and explore opportunities for business and trade as they are always fascinated by the beauty of different cities of Turkey as well.

In a very short span of time YunusEmre Turkish Cultural Centre contributed lot of and arranged mega cultural activities based on Turkish Art, Turga, Puppet show, Sufi Night etc including Celebrations of national day of Turkey and Commemoration of Martyred of the July 15th and many others particularly painting in a local school before the fall of Corona virus in Pakistan. Pertinent to mention the dedicated and devotional services of the President of YunusEmre Institute Prof DrŞerefAteş and efforts of UlaşErtuş, Director YEE are tremendous.

The writer is broadcast journalist & can be accessed at shakeel_gillani07@yahoo.com

Briefs

'Uzbek citizens feel social security'

DNA

TASHKENT: A meeting with representatives of the Civil Defense Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment of Poland was held at the diplomatic mission of our country in Warsaw, Dunyo reports.

A thorough discussion of measures taken by the Government of Uzbekistan to eliminate the consequences of natural disasters in Bukhara and Syrdarya regions in connection with the breakthrough of the dam of the Sardoba reservoir took place. These events, as noted by the Polish participants in the meeting, were a test of strength of the Government and people of Uzbekistan, which once again showed responsibility, cohesion and competence in overcoming the consequences of natural disasters. This was manifested in the timely evacuation of residents who lost their shelter to safe places, the mobilization of forces and means to further prevent threats, distribute food and ensure peace of the population.

Representatives of the Polish departments noted the high role of the created government commission, coordinating the situation in the affected areas of Bukhara and Syrdarya regions. Immediate provision of vital necessities, the allocation of financial resources, the collection of sponsorship, the provision of construction materials, medical care and medicines.

Afghan ceasefire holds

KABUL: A surprise Taliban ceasefire appeared Monday to be holding for a second day, as authorities planned to release up to 2,000 insurgents held by security forces.

The Taliban made the three-day truce offer that started Sunday to mark the Eid al-Fitr holiday – a move swiftly welcomed by the government, which reciprocated by announcing plans to free insurgent prisoners. President Ashraf Ghani said the government was also ready to hold peace talks with the Taliban, seen as key to ending a nearly two-decade-long war in the impoverished country.

"The ceasefire is holding. There have been no reports of any violation so far," National Security Council spokesman Javid Faisal told AFP. "We hope this will eventually lead to a lasting peace that the people of Afghanistan so much desire and deserve." In the northern city of Kunduz, which the Taliban had attacked just days ago, calm prevailed, with residents celebrating Eid. "Just two days ago panic had set in the city," said Atiqullah, a shopkeeper from Kunduz. _APP



LAHORE: People hugging one another on Eid thus violating rules of social distancing. –DNA

Amb. Moin greets Pak community on Eid

MUBAHSAR BHATTI

PARIS. The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque on behalf of the Embassy staff and on his own behalf has conveyed warm Eid ul Fitr greetings to the Pakistani Community of France.

In a message issued in Paris today, Ambassador wished them happiness, religious fulfillment and safety and health on the auspicious day of Eid ul Fitr. He advised them to celebrate this Eid with simplicity in this somber environment when the entire humanity was facing COVID 19 pandemic.

He called upon them to offer special prayers for the eternal peace of those members of the commu-

nity who have lost their precious lives due to COVID 19 pandemic and pray for the early and speedy recovery of those who are infected with this disease. He stated that we should not forget the poor and needy members of the community in this time. He also thanked and acknowledged services of generous Pakistani community members for their support to less fortunate compatriots in these difficult times. Finally, he advised the community to observe this religious festival by following instructions and safety protocols announced by the French Government. Nawaz leader Ahsan Iqbal said serious and collective efforts are needed to prevent spread of the Coronavirus.

US triggering new Cold War, says China

BEIJING: The United States is pushing relations with China to "the brink of a new Cold War", China's foreign minister said Sunday, rejecting US "lies" over the coronavirus while saying Beijing was open to an international effort to find its source. Keeping up the worsening war of words with Wash-

ington over the pandemic and a Beijing move to tighten control over Hong Kong, Wang Yi said the United States had been infected by a "political virus" compelling figures there to continually attack China. "It has come to our attention that some political forces in the US are

taking China-US relations hostage and pushing our two countries to the brink of a new Cold War," Wang told reporters during a press conference at China's week-long annual parliamentary session. Longstanding friction between the two powers over trade, human rights and a range of other issues

have been pushed to new heights since the virus outbreak.

Wang did not identify what "forces" he was referring to, but US President Donald Trump has led world criticism of China's initial response to the pandemic, which has caused more than 340,000 deaths and economic car-

nage worldwide. Trump and members of his administration have said China covered up the emergence of the virus late last year and bungled its initial response. Washington's criticism has been widely seen in the United States as an attempt by Trump to divert attention from the White

House's own COVID-19 failures.

Wang took an apparent swipe at the US struggles to contain the virus, which has now infected more people in the United States than anywhere else.

"I call on the US to stop wasting time and stop wasting precious lives," Wang said.

Taliban, Afghan govt ceasefire welcomed

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Sunday welcomed the announcements by the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to observe a three-day ceasefire during Eid-ul-Fitr, with the hope that it would build trust between the two sides.

"We worked hard to achieve this moment, and I hope that this respite

from conflict gives Afghan people the space and security they deserve to celebrate Eid, while allowing the Taliban and the government the opportunity to take additional steps toward a peaceful future for their country," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. The US, he said, remains committed to the implementation of the Taliban agreement and the US-Afghanistan Joint Declaration.

The US-Taliban peace deal, signed in Doha on February 29, calls for the full withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan within 14 months but that is contingent on a guarantee from the Taliban that Afghan soil will not be used by terrorists with aims to attack the United States or its allies. Under its terms, the Taliban would also participate in an intra-Afghan dialogue. "With the political crisis in Afghanistan resolved, I

expect newly named Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Ghani to seize the opportunity to remove the remaining obstacles that have delayed the start of intra-Afghan negotiations, starting with releasing prisoners," he said. Pompeo said that he expects the Taliban to adhere to their commitment not to allow released prisoners to return to the battlefield.

President of Kazakhstan expresses condolences

DNA

NUR SULTAN: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on behalf of the Kazakhstan people and on his own behalf, expressed condolences to President Arif Alvi of Pakistan and all his country-fellows over a tragic airplane crash near Jinnah International Airport in



Karachi, which claimed the lives of many people and caused numerous injuries.

"I share the grave pain of the families who lost their beloved ones in this terrible accident. May our Lord bless and comfort them during this time of grief and grace the souls of victims with his love and mercy.

Plane crash: Turkish PM condoles with Imran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan received a telephone call from President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Erdogan and Prime Minister Imran Khan exchanged greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. President Erdogan offered condolences on the tragic crash of airplane in Karachi

and reiterated Turkish nation's strong support to its Pakistani brethren in this difficult time.

The two leaders further agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation against COVID-19 pandemic to jointly address the situation. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the Turkish President on the steps taken to control the spread of Coronavirus in Pakistan.

SCO Secy-General sends a letter of condolences to FM Qureshi

DNA

BEIJING: Following the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft crashed in densely populated area near Karachi's airport on Friday afternoon, the Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organizations Vladimir Norov has expressed condolences to the Min-



ister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood

Qureshi. In his condolence message, SCO Secretary-General said that he is deeply saddened at the tragic incident of the plane crash. The Secretary-General expressed his heartfelt condolences to all the victims and their bereaved families and wished swift recovery to those injured.

Afghan ties with Pakistan, other states need to be further improved: Wang Yi

Afghanistan had been warmly regarded as the heart of Asia. It had a significant impact on regional peace and stability

BEIJING, May 24 (dna): Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday stressed a need to improve international ties between Afghanistan and neighboring countries and said that Afghanistans relations with Pakistan and other countries needed to be further improved. Addressing a news briefing on the sidelines of the third session of the 13th National

Peoples Congress (NPC) held here he said that China would keep playing a positive and constructive role in facilitating peace and economic development in Afghanistan. He said that Afghanistan had been warmly regarded as the heart of Asia. It had a significant impact on regional peace and stability. Referring to the recent peace agreement in Afghanistan, he said that the fast moving events in recent

months had taken the country closer to peace than ever, adding, "But the road ahead is far from smooth. We welcome President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullahs agreement to form a unity government and look forward to its normal functioning as early as possible. He added. The Chinese foreign minister called on all factions to immediately cease hostility and reach an early agreement on the arrangements for intra



Afghan talks. About the peace and reconciliation process, he said that China viewed that the process should be Afghan-led

and it must be left to the people of Afghanistan to decide the future of the country and grasp the nations destiny in their hands. Wang hoped the country could return to normality after the signing of the peace deal between the US and the Taliban in February and said the US side should withdraw its military responsibly to avoid damaging the interests of Afghanistan and neighboring countries. There is also a need for stronger counter-terrorism

efforts in the region, and to improve international ties between Afghanistan with neighboring countries, so more support and collaborations can be mustered to facilitate Afghanistan's peace-building process, he added. He said that the Afghan people are entitled to a better life free from the shadow of war, adding, As close neighbor and brother, the Chinese people have stood shoulder to shoulder with them.

Pakistani EV sector gets Chinese investors

DEZHOU (China) Pakistan's EV sector is embracing Chinese investor as a group of five local enterprises signed a MoU with China's Songuo Motors on the Songuo-Pakistan e-Trike & BSS Pilot Project earlier this week. According to Gwadar Pro, the Songuo-Pakistan e-Trike & BSS Pilot Project includes two sections, one of which is swapping system construction as Pakistan infrastructure facility, cooperated with energy storage enterprises, gas & oil company, electric company.

While the other section is to export Songuo electric bicycles, electric tricycles and EVs to the project site, and bring the awareness to the public based on established swapping system with the cooperation of E-commerce platform (logistic network for electric logistic vehicle and motorcycle), tricycle manufacturing enterprise etc.

Pakistani companies, included energy storage company BarBox, GFC (General Fan Company), multinational chemical and power DE-SCON, and E-business platform Cheetay, the second largest tricycle manufacturer Sazgar Engineering, software development company Confiz and Gas & Oil Pakistan, online travel company New Asis and investment agency 47 Ventures. _APP

Uzbekistan, Italy to cooperate sports medicine

DNA

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan Uzbekistan Judo Federation and Italian Judo, Karate, Wrestling and Martial Arts Federation (Federazione Italiana Judo, Lota, Karate, Arti Marziali - FILJKAM) signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of judo training and the exchange of experience in sports medicine. In connection with the coronavirus pandemic, the document was signed remotely, Dunyo reported. The initiative to establish this partnership was put forward by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Rome with the assistance of the Honorary Consul of Uzbekistan in the regions of Campania and Molise (Italy) Vittorio Georgi, who is also the president of the Italian Kurash Federation.