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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**PM nominates Shahzad Waseem as Leader of House in Senate**
**UK for participant of women in Afghanistan**

**Environment Day: Naval chief's message**


## VIOLATORS OF SOPS

# NCOC hints at strict crackdown

Asad said the main point of the strategy was containing the risk of the contagion and to ensure "SOPs Compliance and Enforcement of Quarantine Measures"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Thursday focused on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) compliance, strict administrative actions and enforcement of Track, Trace and Quarantine (TTQ) Strategy. Minister for Planning Development Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar chaired the NCOC meeting here on Thursday.

The provincial chief secretaries including Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) informed the NCOC that strict administrative action has been initiated against the violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and social distancing in public places and high risk areas of markets, public transport and industrial sectors. The NCOC meeting discussed implementation of SOPs, safety and quarantine guidelines to avoid spread of coronavirus with

the provincial chief secretaries. Speaking on the occasion, Asad Umar said the main point of the strategy was containing the risk of the contagion and to ensure "SOPs Compliance and Enforcement of Quarantine Measures". He said that all measures should be implemented swiftly to make the strategy a success in overcoming the risk of further spread of coronavirus. Punjab chief secretary told the meeting that strict SOPs and social distancing

would be ensured whereas on violation the entire market, business centre and plaza would be sealed. He said that around Rs6.5 lac fines were also imposed on the transporters over violation of SOPs whereas a fine would also be imposed for not wearing face mask at public places and high risk areas. Sindh chief secretary informed the forum that business centres, bazaars and markets violating the SOPs and safety guidelines were issued strict warning notices.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. – DNA

## China reiterates support to Pakistan

BEIJING: China on Thursday reiterated its willingness for continuous support to Pakistan in a battle against COVID-19 and said it was ready to work with all-weather strategic co-operative partner to overcome the pandemic. "We are willing to continue to provide support as far as we can, according to Pakistan's needs, and work with Pakistan to overcome the pandemic," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here. – APP

## Sarwar writes to UK MPs

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar urged the members of British Parliament to take notice of extra-judicial killings of Kashmiri youth by the Indian forces and grave human rights violations through imposition of 305-day long curfew in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). In a letter sent to more than 500 Members of British Parliament (MPs) on Thursday, he asked the British government to play her role in rescuing Kashmiris. – APP

# Uzbek ambassador says Pakistan his second home

Pays farewell call on FM Qureshi; looks forward to further cementing of ties with Pakistan

A.M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furqat Sidikov paid farewell call on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday. Both sides discussed openly and very friendly the outcomes of the raise of Uzbek-Pak political, economic and cultural relations during tenure of the outgoing ambassador. They also discussed the perspectives of further enhancing bilateral ties as well as bilateral events and

visits aimed at cementing our Brotherly cooperation. Uzbekistan became large trade partner of Pakistan in Central Asia and we are keen to further increase this, as well as to develop our cooperation in interregional connectivity the ambassador told the Foreign Minister. Ambassador expressed his gratitude to esteemed Pakistan's Foreign Ministry for sincere support our activity towards development of the relations between our countries. "Pakistan is my second home and I will always keep in my heart pure

Pakistani kindness, sincerity, strong friendship, rich culture and faith. I always remain a true friend of Pakistan and I express my thankfulness to my Pakistani Brothers and Sisters who were always with me and rendered strong support towards development of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Fraternal relations" Ambassador Furqat said in his statement after the meeting. Ambassador Furqat Sidikov has been appointed Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan and he will soon assume charge of his new assignment.

## Briefs

### Shahzad new Leader of House in Senate



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem as Leader of the House in Senate of Pakistan. The Prime Minister has written a letter in this regard to Chairman Senate informing him about his decision. Senator Shahzad Waseem will replace Senator Shibli Faraz who has been appointed as Federal Information Minister. Senator Shahzad Waseem is a seasoned politician and has served as State Minister for Interior during Musharraf time. He enjoys excellent relations with the diplomatic community. The diplomatic community has especially hailed this decision and hoped that Senator Shahzad will continue to maintain close relations with the diplomatic corps.

## EU-China summit cancelled

BERLIN: The European Union and China have decided to cancel a planned summit in Germany in September because of the coronavirus pandemic, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said Wednesday. Since emerging in China last December, the virus has killed more than 382,000 people, according to a tally from official sources. – APP

# FM Qureshi sets up public diplomacy consultative group

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of the Foreign office reform initiatives, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has established a dedicated public diplomacy Consultative Group. Comprising eminent scholars, field specialists and former Ambassadors, the Group will consult and advise the Foreign Minister on various aspects of public diplomacy including projecting and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural,

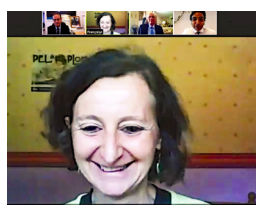
literary, sports and performing arts heritage. Additional working groups and committees will be established to spearhead initiatives in the priority areas of Digital Diplomacy, cultural Diplomacy and Sports Diplomacy. The Group's membership includes Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage, and Minister for Federal Education and professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood; former senator Javed Jabbar; Ambassador Zamir Akram, Ambassador Tasnim Aslam, Amba-

sador Shahid Kamal, along with Emran Akhtar, Shehzade Alam and Selina Rashid. Director General National Assembly and Senate Affairs, Shakeel Asghar will act as the ex-officio focal person. The establishment of the consultative Group on public Diplomacy is the latest in a series of reform measures, to bring focused attention to key areas of policy. Earlier, the Advisory council on Foreign Affairs was set up to conduct independent research on foreign policy issues.

# Pakistan a unique tourist country

MUBAHSAR BHATTI

PARIS: Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque held a virtual meeting with Ms. Francoise Cadoux a renowned French mountaineer and traveler who had recently published a book about her travels to Pakistan and China. The Ambassador of Pakistan thanked Ms. Fran-



coise for writing an interesting book based upon her mountaineering experiences and travels in Pakistan. He also briefed her about government's efforts for promoting tour-

ism in Pakistan. Sharing her experiences, Ms. Francoise Cadoux said that the people of Pakistan are one of the most hospitable and friendly in the world. She said that Pakistan has beautiful natural landscape and cultural diversity and with appropriate improvement in tourist infrastructure and services, Pakistan has the potential to become a top tourist destination.

# India misleading Int'l community

Report is based on briefings provided in Afghanistan to the MT by certain quarters who have long expressed skepticism about the Afghan peace process: FO

NEHAL MIRAZ

ISLAMABAD: The spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has misrepresented the Eleventh Report of the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (MT) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting the threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, to slander Pakistan. Pakistan categorically rejects India's malicious allegations, which are aimed at misleading the international community. There is no reference to "safe havens" in Pakistan in the Monitoring Team (MT) report. The Report is based on briefings provided in Afghanistan to the MT by certain quarters who have long expressed

skepticism about the Afghan peace process. This skepticism is not shared by the larger international community, especially the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General. The MEA's distortion and falsification of the contents of the MT report and its concocted allegations reveal that India's agenda is to create complications for the Afghan peace process. Pakistan has warned the world about the role of spoilers within and



outside Afghanistan. Pakistan has been highlighting India's sponsorship of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan against Pakistan. The MT report endorses Pakistan's stance that Tehrike-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is operating from Afghanistan and with Indian support threatens Pakistan and other countries in the region. Pakistan has proposed the listing of several Indian terrorism facilitators on the UN Security Council's terrorism list along with evidence of their involvement in terrorism. We hope the Security Council will designate them soon. The MT has also assessed that foreign terrorist fighters

from India are traveling to Afghanistan to join the ISIL-Khorasan (ISIL-K). Security Council resolutions require India to prevent the travel of terrorists to Afghanistan to join ISIL-K. The Report also notes that an Indian national, the leader of AI Qaeda in the Indian Sub-Continent, was killed by international forces last year in Afghanistan. Earlier reports of MT also highlight the growing strength of ISIL in India and its role in Easter Sunday attack in 2019. India has been using terrorism as state policy to destabilize its neighboring states, including Pakistan. The people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) have long suffered from India's state terrorism, especially after the cruel lockdown and oppression imposed by the RSS-inspired BJP-led extremist government since 5 August 2019.

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Briefs

RCCI delegation calls on meets tax official

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) called on Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Zulfiqar Hussain Khan. Talking to the delegation, Chief Commissioner Zulfiqar Hussain said that FBR was introducing more facilities to the business community in tax collection and FBR acknowledged their important role in tax collection. Reforms are being introduced to increase business activity.

The Alternate Dispute resolution Committee (ADRC) mechanism is being activated. He assured the delegation that all matters would be taken forward with amicably. The Chief Commissioner appreciated the budget proposals being prepared by RCCI on Sales Tax, Income Tax, Audit, SROs and other taxes and assured that these proposals would be taken into consideration in the budget formulation.

IUCPSS launches new program

ISLAMABAD: The first-ever Pakistani consortium of higher education institutes the Inter-University Consortium for the Promotion of Social Sciences(IUCPSS) is embarking on a program entitled “Knowledge sharing best educational practices during/ post-COVID-19 Era”. This will involve interactive sessions by academic leaders across the world towards identifying and implementing novel ways of training and motivating youth to accept new pedagogical practices, said Coordinator General IUCPSS Murtaza Noor on Thursday.

It is essential to mention here that the IUCPSS was established with support from two best academicians of the country Prof. Javid Laghari and Prof. Dr. Sohail Naqvi, then Chairperson and Executive Director respectively of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. – APP

**Jawad advises masses to be tolerant**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek- Insaf (PTI) Secretary Information Ahmed Jawad said while expressing concern over negative usage of social media on Thursday that people should show immense tolerance on social media platforms to avoid chaos.

Talking to a private news channel he stated except social media all technologies took decades to reach in common man hands, though fast communication gadgets had shortened the distance but increased tension among people as it did not give masses enough time to absorb the new life style. – APP



**ISLAMABAD:** President Dr. Arif Alvi received Chinese medical expert team and highly praised their support & assistance to Pakistan's fighting against COVID-19. Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing also seen in the picture. – DNA

ATROCITIES AGAINST KASHMIRIS

Speakers say occupation forces using Covid-19

**MAHNOOR ANSAR**

ISLAMABAD: Covid19 has provided the Indian occupation forces in Jammu & Kashmir another instrument to curb the fundamental freedoms of Kashmiri people. The people in the occupied valley have already been living under the siege and the pandemic has contributed into their sufferings further.

The human rights activists and academicians having a profound insight of the pre-and after Covid19 life in the Indian held Jammu & Kashmir, said this while sharing their views with the audience at on-line dialogue ‘Occupation

and the pandemic-Indian state’s atrocities in Kashmir’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), here on Tuesday.

Ms Ather Zia, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Gender Studies at the University of Northern Colorado, said that Kashmiris are subjected to worst human rights violations indiscriminately and regardless of whether they are involved in the armed struggle for their right of freedom or not. She said that the sufferings of women and girls have been intensified since they are subjected to direct violence that includes rape and sexual harassment.

Ms Inshah Malik, author of the book ‘Muslim Women, Agency and Resistance Politics: The Case of Kashmir,’ said that the spaces for the voices of Kashmiris are increasingly diminished. They had no access to interment even before the arrival of Covid19 and the pandemic has resulted into their more social distancing. “The lesser access of media has emboldened the occupation forces further to continue with their atrocities against the Kashmiris.” Ms Malik observed.

Dr Shafqat Munir, Senior Policy Advisor, SDPI, said that the people in Kashmir were living in a state of lockdown since August 5,

2019 and majority of them had already lost their livelihoods. After the Covid19, now they are facing ever growing atrocities by the Indian forces and thus their miseries have been increased in manifold terms.

“Covid19 is being used as an excuse to impose a lockdown on Kashmiris within a lockdown and the atrocities of the occupation forces are going on unabatedly,” Munir added and said that the international community however is no more in silent mode on such blatant human rights violations.

Ms Farzana Yaqoob, Founding Member of the Asia Institute of Public Policy, said that during the

time of pandemic, Kashmiris are being rendered homeless. The homes of Kashmiris are being demolished, young men are being killed and women are subjected to rape and harassment, she added.

Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, while highlighting various aspects of human rights violation in Jammu & Kashmir, said that Kashmiris are forced to live in a constant state of fear and anxiety. He said that the Indian government has even refused to comply with the international obligations and has intensified violence at LOC instead of ceasefire

at the time of the global pandemic.

Dr Khurshid Ahmed: Project Director Islamabad Medical and Dental College hailing from Sopore, said that Covid10 has provided the Indian government an opportunity to snatch the basic rights of the Kashmiris.

Carin Fischer, a German-born civil right activist, also presented a detailed account of her personal observations on the human rights violations in the occupied territory. She said that there are draconian restrictions on the freedom of movement and new domicile law is an attempt to snatch the identity from the Kashmiris.

FGEHA starts five housing schemes

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has started five housing schemes including Green Enclave-I, Green Enclave-II, Thallian Scheme, housing scheme in sector F-14 and F-15 and Park Road Housing Scheme during the last ten years.

The authority has received around Rs 23.235 billion from the eligible members who had shown their consent to get residential plots in the multiple residential schemes in the federal capital, said an official document. The FGEHA issued consent letters to its members for the housing schemes included Green Enclave-I, Green Enclave-II, Thallian Scheme, housing scheme in sector F-14 and F-15 and Park Road Housing Scheme.

The authority had received Rs1,075,826,328 from the members of Bhara Kahu (GE-I), Rs 6,016,790,090 from Bhara Kahu (GE-II), Rs 11,880,000,000 from Sector F-14 and F-15, Rs 2,462,657,453 from Thallian and Rs 1,800,000,000 from Park Road. The development work has already started in Green Enclave-I housing scheme where the plots would be handed over to the allottees after the development work was over. – APP

Virus cases rising everyday

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Task Force for Science and Technology, Dr Ata ur Rehman on Wednesday claimed that coronavirus cases were rising everyday in Pakistan but death rates are under control due to measures taken by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) government.

Talking to a private news channel programs, he said in May, there were some 18000 cases of virus affected patients in the country but that figure jumped from18000 to 74,000 today, due to irrational behavior of general public towards SoPs.

Focal Person Corona Lab Testing, Dr Ghazala Robi said that present government had provided all necessary support including funds and equipment for tackling the cases of virus pandemic in the country. She said the doctors and paramedic staff who got infection have been recovering fast. – APP

AIOU declares June 5 last date for admission

University administration had extended the last date from April 15 to June 5 for fresh as well as its continuing students in view the current crisis situation in wake of COVID-19

**SAIFULLAH ANSAR**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced that aspiring persons could apply for admission in Post-Graduate and Bachelors level programs (semester Spring 2020) till June 5 (Friday).

Earlier, the University administration had extended the last date from April 15 to June 5 for fresh as well as its continuing students in view the current crisis situation in wake of COVID-19. The students were

facilitated to take admission in MA, MSc, M.Ed, B.Ed, BS, BA, BBA, Associate Degree and Post Graduate Diplomas by the stipulated date.

The students of the AIOU are encouraged to apply Online through admission portal. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum hoped that the current crisis situation will not stop their pursuit to get higher education.

He further stated that the AIOU will take every possible step to facilitate its students who are eager to obtain and continue their

education for the uplift of their families, society and the Nation.

The University also facilitated its new and continuing students by giving them option to pay their semester fee in two equal installments. The date for first installment was fixed as June 5, while the date of second installment will be July 17, 2020.

The instalment facility will be open for the students who apply online through admission portal on the University website on or before the extended date of admissions June 5.

Railways starts refund process

**DNA**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways commenced refund process of unused tickets from all reservation and booking offices, chief commercial manager of PR announced on Wednesday.

The PR chief commercial officer said in a statement that the railway department has to pay Rs110 million in term of ticket refund.

Moreover, the railway authorities have also issued directives for ticket refund to divisional commercial officers of all seven divisions.

HEC addressing students' concerns

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has assured the students to solve problems, being faced by some of them, regarding internet connectivity and quality of lectures in their online classes as well as subsequent examinations.

On Wednesday, a few students gathered in front of HEC Secretariat Islamabad to raise their concerns.

They were told that HEC is in contact with the vice chancellors to resolve all such issues being faced by students. They were, however,

categorically informed that promoting students without examination was out of question.

They were told that the purpose of the whole activity is to save their semester, avoid disruption in academic calendar, and let the learning process continue.

HEC has circulated prudential guidelines on exams in order to ensure that the students’ concerns are not ignored and every attempt is made to ensure quality of education.

Also, efforts are afoot to address some of the connectivity issues faced by students through collaboration with PTA and the Telecoms.

CASS hosts seminar to commemorate Nuclear tests anniversary

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate the anniversary of 1998 nuclear tests by Pakistan, Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) hosted a webinar on the topic of “Nuclear South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities.”.

The session was chaired by Air Chief Marshal

Kaleem Saadat (Retd). Ambassador Zamir Akram, (Retd), Advisor SPD; Dr Adil Sultan, Director CASS, and Ms Sitara Noor, Senior Research Associate, CASS were the three speakers.

Ambassador Akram, in his remarks highlighted the role of nuclear weapons in bringing stability to the region and discussed some of the lessons that could be

learnt from the Cold War between the two former Super Powers. He also deliberated on the prospects of arms control and confidence building measures (CBMs) between the global powers, and its impact on other nuclear states.

Dr Adil Sultan, in his remarks highlighted major nuclear drivers of both India and Pakistan that led to the nuclearization of the

region and which continue to impact nuclear postures of both the regional rivals.

Highlighting the role of nuclear weapons in Pakistan’s security calculus, Dr Sultan stated that India’s continued force modernization could lead to instability in the region. Ms Sitara Noor highlighted the role of nuclear technology in socio-economic development of the country, and

discussed the safety and security measures taken by Pakistan to safeguard its nuclear facilities and material.

She also elaborated in her talk the issue of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership.

President CASS in his concluding remarks stated that without acquiring the nuclear capability, Pakistan would have been in a very difficult position, es-

pecially in view of the discriminatory trends and the unwillingness of the global powers to adhere to a rule based international order.

He also said that in the new great game between the US and China, there are opportunities and challenges; therefore, Pakistan must evaluate its interests and make decisions that could safeguard its long term interests.



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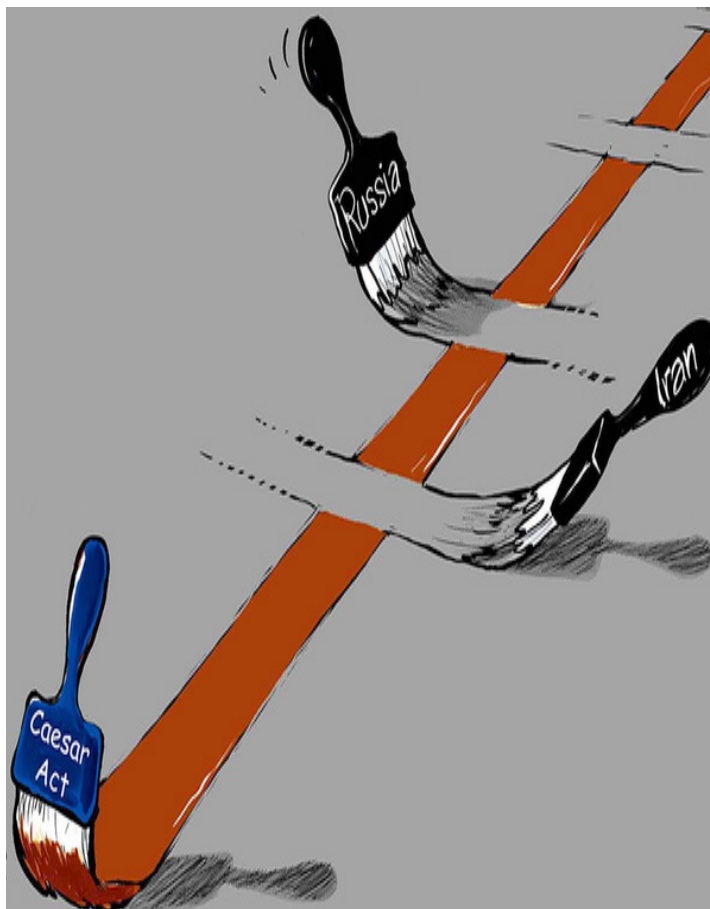
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## Justice for Zohra

WE have another tragedy involving a child domestic worker, another uproar over social media and yet another Twitter hashtag demanding justice for a little girl. Eight-year-old Zohra was employed at the home of a wealthy couple in Bahria Town Rawalpindi. While cleaning the cage of her employers' pet exotic parrots, Zohra accidentally set them free.

As 'punishment', she was beaten and kicked by the husband-wife duo. She was taken to hospital in an unconscious condition and died soon after being placed on a ventilator. Hospital staff suggest she had been brutally kicked and beaten, and also that marks show a possibility of previous sexual assault. Tragically, Zohra's story is not unique.

Last year, the body of Uzma, 16 years old, was found dumped in a canal in Lahore apparently after being murdered by her employers for taking a single bite of food from the plate of those who had hired her. Before that, in 2016, Tayyaba, aged about nine years old, was brutally beaten and tortured by her employer who was himself a judge.

He and his wife were sentenced to jail, though later the sentences were cut short. Tayyaba was sent back to her family who, not surprisingly, 'forgave' her employers. Such incidents display one of the ugliest sides of our society in which our decent-looking and so-called educated men and women cross all boundaries of barbarism and prove themselves to be highly uncivilized.

This proves a complete failure of the state to first eliminate extreme poverty that forces destitute parents to send their children to work rather than to schools. Second, it shows a failure of our education system that churns out even doctors and judges – among many other professions – as individuals who are devoid of all considerations for other human beings, especially children who are at their mercy.

Third, such incidents also testify to an inadequate legislative framework to prevent child labour and punish those who indulge in such practice, and then torture and kill innocent souls.

It is about time appropriate legislation is enacted and enforced against child labour and such criminals are given exemplary punishments rather than allowing the parents of the victims to forgive the killers in exchange of some money. Zohra committed no crime. She was after all only a child, a very young child. She should not have died.

Like the others killed in rich homes before her, our duty now should be to ensure there are no other victims of such brutality and such inhumanity in a class-based society which often considers the lives of the poor as having no meaning and no value.

## The G7 summit

AFTER a few weeks of uncertainty about the 46th annual summit of the G7 countries, US President Donald Trump has finally postponed this year's meeting. The G7 (or Group of Seven) is a club of the world's seven largest so-called advanced economies namely Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States – all claiming to be upholders of democracy, freedom, human rights and rule of law. How far they actually abide by these principles is a moot question. Interestingly, they represent just 10 percent of the world population but 40 percent of the global GDP, making them a highly influential group on the international stage. More than the postponement of the summit, the observations made by Trump are inviting debate and discussion in international circles. President Trump feels that the group does not 'properly represent what's going on in the world'.

He has termed the G7 an 'outdated group of countries' which needs enlargement by inviting Australia, India, Russia and South Korea. Now the meeting is likely to be held in September instead of late June. Of the four countries suggested by Trump, it is worth recalling that Russia was incorporated in the group in 1997 making it the G8, which lasted till 2014 when Russia was suspended indefinitely as a punishment for annexing Crimea from Ukraine.

For the past five years, once again the group has been functioning as the G7. This year's G7 summit has gained more importance in the presence of Covid-19 that has claimed thousands of lives and millions of affected people in most of the G7 countries. Though President Trump's remarks about the composition of the G7 may have some merit in it, the countries he is planning to invite leave much to be desired. Australia is not even among the top 15 countries in terms of GDP, nor is it among the top 50 countries populations-wise.

The exclusion of China is puzzling and the inclusion of India is even more surprising. If President Trump doesn't want to invite China for its human rights record, India has shown all disregard for democratic norms and human rights, and violated both national and international laws. But rather than entering into this controversy, perhaps it would be better to use the G20 as a better forum to discuss challenges to the world economy, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Be it G-7 or G20, the point is how the world powers are responding to the present crisis and how the future will unfold before us. President Trump's questionable decisions both domestically and on the foreign policy front do not portend well for the world and for America itself. Other countries such as China, India, Germany, Japan and Russia, should take the lead now and support the WHO in the fight against Covid-19.

# George Floyd protests: Sense of community could help heal US'

Cornelia Meyer



*African-Americans and some other ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus disease. They also hold many of the low-paying jobs in the hospitality and other industries that have been particularly hard-hit by the economic downturn. Many of them do not know whether they will ever have a job to go back to. Many African-Americans feel that, as a group, they have been left out of a decade of economic growth and that, 52 years after King's death, little has changed as far as their position in society is concerned*

US. As many protests turned violent, President Donald Trump wanted to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 and draft the army to quell the unrest.

This met with bipartisan opposition. It is unclear whether the president has the right to deploy troops without the invitation of a state governor. Texas Governor Greg Abbott (a Republican) proclaimed that "Texans can take care of Texans," while New York State Attorney General Letitia James (a Democrat) responded to Trump by saying that he "does not have the right to unilaterally deploy US military across American states."

Virtually all mayors have condemned the violence, none more so than Atlanta's Keisha Lance Bottoms, a Democrat and African-American herself. She told violent demonstrators in an impassioned address that this was not who they wanted to be and appealed to their better selves. Former President Barack Obama joined the debate, writing on Medium: "Let's not excuse violence, or rationalize it, or participate in it. If we want our criminal justice system, and American society at large, to operate on a higher ethical code, then we have to model that code ourselves."

Trump's photo calls at St. John's Episcopal Church and Saint John Paul II National Shrine drew criticism from both an Episcopal bishop and the Catholic archbishop of Washington. The first of these poured oil on the fire as riot police used force to clear peaceful demonstrators from Lafayette Square to allow the president to cross from the White House to St. John's.

Some have compared the current situation to 1968, and there are similarities. In 1968, Apollo 8 became the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon. In 2020, America's first manned spacecraft in nine years took three astronauts to the International Space Station. In 1968, riots erupted across the country as a response to the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Now we have seen what has

happened over the last few days.

That is where the similarities end. In 1968, then-President Lyndon B. Johnson heeded the message and signed the Civil Rights Act into law. This year, African-Americans again have every right to be angry. Police brutality doesn't seem to be abating. It is as though America has not moved forward from 1992, when riots broke out in Los Angeles after police officers were acquitted over the beating of Rodney King. A slew of cases involving excess police force against African-Americans has followed.

African-Americans and some other ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus disease. They also hold many of the low-paying jobs in the hospitality and other industries that have been particularly hard-hit by the economic downturn.

Many of them do not know whether they will ever have a job to go back to. Many African-Americans feel that, as a group, they have been left out of a decade of economic growth and that, 52 years after King's death, little has changed as far as their position in society is concerned.

They are right to feel angry. But, as Obama and Lance Bottoms rightly said, violence is not the answer. Obama feels that the way to address police brutality is intervention at the local level with elections and the supervision of police forces.

In 1968, like now, we have a presidential race. Johnson put his re-election into question by forcefully pushing for the Civil Rights Act, putting country before self. Trump was probably looking at history when he declared himself the "president of law and order," but his attempts to do so seem to have backfired – and not just with the left. Pentagon officials have criticized the potential deployment of the military on the streets. Meanwhile, in response to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper calling the country a "battle space," former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey tweeted: "America is not

a battleground. Our fellow citizens are not the enemy."

On Tuesday, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden gave a passionate speech, in which he said: "I won't traffic in fear and division. I won't fan the flames of hate." He went on to describe "the America of (former presidents) FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) and (Dwight) Eisenhower, of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King." It seemed as though, in the face of adversity, Biden had found his voice.

Some have compared the current situation to 1968, and there are similarities.

The question remains, what are we going to be left with once the spotlight stops shining on this issue? America still seems to have an uneasy relationship with race, 57 years after King told the nation he had a dream, and despite eight years of an African-American holding the presidency.

But the question is bigger than who sits in the White House, in spite of presidents setting the tone. During the 2000s, the author of this column lived for several years in Atlanta, and then some time in Dallas. What was striking to me, as a foreigner, was the lack of a sense of community in both cities. People felt that they belonged to their ethnic group or socioeconomic status, but did not really see the whole population of the city as their community. One can argue that it is hard to build a sense of community in a society as transient as America's.

However, the scars laid bare over the last week can only heal when people are prepared to reach across the divide and see members of other groups as part of their bigger community. That is precisely why Obama was onto something when he said solving these problems should start at the local level.

**Cornelia Meyer is a business consultant, macro-economist and energy expert.**

**Twitter: @MeyerResources**  
– Courtesy Arab News

# US riots to bolster support for Trump

Ray Hanania



*The wave of arson, looting and violence quickly spread across America, driven both by anger with the police and by liberal Democratic supporters*

THE past week has been a nightmare for most Americans who live in major cities, as a wave of arson, violence and looting has swept across the country following the killing of the African-American George Floyd by a white police officer.

Floyd's Minneapolis death provoked protests from the local African-American community, which rapidly expanded when the loosely organized international movement known as Black Lives Matter (BLM) offered its support. Some of the protests turned violent.

Floyd's death was clearly the result of police officer Derek Chauvin's wrongful actions, but also the failure of three other police officers to intercede. Floyd was protesting repeatedly that he couldn't breathe as Chauvin held him down with his knee for nearly 10 minutes.

Chauvin and his three colleagues were fired and Chauvin charged with third degree murder. Despite the fact that the system responded to the killing with criminal charges, BLM supporters still incited people around the country to take to the streets and protest the perceived racism and injustice of Chauvin's death. Minneapolis subsequently

exploded in arson, looting and violence.

Some 170 businesses were either destroyed or seriously damaged and forced to close. Countless employees of those stores, who had nothing to do with the Floyd killing, were threatened and in some cases injured.

The wave of arson, looting and violence quickly spread across America, driven both by anger with the police and by liberal Democratic supporters, who have sought to use the death as a political platform ahead of November's presidential election.

Thousands of innocent people have been affected, as stores in New York, Houston, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles, among other cities, were looted and/or burned down. BLM has also been joined by an equally nebulous group known as Antifa.

Like many Americans, I spent most of this past weekend watching in horror as protests turned into violent mobs. I feared for the safety of my own family and neighbors. In most cases, the police seemed to be restrained, even though they had the legal right to arrest any violent protesters and stop the looters. Some of the demonstrators vandalized police vehicles.

They taunted police officers, calling them names

and provoking them to take action. They spray-painted graffiti on the walls of buildings that were later torched, vandalized or looted.

Floyd's family hired a lawyer, who will undoubtedly file a wrongful death lawsuit against the Minneapolis police, seeking millions of dollars in compensation. Both sides – police and protesters – deserve criticism, but the primary blame must fall on the shoulders of the protest leaders who called for the demonstrations.

Left-leaning sections of the national news media are fueling the narrative of blaming the authorities, exploiting it for political reasons. They use it to criticize President Donald Trump while pandering to African-American voters, who historically vote overwhelmingly for the Democrats in national elections. However, I believe the looting and protests are backfiring on the Democrats.

These riots could bolster the support Trump needs to win re-election. Mainstream voters fear the rioters and the reality of watching looters and arsonists go unpunished.

**Mainstream voters fear the rioters and the reality of watching looters and arsonists go unpunished.**



## Briefs

### India reports 9,304 new cases

NEW DELHI: India's health ministry Thursday morning said 260 new deaths due to COVID-19, besides fresh 9,304 positive cases, were reported during the past 24 hours across the country, taking the number of deaths to 6,075 and total cases to 216,919. "As on 8:00 a.m. (local time) Thursday, 6,075 deaths related to novel Coronavirus have been recorded in the country," said information released by the ministry. – APP

### Brazil reports 28,633 new cases

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil reported 28,633 new COVID-19 cases over the past 24 hours, bringing the national tally to 584,016, the health ministry said late Wednesday. Meanwhile, 1,349 coronavirus deaths were registered over the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths from COVID-19 in the country to 32,548, the ministry said. Brazil, with a population of over 210 million, currently is the hardest-hit country by the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, and the second hardest-hit in the world after the United States which has confirmed more than 1.8 million COVID-19 cases. – APP

### Trump trying to 'divide' America

WASHINGTON: Former Pentagon chief Jim Mattis issued a stinging rebuke of his erstwhile boss Donald Trump on Wednesday, accusing the president of trying to "divide" America and failing to provide "mature leadership" as the country reels from days of protests. Mattis, who resigned in December 2018 over Trump's ordering of a full troop withdrawal from Syria, also voiced support for the demonstrators whose anti-racism rallies have roiled the country. – APP

### Curbs on press freedom in India irk UN official

UNITED NATIONS: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, has expressed alarm at the clampdown on freedom of expression in India and 11 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region during the coronavirus crisis. In a statement issued in Geneva on Wednesday, she said that any action the authorities take to stop the spread of false information must adhere to the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, adding that "in these times of great uncertainty", citizens had a right to voice their concerns. – APP



**TURKEY:** Pakistan Navy and Turkish officials during keel laying ceremony of Pakistan Navy's 1st MILGEM Class CORVETTE at Istanbul Navy Shipyard. – DNA

## Keel laying of 1st milgem class corvette for Pak Navy in Turkey

The contract for four corvettes for Pakistan Navy with Transfer of Technology (ToT) was signed with ASFAT (Turkish state owned Defence Firm). The contract entails construction of two corvettes at Turkey while two at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The keel laying ceremony of 1st MILGEM Class Corvette for Pakistan Navy was held at Istanbul Naval Shipyard (INSY), Turkey. Chief Naval Overseas (Turkey), Commodore Syed Rizwan Khalid

graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The contract for four corvettes for Pakistan Navy with Transfer of Technology (ToT) was signed with ASFAT (Turkish state owned Defence Firm). The contract entails construction of two corvettes at Turkey while two at Karachi Shipyard & Engi-

neering Works (KS&EW). Construction of corvettes in Pakistan is aimed to provide impetus to local ship building industry and further enhance KS&EW capabilities. The MILGEM Class Corvettes will be state-of-the-art Surface platform equipped with modern surface, subsurface and

anti-air weapons, sensors and Combat Management System. These ships will be among the most technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan Navy and will significantly contribute in maintaining peace, stability and balance of power in Indian Ocean Region. Speaking at the occasion,

the Chief Guest highlighted that the project is manifestation of strong relations between Pakistan and Turkey. He appreciated the MILGEM project for its construction standards, outfitting and performance. The Chief Guest also acknowledged the professional competence of

Turkish Defence Firm and Istanbul Naval Shipyard for their meticulous efforts in meeting the timelines despite global crisis of COVID-19 pandemic. The ceremony was attended by officials of Pakistan Navy, dignities and representatives of ASFAT, Istanbul Naval Shipyard and Turkish Lloyd.

## Pak-China trade volume doubled in 15 years

DNA

BEIJING: The trade volume between Pakistan and China has grown rapidly showing an increase from US\$4 billion in year 2004-2005 to around US\$20 billion in the recent years. "The trade between Pakistan and China has grown very rapidly. The total trade volume between the two countries in 2004-2005 was about US\$4 billion, but now it has reached about US\$20 billion." This was stated by Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy in China, Badar uz Zaman while participating online in the "China-Pakistan Economic and Trade Hotline Cloud Salon-Joint Locust Control" event organized by China Economic New-China Economic Net.

He said that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement has been implemented since January 1, 2020, and bilateral trade has grown. Pakistan has exported 313 items to China tax-free, and it is likely to export nearly 5,000 tax-free items in the next 10 years. Commenting on the role of agriculture sector in the economy, he said, "Pakistan's economy is largely dependent on agriculture. Our population is nearly 210 million, and the income of the poor in particular is completely dependent on agriculture. The locust disaster management is also very important for our country's food security." Badar said that in the past four years, Pakistan's agricultural GDP, including animal husbandry, has accounted for

20% of the country's total GDP, and crops have accounted for 9% of GDP. "Although it is difficult for me to give you a clear figure, it's about 5% to 10%. The crops have been affected, and this locust disaster will definitely have an impact on GDP," he added. Badar remarked that the chemical pesticides developed in China are very effective in controlling locusts. "We need help with pesticides and equipment. With the passage of time, drone participation in agriculture will also increase. I also hope for the Chinese support in this area." "Pakistan imports 50% of its chemicals from China. For example, the import of Pakistan's chemical fertilizer diammonium phosphate from China is about 500 million to 600 million US dollars," he added.

## Naval chief's message on World Environment Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Environment Day is celebrated internationally to raise awareness about protection of earth's natural systems, galvanize support to focus on threats that the environment faces and consider ways that can help mitigate these threats. This year's slogan adopted for the World Environment Day is Biodiversity; the foundation that supports all life on land and below water. It affects every aspect of human



health; provides clean air and water, nutritious foods, natural disease resistance and climate change mitigation. Human actions, including deforestation, encroachment on wildlife habitats, intensified agriculture and acceleration of climate change is pushing nature beyond its limits.

## Chinese sentenced to death for killing Pak student

BEIJING: A Chinese man in East China's Jiangsu province was sentenced to death in a first-instance judgement for killing Moiz Uddin, a Pakistani student of the Nanjing University, according to the local media here on Thursday. The man surnamed Cong, 28, stabbed Moiz in his chest with a knife on July 11, 2018, following a quarrel. The attack ruptured the victim's heart and he bled to death, Jiangsu police said in a statement later that day. The quarrel ensued after Cong's scooter slightly rubbed against Moiz, following which Cong bought a fruit knife from a nearby supermarket, and returned the spot to attack him, the police said. The Nanjing Intermediate People's Court sentenced Cong to death for international homicide, turning down all arguments of the defense. Murder should be considered as international injury, the court held.

## China imports gas via Russia

HARBIN: Heihe Customs in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province has supervised the importation of 1.58 billion cubic meters of natural gas via the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline over the past six months. The cross-border gas pipeline has a 3,000-km section in Russia and a 5,111-km stretch in China. On Dec. 2, 2019, a 1,067-km section of the northern part of the pipeline was officially put into operation, marking the start of a new era in bilateral energy cooperation. Entering China via the border city of Heihe and running through nine provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, the pipeline has also been connected with existing natural gas networks in China to allow the Russian natural gas supply to reach China's northeast, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei and the Yangtze River Delta region. – APP

## What reforms await the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan in 2020?

DNA

TASHKENT: Creating a favorable agribusiness climate, reducing the role of the state and increasing the investment attractiveness of the agricultural industry, ensuring the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection, phased diversification of government spending to support the sphere, development of science, education, information and advisory services in agriculture, as well as the creation of a transparent system of network statistics – this is not a complete list of reforms that will be implemented in the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan in the near future.

At a parliamentary hearing in the lower house of parliament, Minister of Agriculture Jamshid Khodjaev emphasized that some work has already been done in this direction, research and reforms have been carried out. In particular, based on the results of studies conducted by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), scientifically substantiated, clear practical proposals and recommendations on "Development and diversification of agriculture" were developed, which reflect efficiency parameters, a roadmap and a draft government decree on implementation of the developed proposals and recommendations.

To implement the program of measures for 2020 to implement the tasks



identified in the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, funds from international financial institutions and

other foreign organizations attracted. In particular, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a plan to allocate US\$500 million to Uzbekistan for the implementation of the "Modernization of Agriculture" project. The experience of countries that are among the top ten in the field of digitalization in maintaining a unified integration information platform in the agricultural sector is studied. Consistent work is being carried out to introduce digitalization in agriculture, which is so necessary for

the modernization of specialized research institutes, the introduction of applied research and advanced developments for the further development of the industry. Not only the Ministry of Agriculture, but also the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and khokimiyats of the regions are responsible for the effectiveness of the reforms carried out in the agricultural sector. In this regard, at the parliamentary hearings, deputies emphasized the importance of increasing their role in ensuring the full and timely implementation of the program of measures for 2020 to implement the tasks identified in the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030.