



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**COVID-19: PM Imran Khan ready to help India**

**Opposition playing with people's lives**

**Indian bid to seize Kashmir territory to fail**



## Briefs

**Shahbaz tested positive**

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has tested positive for coronavirus, party spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb confirmed on Thursday. Shehbaz, 69, a cancer survivor, is isolating at home, Aurangzeb said, adding that the PML-N leader was following his doctors' advice on how to fight the infection. PML-N representative Ata Tarar revealed that Shehbaz had himself tested for COVID-19 after showing mild symptoms of the infection. He said that the result of the test came back positive on June 10, at 4pm.

**World hailing relief packages: NA told**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Textile, Commerce, Industries and Production Aliya Hamza on Thursday informed the National Assembly that the world institutions were hailing the relief packages announced by the government for different segments of the society during COVID-19 crisis. Speaking in the National Assembly, she said that Secretary General of United Nations and international media had also appreciated Pakistan's relief package announced to provide assistance to poor people during this difficult time. She said that due to Prime Minister Imran Khan's debt relief call, the loans of developing countries were being deferred. She said that sugar and flour crises had badly affected the country during the governments of Pakistan Peoples party and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz. The Secretary said that it was unfortunate that PML-N and PPP had not constituted any commission to probe different crises during their tenures. She said that credit for making the commission to probe sugar and flour crises went to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

## Court says sugar be sold at Rs 70/kg

**Government barred from taking action on the sugar inquiry commission report for 10 days**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court barred the government from taking action on the sugar inquiry commission report, issuing directives for the product to be sold at the rate of Rs70/kg for the next 10 days. The 10-day stay order was issued by Chief Justice Athar Minallah on Thursday who was hearing a petition filed against the sugar inquiry commission report. During today's hearing, one of the counsels for the sugar mill owners, Makhdoom Ali Khan, told the court that the Constitution has stated that the federation and provinces have different rights.

The lawyer told the court that an ad-hoc committee was formed in February to take action over the rising sugar prices. He added that the commission asked the federal government to carry out a forensic audit. IHC CJ asked the details about what the commission had said about the rising sugar prices. "The commission, in a 324-page report, mentioned a lot of reasons for the sugar price hike," Khan told the court. He added that the commission had requested that action be taken against the FBR, FIA and NAB officials. Justice Athar Minallah asked the counsel again about what the commission said regarding the sugar

price hike. "Sugar is a necessity for a common man. The government should take measures in this regard." To this, Salman Akram Raja, another attorney present at the hearing to represent a sugar mill owner, stated that the commission did not separate the use of sugar for the public and commercial purposes in its investigation. To this, Khan interjected and told the court that the commission did not comment on the availability of sugar for the public. "What was the price of sugar two years ago?" the judge asked. Khan responded by saying that in November 2018, the price of sugar was Rs53/kg.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar in a meeting with PM Imran Khan. – DNA

**NA Speaker calls on PM**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Thursday. The meeting discussed matters related to the budget session, being held on Friday.

**COVID-19: PM ready to help India**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has offered help to neighbouring India to help it overcome the coronavirus crisis, saying he was willing to share Pakistan's successful cash transfer programme. Sharing a news report claiming that 34% of household across India "will not be able to survive more than a week without add (additional) assistance", the prime minister said, "I am ready to offer help and share our successful cash transfer prog, lauded internationally for its reach and transparency, with India".

## Opposition playing with people's lives

**Political magicians could not mislead the people by using the forum of Parliament: Shibli**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Thursday asked the Opposition not to play with the lives of people for the sake of petty political and personal gains. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Khawaja Asif's speech in the National Assembly was a manifestation of complete ignorance of the regional and

global situation in the wake of the outbreak of coronavirus, he said in a statement. Khawaja Asif's speech was a collection of contradictions and an attempt to distort the facts, he added. "Political magicians" could not mislead the people by using the forum of Parliament as previous regimes have destroyed national institutions and made them directionless, Shibli said. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan, following his reformation agenda,

had set the direction of the country on the path of prosperity and development and all the challenges were being handled accordingly. The people of Pakistan, he said, were conscious and those who prioritized personal interests over national interests could no longer befool the people. He lamented that the Opposition was playing politics instead of giving positive suggestions to tackle the crisis.

## 7 virus cases from Pak discovered in China

DNA

BEIJING: Seven COVID-19 cases from Pakistan were discovered in China on June 10 (Wednesday), six in Shanghai and one in Jinan, Shandong province. Chinese mainland reported 11 new COVID-19 cases on June 10, and all of them were imported ones. Gwadar Pro quoting the data released by China National Health Commission



of them are Pakistani. Up to now, all the 6 imported cases from Pakistan have been transferred to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, 138 close contacts on the same flight have been found and placed under a centralized quarantine for observation. COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan has spread rapidly since June 1st. On June 4th, the data of Pakistan's confirmed cases has exceeded China.

## 'US troops should not fully withdraw'

WASHINGTON: The US Central Command's top general, Marine Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, said that he cannot recommend a full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan unless the Taliban demonstrate they no longer support al-Qaida forces there. "If conditions would allow, we're prepared to go to zero" by May, McKenzie said in a video conference hosted by the Washington-based think tank Middle East Institute. "If asked my opinion, those conditions have not been fully met." The US is currently on track to reduce troops to 8,600 by next month, as part of a larger withdrawal plan, provided that conditions are met by the Taliban. McKenzie's remarks come just weeks after news reports indicated President Donald Trump had demanded the Pentagon draw up plans to fully withdraw troops from Afghanistan by the Nov. 3 presidential election. – DNA

**ECP suspends hearing**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In view of rapidly growing number of coronavirus patients in the country, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday suspended hearing of all the cases for one month.

## Bill Gates phones Gen Qamar Bajwa



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Co-Chair of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates has appreciated Pakistan Army's help in anti-polio campaign through provision of security, monitoring and bridging of capacity gaps. He expressed these views during telephonic conversation with Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in the backdrop of

polio eradication drive in Pakistan. The Army Chief said despite COVID-19, Pakistan Army in support of government's efforts, has already made preparations to restart the anti-polio campaign in the country in coming weeks. He said it is a national duty and Pakistan Army plays a part in the significant initiatives undertaken by government and health care departments of provinces.

## Pakistan Economic Survey launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister of Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Thursday formally launched the pre-budget document, 'Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20'. The pre-budget document shared the key economic indicators and the performance of different sectors of the economy during the fiscal year 2019-20. The Survey highlighted the main features of the policies undertaken by the present government, that focused on bringing the macro-economic stability and putting the economy on growth trajectory. The survey covered pre and post-COVID-19 economic situation of the country besides giving detailed picture of growth and investment, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, fiscal development, money and credit, capital markets, inflation, debt and liabilities.

## Govt decides not to open educational institutes

LAHORE: A high-level meeting of the civil and military leadership of Punjab has decided not to open educational institutions in view of the current situation of the Coronavirus and has decided to formulate an effective management policy to curb the spread of coronavirus in Lahore. According to details, a special meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar. – DNA

## Miscalculations about lockdown

THE deadly COVID-19 has started taking heavy toll on all and sundry with number of casualties increasing abnormally. Over 7 million people worldwide have been affected by the virus while number of those who have lost their lives while battling this monster has jacked up to mind boggling levels. While COVID 19 continues to wreak havoc, unfortunately blame game among various countries has also become order to the day. The United States especially chose to take China to task for what it called 'the Chinese virus' that had shaken the world without any discrimination. While mystery of spread of virus still remains a shrouded, demand of the US president and various other countries appears logical and genuine that the cause of spread must be investigated and shared with the world as it has almost destroyed even the strongest economies of the world. The

investigation is necessary also because it would help avoid any such tragedy in the coming days. In Pakistan regrettably the issue was not taken seriously. The Prime Minister to begin with termed it a mere flue and thus said nothing to worry about. The security and health institutions failed to analyze situation properly and could not foresee what would happen in future. The lockdown policy was introduced and followed haphazardly due to which people did not take necessary precautionary measures and thus massive spike in corona cases was reported. I personally support and agree with the contention of the Prime Minister about lockdown that continues lockdown would have eliminated the poor and destroyed economy in toto, nevertheless govt and relevant institutions made some grave miscalculations about spread of virus and its peak time. We introduced complete lockdown

## COMMENT



ANSAR BHATTI

when a smart lockdown was needed and when complete lockdown was needed we went for a smart lockdown. We all are now paying heavy price for this miscalculation. Since lockdown at the initial stage has already done the damage therefore to this extent one is in league with the prime minister that lockdown was not an option anymore, however catastrophic impact of the virus can only be avoided or minimized only by following the Stand-

ard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Regrettably, nobody is giving any importance to SOPs. People are seen roaming around in markets without masks. Rules of social distancing are being flouted without any fail. In smaller cities particularly people hardly believe there exists a virus with the name of corona. They all tend to term it a mere hoax. This approach is unfortunate and alarming. The death toll in Western countries especially US, Britain, France, Italy and Spain remained highest however these countries implemented strict lockdown policy that is why life has returned to normalcy in most of these countries. New Zealand happens to be the first country, which has gone corona free. Of course, Pakistan cannot be compared with these countries but we can surely draw some lessons. The biggest lesson is literacy. With an educated nation, we can certainly fight against such pandemics effectively. Ignorance ostensibly

appears to be a major contributing factor when things get out of control in such situations. WHO has recommended intermittent lockdowns in Pakistan. Pakistan officials have shelved this idea albeit for the time being. Things have been made so hot-potch that nobody knows what to do and where to go. In the given circumstances damage can be contained by making people abide by rules of social distancing and use of masks. It is also intriguing to note that hotels and restaurant have not been allowed to work, which is surprising because wherever lockdowns were eased cafés and restaurants were the first ones to have permission to operate. Likewise, sports activities have also been allowed in all countries. But in Pakistan sports activities are still banned, which makes no sense. Let us hope these sectors are also allowed to work sooner rather than later.

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## Briefs

### IOK youth sacrificing lives

ISLAMABAD: Hurriyat leaders and organizations in Indian Occupied Kashmir while denouncing the spree of killing unleashed by Indian troops in Shopian district over the past three days have paid glowing tributes to the martyrs saying that the youth are sacrificing their lives for the freedom cause. According to Kashmir Media Service, Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek-e-Mazahamat Chairman, Bilal Siddiqi, in a statement issued in Srinagar, today, said the red hot blood of martyrs would never go in vain. "Destruction of houses and properties, loot and arson are deliberate attempts of awarding collective punishment to the freedom-loving people of Kashmir," he added. Bilal Siddiqi said that the Kashmiri youth were choosing resistance path against luxurious and promising carriers and were fighting the sacred war of freedom to liberate their motherland from brutal Indian occupation. Reacting to the mass destruction of properties in Reibon, Pinjora and Sugoo in Shopian district, he said these are acts of cowardice, aimed at inflicting collective punishment to the freedom loving Kashmiri people. —APP

### Santosh Kumar remembered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 38th death anniversary of versatile Pakistani film actor Syed Musa Raza, popularly known as Santosh Kumar was observed on Thursday (June 11). He was born in 1925 in Lahore. He graduated from Osmania University, Hyderabad. Santosh Kumar was widely regarded as a dignified and charismatic fellow. He was often offered roles in government order, but he respectfully declined in favour of people, he felt, were better suited for such positions. Kumar was active in Pakistani cinema during the 1950s and 60s and is considered to be the first romantic hero of Pakistani films. His first film was "Ahen-sa" made in 1947 in India, and his first film in Pakistan was "Beli".

### IOK youth sacrificing lives

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ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul gives relief package to a needy women. — DNA

## Measures to help SMEs imperative: experts

'Better business regulatory environment for SME sector in Pakistan' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The business regulatory environment for small & medium enterprises (SMEs) needs to be improved through appropriate measures to enable them to cope with the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19. This agreed notion was shared by the stakeholders during online public-private dialogue 'Better business regulatory environment for SME sector in Pakistan' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), here on Wednesday. The participants on the occasion noted that measures are

required beyond the short-term relief which may be announced in Federal Budget for the year 2020-21 and take a medium to longer term view of difficulties faced by small enterprises. Mr Mukesh Kumar, Provincial Head of SMEDA, Sindh, was of view that as the ways of doing business are changing fast as a result of Covid-19, we need to come up with the responses that may meet the requirements of the diverse kinds of enterprises. He said that some micro and small businesses may be in need of loans but for others we may need to give one-off grants to help them stand back on their feet. Moreover, the regulatory requirements may be eased

and digitized as per provincial and local level laws, he added. Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI, while sharing the latest research conducted by his institute, said that about 1.4 million SMEs may face 50% decline in their income and 3 million SMEs in Pakistan may need assistance in after Covid-19 scenario. He said that almost 9.5 million of non-agricultural jobs are at risk. According to another research, he said, 58% SMEs had already laid off employees whereas 47% had reduced employee salaries. Besides, women-led enterprises have reported 61% reduction in their revenue forecast for April – June 2020.

He further said that SDPI research shows that small businesses will need support beyond the credit facilitation recently announced. As costs related to compliance with social distancing and health related SOPs increase, firms need support towards deferment of utility bills for next quarter and support in digitizing production, marketing & distribution. The reduction in customs duties and other trade taxes should be ensured, especially, on the import of health-related equipment. Besides, the regulatory Modernization Initiative can help in reducing number of regulatory steps and costs faced by

businesses, he concluded. Mr Amir Qureshi, representing Habib Bank Limited (HBL), highlighted that the banks will need to develop non-conventional ways of evaluating risks and improve delivery of refinancing schemes. Mr Asif Cheema of Asian Development Bank informed the participants that his institution was helping the government to improve credit guarantee schemes, and put in place a risk mitigation fund. Mr Ibrahim Kasumbi of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), said that FBR should revisit its tax regime for micro and small enterprises. Ms Shaista Ayesha from SEED Ventures, was of

view that business associations are weak and need support. Women-led businesses face barriers which need special attention by all regulatory bodies. Therefore, more flexible financial products for the smallest enterprises need to be developed, she said. Barrister Ahmed Bashir, on the occasion said that Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) should provide a legal framework for social businesses. The speakers including Ather Naqvi, Senior Journalist and Ms Shereen Naqvi, representing School of Leadership also highlighted various aspects of emerging situation related to SMEs in Pakistan.

### Govt signed MoU with private hospital

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr. Nausheen Hamid Thursday said that the federal government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leading private hospitals in the country to combat the coronavirus pandemic and to facilitate patients of coronavirus with free treatment. Talking to PTV news channel, she said health department and leading private hospitals in capital have finally reached an agreement, according to which these private health facilities will treat needy and deserving COVID-19 patients at the government's expense. Ministry of health is under discussion with the private hospitals in this regard which would be implemented soon, she said, adding, any patient who will be referred from government hospitals to private hospital to get free of cost health facilities there. She said that these private hospitals would established separate COVID-19 wards with HDUs, ICUs and ventilators and all these health facilities have their own laboratories for the testing and diagnosis of COVID-19. Nausheen explained that needy COVID-19 patients would be referred to private facilities once all the beds at the public and charity hospitals were filled. —APP

### Higher Education Symposium on 19th

ISLAMABAD: South Asia Higher Education Symposium will be held on "Transition to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic" on June 19. National Coordinator Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan and Country Coordinator Global Academics Leadership Academy Pakistan, Murtaza Noor will be representing Pakistan in the symposium. The sources told APP on Thursday that IUCPSS Coordinator Murtaza Noor along with experts from other South Asian countries would participate in the event.

The speakers would share updates and developments in high education sector after the outbreak of COVID-19, he added. This experience sharing session will also highlight the lessons learnt by the South Asian nations from the massive shift to online education in the region. National Coordinator Inter University Consortium Pakistan, Murtaza Noor would highlight the various steps taken by higher education sector of Pakistan especially online education and effective engagement of students. Higher education leadership senior academics and experts will also attend the online session. —APP

### KP conducts 3,000 corona tests daily

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Health Taimur Saleem Jhagra Thursday said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has achieved the capacity to conduct 3,000 corona tests daily. In a message on twitter, he said people could call on 1700 for free corona test. Rapid Response Team of Health Department would visit their homes to collect specimen. He urged people to adopt precautionary measures and follow approved standard operating procedure to contain the virus from spreading, Radio Pakistan reported. —APP

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## Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program in Pindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 124,897 persons have received Rs 12,000 each cash here in Rawalpindi district under Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government on the directives of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to provide financial assistance to the deserving families. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration has provided cash amounting to Rs 1498.764 million to 124,897 persons in the district under the programme. He said, 26 centers were set up for Rawalpindi district including tehsil Gujar Khan, Taxila, Murree, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Kotli Sattian. He said, the poor families received cash

from 26 points in Rawalpindi district while the cash was disbursed among the deserving families affected by the lockdown. He said, 14 centers were set up in Rawalpindi city, two in Gujar Khan, three in Murree, two in Kallar Syedan, one each in Kahuta, Taxila, Wah Cantonment, Kotli Sattian and Karor. The safety and security of the Ehsaas Emergency Cash beneficiaries arriving to collect cash assistance is the top priority of the government, he said adding, to ensure coronavirus protective measures during payment operations, special disbursement arrangements were put in place in close coordination with the authorities concerned. — APP

## Educationists term Covid19 an opportunity

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Covid19 has posed serious challenges for education and health sectors across the world. However, the pandemic has only accelerated the process of e-learning which has already been inevitable. Pakistan, like other countries of the world has to embrace the much needed change. The educationists and research analysts said this

during the online dialogue 'COVID 19 Pandemic and Health and Education Challenges to Public and Private Education System' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), here on Tuesday. Dr Ayesha Babar Kavish, Head of MPH, Pakistan Institute of Ophthalmology, Al-Shifa Hospital, Rawalpindi, said that education, health and economy are interconnected and the pandemic has it all of these areas

adversely. She said that it's high time to create balance between the education and health and therefore, moving towards e-learning is the area to be focused upon at the moment. Mr Qaiser A. Raja, CEO, Skills Enhancement Academy (SEA), UK, the crisis resulted by Covid19 has provided us an opportunity to update the curriculum and remove whatever that has become obsolete before putting it online.

Ms Ayesha Aslam, HOD Junior Section at National Level, Pak-Turk School Systems, was of view that the pandemic has pushed back our development goals including in education sector in an unprecedented manner. The challenge for the teachers and the students is now to be quickly adaptive to e-learning to overcome this learning-crisis. Ms Saima Subtain, School Education System Analyst and Director SEA- Pakistan

Office, while highlighting various possible coping mechanisms, said that launching educational channel has been a timely initiative by the government as an effort to respond to challenge. She said that various institutions from public as well as from the private sector are busy in building their capacity to strengthen e-learning which is an encouraging sign. Dr Sajid Amin, Policy Research Analysts at SDPI, said that every change initially seems disruptive to existing opportunities but eventually it leads to opening up of the new oppor-

tunities. He said that the crisis resulted by the pandemic has to be over after a few months but adapting new technology would have positive result on our education system. He said that online learning would also expected to reduce the numbers of drop out children as well as the gender gap and the girl students may get benefitted from the e-learning that were finding traditional education inaccessible for various reasons. Mr Shahid Minhas from SDPI earlier presented an overview of the pandemic and its impact on the education.

## Unsuccessful

PAKISTAN has witnessed a number of unsuccessful and incompetent governments but it seems the current regime will set a new and higher standard. The tall claims of the Kaptan have turned out to be nothing but a mirage. Soon after coming into power, the party started exposing the luxuries enjoyed by former PM Nawaz Sharif and his family. The PM House was opened and, from buffaloes to VIP cars, everything was on exhibition. This almost led to the impression that Khan would move into a five-marla house, riding a bike to the PM's office to perform his official duty. The gullible imagined that their ministers would now give up expensive and luxury cars and vacate fully furnished ministers' colonies, chief minister houses, governor houses and parliament lodges. This was also the time when people were entertained with ludicrous claims about the fuel price of the helicopter used by the PM to visit Bani Gala. The PM House still stands where it used to. Other palatial houses occupied by chief ministers, governors and ministers are also right where they were. More lavish cars and vehicles have been added to the imperial caravans of the prime minister, his brigade of the ministers and advisers as well as a myriad of chairmen of various useless task forces whose sole job is to do nothing. The much-vaunted 'Western' democracy has been turned into a mockery with principles of transparency, freedom of press and accountability having been torn to shreds. Critics argue that Khan acts like an autocrat, making life difficult for those who do not please him. The media remains a target and the incarceration of Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman is a glaring example of it. This speaks volumes about the 'respect' accorded to freedom of the press. The solemn promise of accountability has also evaporated in thin air after the sugar report. Khan tried to woo the support of working class people by pointing out the gross anomalies in our justice system and political structure, which according to Khan, benefits only oligarchs. But his time in power so far has witnessed police brutalities – not only in Punjab where the Sharifs ruled in the past but in the most perfect province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well. The justice system of the country continues to help the powerful instead of the oppressed. One of the ways to improve it would have been to allocate more funds for hiring judges and prosecutors in lower courts. Simple reforms in the police could also have been instrumental in stamping out these injustices but Khan's government, which allegedly lavished money on the Tiger Force and a social media team to counter criticism, chose not to allocate sufficient funds for this purpose. Skyrocketing inflation and bailout packages to rich businessmen created skepticism among PTI supporters, which was further solidified when the government recently made a callous decision terminating over 9000 workers of the Pakistan Steel Mills.

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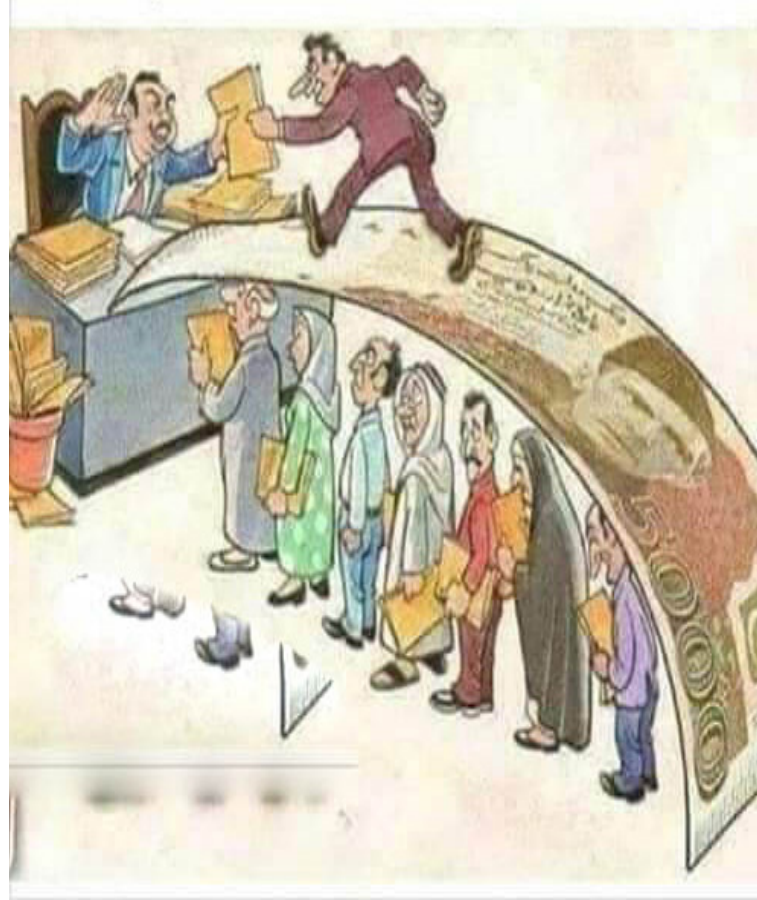
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## Accountable governance

THE creation of an enabling environment for a merit-oriented, realistically paid bureaucracy to perform and deliver social good is an important dimension of institution building. The public services cannot resist the pressures of powerful groups in society unless they are fortified with a sense of security of service. But, given the low threshold of moral, financial and professional integrity in our society and wide-spread prevalence of corruption, an effective and objective system of restraint is essential to check the arbitrary exercise of power and misuse of public office for personal gain. All those who exercise power must be held accountable for their actions. Wrongdoers must be punished but the damage to society will have been done: the mechanisms of restraint must also operate while they are in the act of doing wrong. It is, therefore, important to supplement punitive accountability with prevention of misuse of power. Punitive accountability is a delicate and difficult process. As powerful groups are likely to come within its mischief, it is essential that the process enjoys a high degree of credibility in the public eye and is not misused as a means of a political witch-hunt. The bare minimum and irreducible principles of credible accountability are as follows. First and foremost, nobody should be above the law. There should be no sacred cows. The second principle is that of fair-play: the same set of rules should apply to all, without any discrimination whatsoever. The third principle is that it should not be selective and directed but universal and across-the-board; it should look at the offence and not the offender. And last but not the least, it should follow the due process of law. A multi-pronged strategy is required to prevent corrupt practices and abuse of authority. First, a new governance paradigm is taking shape under the impact of powerful forces such as economic integration, technological advances and diffusion of democratic ideas. Governments all over the world are withdrawing from direct provision of goods and services and increasingly playing the role of enabler, facilitator, and regulator. In sync with the changing role of the state, wide-ranging reforms based upon the principles of deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation should be undertaken. Structural reforms in the areas of trade, taxation, financial sector and corporate governance should be deepened to promote the ease of doing business and to minimize intervention by government agencies. Second, like other countries, Pakistan needs to focus its attention on revamping rules, processes and institutions so as to replace control mechanisms by market forces but at the same time provide effective and transparent regulation to cope with issues stemming from market failure. Third, it is important to dismantle cumbersome regulations that clog economic transactions and breed corruption, especially in the areas of taxation, trade regime and regulatory requirements. This will reduce opportunities for rent seeking.

## Is EU's bond scheme its Hamiltonian moment?

Daniel Gros



*Third, the federal government's assumption of state debts that Hamilton engineered was in a certain sense unavoidable, partly because the main source of government revenues – external tariffs – had also been transferred to the federal level. Likewise, the large-scale introduction of Eurobonds would necessitate the transfer of a substantial share of national government revenues to EU level, along with restrictions on national fiscal policy*

MANY believe that the recent Franco-German proposal for a European recovery fund – to be financed by bonds issued by the EU – could be the bloc's "Hamiltonian moment." This term refers to the 1790 agreement spearheaded by Alexander Hamilton, the US' first treasury secretary, whereby the US federal government assumed the debts incurred by the new country's 13 states during the American War of Independence.

On superficial inspection, this analogy seems to warrant the introduction of Eurobonds right now. But a closer look reveals that the equation "Hamilton=Eurobonds now" does not hold for three reasons. First, whereas the US states had incurred most of their debts in a common cause, namely the war against Great Britain, that is not true of today's EU member states. Although some might argue that the bloc's governments are all fighting against another common enemy, namely the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), this analogy is misleading. The additional debt that most governments will incur to keep their national economies afloat during the pandemic will be large, but it will constitute only a fraction of their total debt.

Assume, for example, that the Italian government has to spend the equivalent of 15 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to mitigate the looming pandemic-induced recession. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio would then increase to about 150 percent, but the common fight against the coronavirus would have accounted for only a tenth of the total. Second, the US states' wartime debts were not repaid in full by the federal government, because the portion owed to private creditors was substantially restructured – what we would now call "private sector involvement" – before the federal government assumed them. But a restructuring of EU member states' existing debt today is out of the question.

Third, the federal government's assumption of state debts that Hamilton engineered was in a cer-

tain sense unavoidable, partly because the main source of government revenues – external tariffs – had also been transferred to the federal level. Likewise, the large-scale introduction of Eurobonds would necessitate the transfer of a substantial share of national government revenues to EU level, along with restrictions on national fiscal policy, as Societe Generale Chairman Lorenzo Bini Smaghi has eloquently pointed out. But few EU member states, including those advocating Eurobonds, would be willing to abandon a large part of their fiscal sovereignty. For these reasons, it is difficult to argue that Europe's current situation in any way resembles that of the US in the late 18th century, and that now is the time to introduce large-scale risk-sharing on Europe's national public debts.

Some have instead compared the proposed European recovery fund to the 1948 Marshall Plan, under which the US provided war-ravaged Western Europe with substantial aid to finance reconstruction. But, again, the differences are more important than the similarities. Above all, the problem today is not ruined physical infrastructure, but rather the sudden limitation on the use of existing productive resources.

Arguably the most relevant US historical parallel for Europe today is President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930s. After all, the US had entered the Great Depression with a fragmented banking system organized along state lines, and with the states also responsible for unemployment insurance and poverty relief. The New Deal changed all that, but much of Roosevelt's program had to overcome resistance. Although his administration quickly established a banking union by creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1933, introducing fiscal measures and reorganizing unemployment insurance turned out to be much more difficult. In particular, the US Supreme Court repeatedly stymied the New Deal by ruling that some of its central elements were unconstitutional

because they were not federal competences. But after FDR won a landslide re-election in 1936 and threatened to add more supportive justices, the court changed its position – known as "the switch in time that saved nine" – allowing him to implement most of his initiatives.

Then, as now, the key issues were unemployment and poverty relief. The New Deal did not simply override state competences in those domains, but instead provided states and municipalities with large federal funding for public works and unemployment compensation.

In a similar vein, the 750 billion (\$852 billion) "Next Generation EU" fund proposed by the European Commission on the heels of the Franco-German proposal would channel EU funds through member states and regions. And the bloc's 100 billion SURE initiative to mitigate unemployment risks in hard-hit member states, which has already been agreed upon, also carries echoes of the New Deal. EU member states would be willing to abandon a large part of their fiscal sovereignty.

The lack of a European unemployment insurance scheme should not be surprising. In the US, unemployment insurance is also still based on state-level schemes that the federal government supplements during recessions (the \$2.2 trillion US economic rescue package that Congress adopted in March increased federal jobless payments by far more than in previous downturns).

Roosevelt's reforms have stood the test of time and are now accepted as an essential part of the US "economic constitution." The longer-term challenge for the EU will be to implement its COVID-19 crisis measures in such a way that they, too, come to be seen as useful economic stabilization tools when more normal times return.

*Daniel Gros is Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies.  
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– Courtesy Arab News

## How China Would Lead Global Economy Amid COVID-19

Ehtisham Amer



*India is a lucrative market for western goods and services and here lies the future growth of world commerce. India's middle class, at 360 million, is larger than the population of the USA and about to catch up with the EU zone (445 million). India has promoted itself as a counter lever to Chinese expansionist designs and is becoming darling of the west*

HUMANS built many an institution over history for effective governance. Starting from a family unit and ending up in tribes and clans wasn't achieved over a century but millennia, perhaps. All rules, laws, and conventions were and are framed for one basic, fundamental purpose in mind: protecting the vulnerable against the abuse of power by majority. That's the underlying reason for all human activity in all of its manifestations. Laws to protect women and not men, conventions to protect rights of children and not the adults and we have sets of other laws and conventions to protect and safeguard interests of weaker parties in any disagreement or dispute of any nature. India prides and projects itself as the largest democracy of the world. By sheer numbers, the claim isn't very defective. But any attempt to dig deeper than skin reveals sins of horrendous proportion, enough to make even a moderate totalitarian state look magnanimous. Indian politics has been tilting, very visibly, towards rightwing extremist agenda over the last three decades. When the world at large was busy transforming state and society towards more tolerant and inclusive statehood, India has been breeding its kind of extremism in plain sight. 2014 and life thereafter has been a case of a sudden departure from the high morals of secularism and tolerant India, enshrined in the Indian constitution and professed by founding fathers of India. Well, India holds a unique ignominy to have assassinated its father of the nation within 6 months of its founding. That is a story for some other times.

The gene of communal hatred, released by BJP since 2014, has now started to stare India in eyes. Politics of hatred and religious divide has turned India into a country which is a shadow of its tolerant past. Being a Muslim in India, the largest minority comprising nearly 18 % of the population, is now like a German Jew under the Nazi regime: limited rights as a citizen in your country of birth.

BJP, the ruling party of India, has never expressed any desire to be seen as a secular party. It knows its core constituency and does every political gimmick to keep

attracting more political mass. Muslims have paid for the rise of the fortune of BJP with their blood. BJP knows it and has made every effort to turn Muslims in particular and all minorities in general to accept the status of an unequal citizen within India.

BJP has adopted a clever strategy for this ignominious purpose. Modern democratic states make conscious efforts to avoid the label of intolerant state. All efforts are made to improve the image as a benevolent, all-encompassing state which treats all of its citizens equally without prejudice to race, religion, or ethnicity. That's not what BJP wants to be seen as. India is diverse is a given fact. How this diversity is managed is what makes India stand out. Under BJP, there is an institutional effort to turn Muslims and minorities as nonexistent beings.

Lynching was an uncommon practice in pre-BJP India. BJP government of 2014 created, what many call, an eco-system of Muslim hatred leading to mob lynching. Before BJP, state institutions made some effort to re-address Muslim grievances and kept a lid on communal hatred. BJP removed the lid, led the charge against minorities, and has brought India to a point where minorities are openly threatened by cow vigilantes. TV anchors, with communal hatred driven agenda, have found their rating and fortune soar over the last 5 years.

There is however a method to this madness. BJP has deliberately promoted Muslim lynching and acts of cow vigilantes. Effort is made to give wide circulation to the videos and acts of Muslim lynching. The question arises as to why would a government deliberately tries to promote a negative image of its governance deficiencies.

India is a lucrative market for western goods and services and here lies the future growth of world commerce. India's middle class, at 360 million, is larger than the population of the USA and about to catch up with the EU zone (445 million). India has promoted itself as a counter lever to Chinese expansionist designs and is becoming darling of the west.

When mob lynching and brutalities against Muslims

are given wide coverage on social and mainstream media, Muslims are harassed and traumatized. When state institutions fail to provide security to minorities, faith in state apparatus is further lowered. This psychological warfare against Muslims has turned them to look inward and settle in modern-day equivalents of Ghettos. The systemic disenfranchisement of Muslims was evident during the 2019 elections when BJP did not offer its ticket to any Muslim candidate. That was a clear message to 220 million Muslims that they do not matter to BJP, thus to India. Muslim representation in the lower house of India fell from 49 in 1980 to 29 in 2019. This occurred when the Muslim population has increased from 80 million (1981) to 200 million (2019 estimates).

How Muslim hatred threatens Indian society came to light when a Hindu boy, with a Muslim sounding name (Sahil), was lynched for chasing a Hindu girl. Only when his Hindu identity was revealed, that state apparatus agreed to take the culprits to court of law. As a Muslim, Sahil would not have had this luxury to see his murders being prosecuted.

All independent studies, media reporting point to a dangerous trend of state patronage of communal violence. State either facilitates or looks the other way when Muslims are subjected to brutalities. World consciousness has however been shaken out of slumber after a brutal crackdown on peaceful protestors in Delhi against controversial citizenship act, which makes a case for turning Muslim population as second-class citizens of India with no or minimal rights.

This atmosphere of fear has turned Muslims into an object of vilifications and Muslim vendors and traders face social and commercial boycott, making it harder to survive. How would India look like for minorities when the term of BJP ends in 2024 is anybody's guess. The world had witnessed the Nazi regime push its Jewish citizens into holocaust in the 20th century. Another holocaust of a bigger proportion is brewing in India. Is anyone concerned about it?

*(The writer is a security analyst, based in Islamabad)*

## Briefs

### Iraq, US launch strategic talks

BAGHDAD: After months of tensions, Baghdad and Washington are poised to launch strategic talks Thursday to reset ties - but even with a new US-friendly Iraqi premier, a major breakthrough is unlikely. Due to coronavirus travel restrictions, top-level talks expected to take place in Baghdad have been demoted to a brief online kick-off session, as Iraq faces a spike in cases as well as a looming financial crisis. That has tempered expectations for the first strategic dialogue between Iraq and the US in a decade, which will chiefly address the fate of the US-led military coalition, as well as economic and cultural ties. "The entire US-Iraq bilateral relationship will not be fixed in a single day," said Robert Ford, an analyst at the Middle East Institute and a US diplomat in Baghdad during the last round of strategic talks in 2008, which ironed out the US drawdown from the occupation that began after the 2003 invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. - APP

### Pakistan received good: Asad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan has said that the measures taken at international level to provide debt relief to the coronavirus-hit developing countries have helped Pakistan in coping with a very difficult economic situation. Talking to a US television, he said the crisis stemming from the pandemic could not have come at a worse time for Pakistan because the "very tough economic reforms" that government undertook over the last one year had just begun to produce results.

### Lufthansa says 22,000 jobs to go

BERLIN: German airline Lufthansa said Thursday that it would have to slash 22,000 full-time jobs as the recovery in demand for travel following the coronavirus pandemic will be muted. "The recovery in demand in the air transport sector will be slow in the foreseeable future," the airline said. It said the group would operate about 100 fewer aircraft after the crisis. This will lead to "a total of 22,000 fewer full-time positions in the Lufthansa Group, half of them in Germany". - APP

### CNG industry seeks tax relaxation

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Compressed Natural Gas Association (APCNGA) has said the CNG industry is passing through difficult times due to economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and needs the government attention to mitigate its financial woes. Justifying the government assistance, APCNGA Central Chairman Ghayas Abdullah Paracha in a news release said the CNG stations had been operating during the lockdowns to provide services to the vehicles performing emergency duties. - DNA

# Indian attempt to seize Kashmir territory forcibly doomed to fail: Chinese scholar

India's moves will have no effect on the Chinese side, nor will they change the fact that China exercises sovereignty over relevant territories and the status quo that China exercises effective jurisdiction

DNA

BEIJING: India's attempt to forcibly seize Kashmir territory is doomed to fail, as it against all human norms and the relevant resolutions of the UN's Security Council on the issue. This was stated by Chinese scholar Dr. Wang Shida in an article published by the China Economic Net on Thursday. India has, since last August, taken constant actions to unilaterally change the status quo of Kashmir and continued to exacerbate regional tensions. Such efforts show India blinded by "double confidence, he added. Dr. Wang who is working with Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) wrote in detail on

the issue of Kashmir and its illegal occupation by the Indian government. A review of the region's history easily reveals that India has often emphasized its own interests and appeals concerning border issues, including that of Kashmir. According to Dr. Wang Shida, since, Kashmir was controlled by India, the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir has never been calm: Clashes have repeatedly broken out between Muslims who make up the majority of the local population and the Indian authorities; there has always been a separatist tendency, which has become increasingly fierce in recent years and posed a big worry to the Indian authorities. The Indian authorities have resorted to constant high-handed policies on this issue and even "physically eliminated" the leading an-

ti-Indian activists. Dr. Wang Shida noted that the recent round of India-Pakistan air battles was the first of its kind after the third India-Pakistan war of 1971 and also a formal confrontation of formation size between Indian and Pakistani air forces since the Kargil conflict in 1999, as well as the so-called cold-start strategy implemented by India against Pakistan for the first time. Based on this precedent, India's frequent military actions against Pakistan become more likely in the future, while Pakistan, under great pressures, might be forced to use tactical nuclear weapons as a return. The possibility of an all-out war or nuclear war between India and Pakistan has thus increased instead of decreasing. The abolition of Article 370 of the Constitution by the



Indian government, he said, has posed a challenge to the sovereignty of Pakistan and China and made the India-Pakistan relations and China-India relations more complex. He was the view for Pakistan, the ownership of Kashmir is a matter of the

very foundation for building Pakistan. On the Chinese side, India "opened up new territory on the map," incorporated part of the areas under the local jurisdiction of Xinjiang and Tibet into its Ladakh union territory, and placed Pakistani-administered

Kashmir within its so-called union territories of Jammu and Kashmir. This forced China into the Kashmir dispute, stimulated China and Pakistan to take counter-actions on the Kashmir issue, and dramatically increased the difficulty in resolving the border issue between China and India. Just as what Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister, mentioned in his meeting with Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, India's moves challenged China's sovereign rights and interests and violated the agreement on maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas between the two countries. The Chinese side was seriously concerned about this. India's moves will have no effect on the Chinese side, nor will they change the fact

that China exercises sovereignty over relevant territories and the status quo that China exercises effective jurisdiction. Secondly, India used domestic legislation to deny the U.N.'s designation of Kashmir as a disputed region. Regardless of how "confident" India is and no matter how good it feels about itself, its attempts to forcibly seize territory are doomed to fail. For example, in the First Kashmir War of 1947 India seized that Indian-administered territory, but that action led to a prolonged period of military confrontations between India and Pakistan along the Kashmir Line of Control. It consumed military, economic and diplomatic resources, and as a result the processes of domestic economic development and modernization were set back, Dr. Wang Shida added.

## PM taking influential business groups to task

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is taking to task the most influential business groups in the country for the sake of masses which is a welcome move, a business leader said Thursday. PM has ordered "maximum" punitive action against wheat, sugar and oil mafia which is a laudable step in the right direction, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President Pakistan Economy Watch and Convener FPCCI Central Standing

Committee on Insurance. He said that PM is staying alive to the hardships of people and ensuring that the harsh times are not further exacerbated by profiteering, therefore, he has ordered that anyone found involved in the plunder must face the full force of law irrespective of his influence. Dr Murtaza Mughal noted that pharma and private hospitals mafia have stepped up their unethical practices after the outbreak which should be noticed and curtailed. He said that an example should be made of pharma-

ceuticals, private hospitals, and pharmacies that engage in overcharging deter the rest as complaints are increasing across the country. Majority of private hospitals are charging exorbitant bills for hospital care of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 which is highly illegal and unethical, he said. Reasonable per day tariff for each category for private hospitals should be fixed as soon as possible as government hospitals cannot accommodate the increasing number of patients which is seen as a golden

opportunity by private hospitals. Commenting on the ongoing oil crisis, he said that black sheep in the regulator and ministry are misguiding the government by presenting cooked statistics. He proposed at least one billion rupees of fine on every oil marketing company involved and registration of criminal cases on their facilitators. Petrol pumps have become a major source of spreading virus as people are rushing for fuel for which oil marketing companies are responsible, he said.

### Trump says to restart rallies

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said that he will launch rallies soon in four states, including the battleground of Florida, signalling a rapid restart to his election campaign after it was stalled by the coronavirus pandemic. Trump said he'll start in Oklahoma on Friday next week, before heading to Florida, Arizona and North Carolina. "We're going to be starting our rallies. We believe the first one will probably be ... in Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Beautiful new venue, brand new. They're looking forward to it. They've done a great job with COVID, as you know," he told reporters at the White House. - APP

### Dozens killed as south China

BEIJING: Floods and mudslides in south China have uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and left dozens dead or missing, state media reported Thursday. The bad weather has wreaked havoc on popular tourist areas that had already been battered by months of travel restrictions during the coronavirus outbreak. Torrential downpours unleashed floods and mudslides that caused nearly 230,000 people to be relocated and destroyed more than 1,300 houses, official state news agency Xinhua reported, citing the Ministry of Emergency Management. - APP

## Over 61 pc vents available for COVID-19 patients

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) apprised on Thursday that over 61 percent ventilators allocated for COVID-19 were still vacant and available at across country hospitals. NCOC was apprised that not a single patients was on the ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Some 1,584 non COVID ventilators were available across the country to meet any emergency. Of the total 1,400 ventilators reserved for COVID-19, only 368 ventila-

tors have been occupied till date. NCOC told that 780,825 tests had been conducted. Some 5,838 patients have been admitted in 779 hospitals with COVID-19. The highest 26,573 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in country in last 24 hours. Furthermore 25 portable ventilators had been despatched to Karachi by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) during last 48 hours. A total of 25,730 beds have been allocated across the country to meet the requirements of COVID-19 patients. While 5,433 oxygenated beds have been earmarked for COVID-19 patients only.

## Pak urges world to take notice of Indian atrocities in IOJ&K

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again urged the international community to take notice of Indian atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir. This was stated by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi while chairing a high level meeting at Foreign Office in Islamabad on Thursday. The meeting also discussed the global epidemic situation, regional and national security and Pakistan's efforts for lasting peace in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister said that the extremist face of India has been exposed to the world and voices are also being raised within In-



dia against Indian government. He said the world is engaged in dealing with a global epidemic, but on the other hand, India wants to destroy the peace and stability of the region through its Hindutva policies. The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan will continue

to play its conciliatory role in Afghan Peace Process with sincerity to establish peace in the neighboring country. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the government is using all resources to control the spread of coronavirus. He said we, as a nation must

defeat this global epidemic following precautionary measures issued by the government. The meeting was attended by Adviser on National Security Moeed Yousaf, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, senior civil and military officials.

## Turkey passes 'nightwatchmen' bill

ISTANBUL: Turkey's parliament passed a controversial bill on Wednesday giving neighbourhood patrols greater powers, with critics accusing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of wanting to build a loyal "militia". The new law gives "nightwatchmen", who walk the streets at night to report burglaries and disturbances, almost the same powers as police. They will now be allowed to carry firearms and have the powers to stop and search people. With more than 28,000 members, the nightwatchmen institution - which is attached to the interior ministry and dates back more than 100 years - has grown considerably after an attempted coup in July 2016 against Erdogan. The bill's debate in parliament triggered heated exchanges, with deputies even coming to blows during a feisty session on Tuesday. Erdogan's AKP party, which put forward the bill, says the new rules will enable the nightwatchmen to more effectively help law enforcement by thwarting burglaries and preventing assaults on the streets. In old Turkish films the guards are portrayed as benevolent uncles patrolling the streets with a whistle between their lips, on the lookout for troublemakers. But the opposition accused Erdogan of authoritarianism by setting up a loyal armed force. - APP

## CGSS, Islamia Varsity sign MoU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd), Vice President CGSS and Brigadier Abdullah Khan (Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board CGSS visited Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB). The visiting dignitaries met with Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Senior Head of Departments and Faculty Members. During the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB). Both the institutions agreed to

facilitate cooperation in academic research. It was decided that CGSS and Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) will work together to promote joint research projects on

agreed fields for developing a sound cooperation in the future. Furthermore, both the institutions will work and explore opportunities to involve the academia in the multilateral fields. It was de-

cidated that CGSS will link Islamia University of Bahawalpur with various international universities and will also initiate student exchange programs. Major General Hafiz Masroor

Ahmed, (Retd) - Vice President CGSS and Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.



## Ashiana-e-Iqbal case adjourned till June 16

LAHORE: An accountability court on Thursday adjourned hearing of Ashiana-e-Iqbal Housing scheme case till June 16 due to lawyers' strike. Accountability Court Judge Amjad Nazir Chaudhry conducted the case proceedings, wherein jail authorities produced accused Ahad Cheema. Former Bureaucrat Fawad Hassan Fawad and a pleader on behalf of Opposition Leader in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif also appeared before the court. - APP