



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Australian envoy all praise for Pakistani mangoes**

**Pak Navy ready to defend the maritime frontiers**



**Pakistan values its ties with Italy, says Sanjrani**



## Briefs

### Migratory birds flock to Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI: Migratory birds have flocked to the wetlands of Pakistan's southern province of Sindh in greater numbers this year, and officials and observers link the increase to coronavirus lockdown measures that have kept hunters and bird catchers away. Pakistan, which has recorded over 185,000 cases and 3,696 deaths related to the virus, lifted a month-long country-wide lockdown last month. A survey conducted this year observed 741,042 migratory birds in Sindh province - a big jump from the 248,105 birds counted in 2019, said Sindh Wildlife Department's provincial conservator, Javed Ahmed Mahar. Each year, approximately 40 percent of Sindh's wetlands are surveyed to gain insight into the migratory patterns and numbers of birds. Migratory birds, among them pelicans, mallards, cranes and waders, stop in Pakistan on their way to and from Siberia.

### Infighting caused harm to PTI: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Infighting within the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's top leadership caused harm to the party's reform agenda, admitted Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry. In an interview with foreign radio, the minister said he got to spend a lot of time with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Nathiagali recently where they discussed matters related to the governance. Referring to Imran Khan's recent remarks in Karachi about the chief minister becoming a dictator, Mr Chaudhry said the prime minister's ideas were very clear on matters such as the NFC Award and judicial and police reforms. However, he pointed out, ideas alone were not enough to bring about change because the prime minister needed a team to implement them. "Frankly, bickering among Jehangir Tareen, Asad Umar and Shah Mehmood Qureshi has pushed the political class out of the game. "The political vacuum created by the infighting was filled up with new people who were not from a political background," he said.

### Inside...

**Business community shows concerns over rupee depreciation**

- Page 02

**Rejecting hatred and embracing tolerance**

- Page 03

**Chinese Co. applies new steps to manage Thar coal mine**

**Pakistan-Kyrgyz ties excellent: Mandviwalla**

- Back Page

## Army Chief all praise for China support

Visiting Chinese dignitary re-assured China's continuous support for Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Tuesday that Pakistan was indebted to Chinese medical experts for help Pakistan fight against COVID 19. He expressed these views in a meeting with a ten member People's Liberation Army (PLA) Medical Team that called on him led

by Major General Doctor Zhou Feihu, Chief of ICU Department, PLA General Hospital. During the interaction, matters related to COVID containment and Pakistan's comprehensive response against COVID-19 were discussed. COAS expressed gratitude for China's support related to immediate medical supplies and other assistance especially the visit by Chi-

nese medical experts to help Pakistan fight the pandemic. COAS said that while world is still making efforts to find cure against COVID 19, multinational support and global cooperation is vital to boost national efforts to manage the disease and also its economic impact. The visiting delegation re-assured China's continued support for Pakistan at all forums.

### PAK ACCESS TO CENTRAL ASIA

## Peace in Afghanistan termed essential

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: While addressing a stakeholders' consultation session on economic connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zubair Motiwala emphasized greatly on the significance of expediting resolution of irritants pertinent to Af-Pak trade and transit regime, if reciprocal resolution to access Central Asian markets is sought by Pakistan. He was of the opinion that vision of Prime Minister Pakistan, Imran Khan to support bilateral and transit trade with Afghanistan, es-

pecially during challenging times of COVID-19 Pandemic, is highly commendable, however, the bottlenecks and delayed execution of strategies have not only limited reaping of benefits but have further increased the distress across the border. Motiwala updated Pakistan's Special Envoy to Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq Khan, that despite commitments the speed of clearance, procedural delays, limited working hours, shortage of trackers, load of stuck consignments and increasing cost of doing business in form of detention and demurrages has drained the effect of posi-

tive approach and government bodies should immediately review the mechanism for possible improvements. He believed that the appointment of Ambassador Sadiq at such an instrumental position will greatly facilitate the momentum and sought his support in the early resolution of these pending items. He requested that the current issue of shortage of trackers is complemented by the monopoly awarded to one single company, hence, this dependency should be immediately curbed and more players should be brought in for competitive proposition.

## Pak Navy ready to defend the maritime frontiers



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Abbasi has said that joint warfare remains central to the modern concept of military operations. He dilated upon the geo-strategic environment and its interplay with security dynamics prevalent in Indian Ocean Region with focus on maritime security challenges and opportunities for Pakistan. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, while visiting National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad, addressed the course participants of National Security & War Course. On arrival, the Naval Chief was received by Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed, President National Defence University. While focusing on the threat milieu the Admiral dwelled on the various initiatives and developmental plans of Pakistan Navy in line with

his vision of projecting Pakistan Navy as a formidable regional maritime power with global outlook. The Naval Chief emphasised that Pakistan Navy has always been at the forefront in ensuring safety and security of international waters through collaborative maritime security and independent initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols. He further highlighted on the need to harness the potential of Pakistan's immense maritime resources to provide the much needed stimulus to national economy, to which Pakistan Navy is effectively supporting the Government. While appreciating the operational resolve of the Armed Forces, the Naval Chief said that with unwavering faith in Allah SWT, Pakistan Navy is ready in all respects to defend the maritime frontiers of our motherland. He advised the course participants to focus on their professional acumen and draw their inspiration from Islamic history and ideology of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging his views with Andreas Ferrarese, the Ambassador of Italy here in Islamabad. - DNA

### OIC asks India to rescind illegal actions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir called upon member states to raise the issue of occupied Kashmir in their bilateral engagements with India. This decision was taken to safeguard the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people in the occupied territory. The Group also affirmed that Indian actions of August 5, 2019, and new domicile rules are in complete violation of the UNSC resolutions, international laws including the 4th Geneva Conventions, and India's solemn commitments to implement UNSC resolutions. The wording of the communiqué has been the strongest seen so far from the Organisation of Islamic Conference, many of the countries which have awarded highest awards to Prime Minister Modi, while others have kept trade ties with India supreme.

### Lowest single day cases recorded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus pandemic turned grimmer in Pakistan with 105 more fatalities in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 3,695, while the total cases of the deadly viral infection reached 185,034, the health ministry said on Tuesday. According to health officials, 11,26,761 COVID-19 tests, including 24,599 on Monday, were conducted so far in the country. With 3,946 new coronavirus cases detected, the total tally now stands at 185,034, the ministry said. As many as 105 more fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 3,695.

## Pakistan values its ties with Italy

Chairman Senate meets Italian envoy; discusses COVID 19 challenges

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Tuesday. During the meeting both the countries agreed to enhance mutual ties especially in areas of trade, economy and parliamentary linkages. On this occasion Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that the world is facing serious challenges due to Covid-19 epidemic and there is a need to adopt a collective approach to face the problems posed by this crisis. He said that people and Parliament of Pakistan are deeply concerned on human and material loss caused by the epidemic in Italy. He said that, he intended to visit Italian Embassy in Islamabad to condole over this

human loss. He said that Pakistan is eager to cooperate with Italy to face the challenge of epidemic with a collective approach. He said that Parliamentary linkages are the most appropriate channel to boost political, economic and trade relations. He said that Pakistan-Italy Friendship Group in Upper House of the Parliament would be activated to enhance the economic and business ties. He also called for frequent exchange of delegations comprising of parliamentarians and business community in this regard. The Italian ambassador said that Italy gives utmost importance to its relations with Pakistan and all out efforts would be made to boost the economic ties. He said that the world community should adopt a collective approach to face the challenges arising out of Covid-19 epidemic.

## Taliban condemn prosecutors killing

DNA

KABUL: The Taliban condemned the killing of five prosecutors of the Attorney General's Office, warning that the peace process has many enemies and opponents. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in his tweets that the group has no links with the attack on prosecutors close to Bagram prison which took place on Monday. "We are launching a comprehensive investigation." He added "It should be reminded that the peace process has many enemies & opponents.

Everyone must remain cautious of such plots." No individual or group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. The Afghan authorities said at least five prosecutors of the Attorney General's Office lost their lives in an attack by unknown gunmen in Deh Sabz area of Kabul. Meanwhile, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Tuesday in a tweet condemned the attack stating that "The US strongly condemns the attack against the Afghan Attorney General's lawyers and other team members working to facilitate prisoner releases.

## Shafqat hints at reopening of schools

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood said the government was considering opening schools under the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the country. The minister said suggestions had been sought from the seminaries (Madaris) and private institutions of all provinces, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Mahmood said a meeting had also been scheduled with the Ministry of Health in this regard, and that the decision would be taken in light of the NCOC data. He said the education ministry, through UNICEF, was in consultation with those countries which had opened schools under various SOPs. He added that consultations were also being held with the UNICEF on the policy of the government. "We want to end uncertainty on the basic important issue like education," he said.

## Statue outside White House attacked

WASHINGTON: A crowd of protestors tried to topple the statue of a former US president near the White House Monday evening as police responded with pepper spray to break up new demonstrations that erupted in Washington. A wave of nationwide rallies calling for racial justice has swept the United States since the May 25 death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. On Monday, hundreds of protestors were pushed back by at least 100 security force personnel after they had thrown ropes around the statue of Andrew Jackson, the divisive seventh US president, in Lafayette Square park. The word "killer" had been spray-painted on the stone plinth, according to an media reporter at the scene. Jackson, in office from 1829 to 1837, owned more than 500 slaves over his life and was a key figure in the forced relocation of nearly 100,000 Native Americans, otherwise known as the Trail of Tears. - APP

## FBR starts audit of 72 sugar mills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has started an audit of 72 sugar mills on the recommendations of the sugar inquiry commission which help sugar mill owners in the country responsible for the artificial hike in price that occurred earlier this year. Sources at the Large Taxpayer Unit (LTU) Karachi said audit proceedings have been started against 27 sugar mills falling under jurisdictions of Karachi tax offices and 47 sugar mills under the jurisdiction of Lahore tax offices. The sugar inquiry commission constituted by the prime minister identified serious irregularities in supplies for evading sales and income tax.

## Pakistani marble sought by Chinese merchants

There is no tariff on marble imported from Pakistan. It's quite convenient," Fang said, adding that he would visit Pakistan for in-depth cooperation with traders when the COVID-19 pandemic is over

DNA

BEIJING: "It is the very first time for our company to trade with Pakistani marble traders," said Fang Zihua, the General Manager of Xiamen Stone Trading Company, adding that Chinese clients are willing to import more products from Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. According to Fang Zihua,

the batch of about 150 ton of Pakistani marble was shipped into 6 standard containers. "They had reached Nanan, Fujian Province late last year, but they didn't get displayed until this June because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Fang noted. "The color of this marble board is very beautiful, and its texture is unique. It looks like reddish waves being motivated," Fang was so delighted to see



the pattern that he named the marble "Red Valley". He further mentioned that the texture and colour of marble are full of changes, and a reddish one is rare. With the rapid development of the construction industry, China's demand for marble and other construction stones is increasing year by year. China had been contributing significantly to Pakistan's exports ever since the Chi-

na-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was signed. At present, China has become the largest marble importer of Pakistan, with annual imports reaching over 100,000 tons. "There is no tariff on marble imported from Pakistan. It's quite convenient," Fang said, adding that he would visit Pakistan for in-depth cooperation with traders when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

## Briefs

### Pharma products exports dip by 2.57%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of pharmaceutical products witnessed nominal decrease of 2.57 percent during the eleven months of ongoing fiscal year (2019-20) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year. The pharmaceutical exports were recorded at US \$192.549 million during July-May (2019-20) as against the export of US \$197.629 million during July-May (2018-19), showing negative growth of 2.57 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data. In terms of quantity, the exports of pharmaceutical products however witnessed increase of 2.67 percent by going up from 12,869 metric tons to 13,213 metric tons, according to the data. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis the pharmaceutical goods export decreased by 10.05 percent during the month of May 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The pharmaceutical exports in May 2020 were recorded at US \$16.055 million against the export of \$17.848 million in May 2019, the PBS data revealed. On month-on-month basis, the exports of pharmaceutical product however rose by 55.29 percent in May 2020 as compared to \$10.339 million in March 2020. — APP

### Strict action against hoarders

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has started a strict monitoring to check sale of Dexamethasone (injection and tablet) to prevent its hoarding and black marketing after the Oxford University (UK) confirmed the steroid as first life-saving drug for critically-ill Covid-19 patients. Talking to PTV news channel, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Muhammed Hamza Shafaqat said the ICT is taking serious notice of reported shortage of the medicine, Dexamethasone (all strengths) in some pharmacies and directed to ensure the smooth supply of the medicine in the city. He said with the help of DRAP and health ministry we have promulgated a new law in Islamabad to fine and jail traders who would be hoarding essential Covid-19 medicines and create artificial shortage of drugs. He said it is a good news for citizens of Islamabad that ministry of health and DRAP are preparing a Health care regulatory to address the issue related to Covid-19. Under the new law, medicine companies will now have to report shortages of important medicines as soon as they occur, adding he said hoarders could be sent to jail for up to six months. — APP

### Online painting classes

ISLAMABAD: Rung School of Music and Arts has planned to start an online music, painting and calligraphy classes from June 29. The classes are scheduled to start from Monday to Saturday in a week to enhance art skills, which were deteriorated while sitting at home during current corona pandemic. An organizer on Tuesday said that the timing of online classes would be between from 1 p.m to 5 p.m daily. He said they wanted to enhance their artistic skill, "Join our online classes and resume your learning", he said. He said the art and creativity were great assets in time like this, art gives them hope to face challenges and improve yourselves to do better. — APP



ISLAMABAD: AC Shalimar Sidra Anwar visited shops in Jhangi Sayeedan and imposed fine on shopkeepers selling sub standard items. — DNA

## Business community shows concerns over rupee depreciation

Muhammad Ahmed Waheed further said that falling value of rupee would also enhance the cost of debt servicing leading to more pressure on our forex reserves

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has shown great concerns over the dwindling value of rupee, which has fallen to Rs.167 against a dollar and urged that government should take urgent remedial measures to stabilize the rupee as its continuous depreciation would have devastating impact on the business and economic activities. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan was mostly importing machinery, capital goods and raw material for industrial production while some industries were importing up to 70 percent of raw material for manufacturing activities. However, the constantly falling value of rupee would make the imports of these things very costly, that would further enhance the cost of production making our exports more uncompetitive in the international market besides increasing inflation for the common man. He said this situation demanded that government should make



urgent intervention to stabilize the local currency in order to save the economy from further

troubles. ICCI President said that business community needed a stable currency to make the end product cost effective. However, frequent fluctuations in the value of rupee against dollar was thwarting all efforts of local industry to manufacture competitive and cost effective end products in the country for local consumption and exports. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed further said that falling value of rupee would also enhance the cost of debt servicing leading to more pressure on our forex reserves. He said Pakistan's imports were

much higher compared to its exports and rupee depreciation would thus bring more problems to the overall economy as it would further enhance the cost of doing business in the country. He cautioned that if rupee continued to fall, it would badly affect the trade and industrial activities leading to bankruptcy of many SMEs. He, therefore, called upon the SBP and the government to make urgent intervention in the matter and take strong measures to stabilize the currency in order to save the economy from its destructive impact.



ISLAMABAD: President A.K. Masood Khan condoling the death of Haji Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari, gold medalist of Pakistan Movement, with his son Zafar Bakhtawari and grandsons Ahsan Bakhtawari and Waqar Bakhtawari. — DNA

## AIOU dispatches course books to 170,000 SSC/HSSC students

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has completed the process of dispatching textbooks to its students of Matric and Intermediate programmes, who had registered themselves for semester Spring, 2020. According to Directorate of Mailing and Admissions, like all other operations in the country, the Covid-19 also affected the services of Pakistan Post however, as per the directives of the Vice Chancellor the Directorate of Mailing and Admissions coped up with the situation and completed

the process of mailing of books to the students of Spring 2020 semester within due time. It was being ensured that the students could get the same at the earliest so that they submit their academic assignments within stipulated time-schedule. The Mailing department is working on two shifts, to maintain social distance during the crisis of COVID-19. As per record of the Directorate 110,000 and 60,000 students Spring 2020 semester of intermediate and matric level programmes have been dispatched their course books at their given residential/ working addresses.

It is to mention here that Allama Iqbal Open University sends textbooks and provides other allied materials to its students. With the completion of this phase, the University has started mailing of books and other allied materials to the students of Bachelor's and B.Ed programmes at their postal addresses. The university has recently established a computerized Books Tracking System at the main page of the University. Those students who have not received their books so far can track their books by entering roll number and registration number.

## AC inspects work

ABBOTTABAD: On the directives of DC Abbottabad Mughis Sana Ullah, Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Dr. Mujtaba Bharwana inspected the work of Silhad Silk Highway before meeting the NHA officials here on Tuesday. Chairman DRC General (Retd) Ayaz Saleem Rana, NH Officers, TOR, TMA Mazhar Muzaffar, Revenue Officers and Assistant Commissioners Thaqleem Saleem and Tania Rashid were also present on the occasion. — APP

## Oxfam to distribute 1,400 hygiene kits in rural Sindh

ISLAMABAD: Oxfam has been engaging with local partners to actively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan, as part of its ongoing response, Oxfam has initiated a distribution drive of hygiene kits in the province of Sindh. In partnership with Management and Development Foundation (MDF), kits will be distributed amongst families belonging to low-income farming communities in Hyderabad, Tando Mohammed Khan and Badin Districts, said a press release issued here. The beneficiaries of the distribution drive include women-led households that have continued working in the fields as COVID-19 continues to spread in the country. These frontline farmer families are in much need

of safety kits and PPEs so that they can carry out essential work without contracting the disease. Uzma Aftab, Country Director of Oxfam in Pakistan appreciated the distribution drive. "It is incredibly important that we protect our food frontliners and farming community as they are working in these unprecedented circumstances without adequate protection against COVID-19," she remarked. "While many of us were living in the safety of a lockdown, our female food frontliners have been at the forefront of this pandemic, risking their lives to put food on our tables. Reaching out to them and providing them with hygiene kits and PPEs during this time is imperative," she added. — APP

## Auction date of plots announced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority will auction New Blue Area commercial plots on 15th, 16th, and 17th July. The auction proceedings will be held at Jinnah Convention Centre Islamabad from 10 am onwards on all three days. Capital Development Authority has issued advertisements to this effect in print media. The auction of New Blue Area plots was earlier scheduled to be held April of current year but was postponed due to Covid-19 related lock down. Now CDA Administration has decided to hold open auction of same plots in the mid of July. "Blue Area, New Vision" is the badge of Capital Development Authority which reflects foresight of Capital Development Authority Administration regarding upcoming auction of New Blue Area plots because this will provide a unique opportunity for businessmen and investors to promote their businesses and brands in the newly developed business hub of the capital. CDA Administration has taken special initiatives for prospective bidders which include dedicated team to facilitate investors at every step, first installment of 25% within 30 days of bid acceptance letter, building plan approval facility after first installment construction to start on full payment, 10% discount on full payment in advance, advance income tax on pro rata basis, 100% coverage for less than 1000 Sq.Yd. plots, 70% to 75% ground coverage for plots above 1000 Sq. yd, every plot with all round circulation strip, Ample public parking and application of newly developed building bylaws. The auction of New Blue Area plots is a reflection of commitment by CDA Administration to be part of government's efforts to promote business and investment opportunities in the country. The income from the auction of plots will be mainly spent for funding development projects in Islamabad.

## NCHD providing literacy to 3.96 mln children

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has contributed in providing literacy to 3.96 million since its inception. Senior official told APP on Tuesday that NCHD had provided education to 335,164 children in 5,949 Feeder Schools in the remote areas to the marginalized group. "NCHD had approached to the learners in seminaries with reforms and introduced primary education alongside religious education in order to bring them in the mainstream of higher education" he said. He said that currently we are successfully working in 100 Seminaries of FATA, AJ&K, GB and ICT. "In collaboration with JICA we had launched a model of Non-formal School system where 20 schools are functional in order to provide education to the children of age 10-14 who could neither be admitted to the primary school nor belongs to adult literacy", he added. — APP

## Telenor launches virtual internship program 2020

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Being a frontrunner indigitalisation and fully committed to agility, flexibility and mobility as part of its culture, Telenor Pakistan has taken an industry first initiative to launch its flagship Summer Internship Program 2020 virtually to ensure the youth continues to get the opportunity to learn and grow. This program focuses on enabling and equipping the interns at a time of dynamic change to experience the reinvention of roles and new ways of working before they enter a renewed job market. The purpose of this Virtual Summer Internship Program is to continue providing learning opportunities to students and ensure that they adapt to the new norm and do meaningful work in the shadow of industry experts. These interns will have full access to Telenor Pakistan's complete learning library including courses from LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, Udemy and Telenor's own learning paths for them to train, upskill and build business acumen. While the internship opportunities by some companies across the country have been deferred due to the pandemic, Telenor Pakistan has innovated to virtually give this learning opportunity which is the need of the hour to nurture these apprentices and get them ready for the future. "In this rapidly changing world, we at Telenor Pakistan believe it is our responsibility to equip our youth with skillsets of the future and familiarise them with working in the new norm. Our Virtual Summer Internship Program 2020 is a testament to our resilience and creativity and an important part of our recruitment strategy in order to tap into fresh, diverse and bold perspectives." Said Oystein Bakken, Chief People Officer at Telenor Pakistan. "The future is digital and it is absolutely necessary for the new talent to acclimatise themselves with this way of work as they kick start their careers in the coming year. I'd like to welcome all selected interns to Telenor Pakistan where they will join us in practicing innovation and embracing disruption on a daily basis."

## June 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pk

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 79

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Perception and the pandemic

**T**HE perceptions of people are important in tackling any crisis including the Covid-19 pandemic. According to a new survey by Gallup Pakistan, 55 percent of Pakistanis now believe the threat of the coronavirus is exaggerated.

As a nation, Pakistan is fourth on the list of those most likely to believe the pandemic's effect has been overplayed. In Japan, for example, only 12 percent of people are least likely to agree and Japan is the country with the lowest belief that there is any exaggeration about the virus. While 47 percent of people believe the virus has been brought under control, 48 percent disagree and 33 percent strongly disagree.

There has also been a change in the perception of how well the federal government is handling the crisis. A decline of 15 percent has been witnessed since April this year in the proportion of Pakistanis who believe the government is handling the situation very well.

Currently, 67 percent believe it is doing well in dealing with the problem will 28 percent believe this is not the case.

There has also been a growth in the number of Pakistanis who are personally familiar with someone who has contracted the virus. Every 1 in 5 person claims that someone from within his or her circle of social contacts has contracted the coronavirus. Twenty-two percent of Pakistanis report someone they know has been infected while 12 percent of Pakistanis claim to know someone who has died after contracting the coronavirus.

Despite this, one-third of Pakistanis are sceptical about the number of Covid-19 cases being reported by the government. There are strange anomalies in these figures. With more and more people coming into direct contact with coronavirus victims, there should be a rise in those who accept the figures being given out are correct and that the coronavirus is neither a conspiracy theory nor an exaggeration.

Indeed, there is another school of thought which holds that the government's lack of testing means the figures being given out are too low. However, what this means is that we need to convince more people that Covid-19 is for real and that precautions including social distancing and wearing masks are absolutely essential to prevent its spread and to overcome the disease which for the moment continues to sweep through Pakistan with no indication that the number of cases is dropping.

It is disturbing that so many people believe there is exaggeration involved given that hospitals in all major cities and many towns are refusing to accommodate more Covid-19 victims because they have no beds.

But perhaps these facts are not being projected effectively and tactics need to be changed to convince more people to do more to prevent a further expansion in the virus, with Pakistan according to international reports now marked as one of the countries where the rate of infection is spreading fastest in the world.



## Amendment talk

**T**HERE has been a consistent buzz regarding the 18th Constitutional Amendment that has been in force for the past 10 years. The National Assembly of Pakistan passed it in 2010 under the PPP government, and it had the widest possible support from all major political parties.

The amendment duly curtailed the powers of the president as well the central government as a whole. The devolution of power from the centre to the provinces was a landmark decision which resulted in a better allocation of financial resources to the federating units.

This amendment, inter alia, removed the power of the president of Pakistan to dissolve parliament unilaterally. Before this amendment, we had seen Pakistan vacillate between a semi-presidential and a parliamentary system. Military dictators such as General Pervez Musharraf and before him General Ziaul Haq had amassed sweeping powers under the presidency, which itself was forcefully usurped.

General Ziaul Haq forced the notorious 8th Amendment on his party-less assembly in the mid-1980s and mutilated the 1973 constitution with a semi-presidential system, which Nawaz Sharif reversed with the 13th Amendment. Gen Musharraf once again went back to the semi-presidential system with the 17th Amendment. All this is important to recall because Pakistan has had a checkered constitutional history and has already seen too many constitutional uncertainties and political instability resulting from constitutional maneuvering by undemocratic forces.

That instability was considerably eased after the 18th Amendment. It was also a unique development in the history of Pakistan when a president relinquished his powers willingly and transferred them to parliament and the office of the prime minister. Partly, thanks to this amendment two democratically elected parliaments completed their tenure in the history of Pakistan from 2008 to 2018. This democratic change itself is a major achievement.

There are some other democratic and provincial rights that have been guaranteed by this amendment, so it is neither advisable nor beneficial for this country and for democracy to attempt to tinker with something that has ensured a better federation that has been functioning well for over ten years now.

The tendency of pressure being placed on some federating units these days must be avoided. The federal government has a great responsibility on its shoulders in the face of multiple crises in the country. The least we can afford now is this repeated controversy about the 18th Amendment.

# Rejecting hatred and embracing tolerance

Dr. M. Bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa



We must learn to accept one another. We must accept our differences, and embrace and emphasize our commonalities. We must strive to defeat our common enemies – the extremists and terrorists who seek to undermine the sacred Islamic principles of mercy, empathy and love. And we must work together to spread goodness in this world. This is the moderate Islam that guides the words and actions of my life. It is the same set of beliefs that guide the thousands of Muslim scholars and thinkers

**T**OLERANCE. It is both a religious and a moral duty, a sacred tenet of Islam. Without tolerance, we would face only endless misunderstanding, disharmony and strife. And at the Muslim World League (MWL), it is something we offer unconditional commitment toward.

It is distressing and tragic that today we are mocked and ridiculed by fringe elements among those who claim to be Muslims, merely for honoring our sacred responsibility to respect and reach out to the leaders and adherents of the world's other noble religions.

But no ridicule can deter us from our obligation. Even as the extremists pursue tactics of hatred and divisiveness, we at the MWL will be guided by the true ideals of moderate Islam, which remain consistent and unchanging.

We must learn to accept one another. We must accept our differences, and embrace and emphasize our commonalities. We must strive to defeat our common enemies – the extremists and terrorists who seek to undermine the sacred Islamic principles of mercy, empathy and love. And we must work together to spread goodness in this world. This is the moderate Islam that guides the words and actions of my life. It is the same set of beliefs that guide the thousands of Muslim scholars and thinkers, and hundreds of millions of Muslims who seek direction from the Muslim World League and the Organization of Muslim Scholars.

Holding to these values is a constant test for all of us, particularly in the absence of a document outlining the Islamic moral code, backed by Muslim scholars and applicable to any circumstances. In the past it has been too easy for Muslims to be dragged by the tides of politics when faced with unjust outcomes or acts of extremism carried out by those harboring hate toward Muslims.

Thus, I saw it as my duty to gather all scholars of the Muslim world in a place that they deem holiest, in a month they deem grandest, in the days of that month they deem most blessed. So in Makkah they congregated, in the last 10 days of Ramadan in May 2019, more than 1,200 muftis and scholars, as well as 4,500 Islamic thinkers. And they issued the most important document for scholars and thinkers in the modern history of Islam.

The Charter of Makkah translate our values into clear rules for the Muslim world, while conveying a sincere message to non-Muslims. To benefit everyone, the charter has been made accessible to all online, in several languages. Friends, followers of different faiths, and even politicians

and thinkers who do not adhere to any specific faith have congratulated us for issuing such a document.

For it is a testament to the true nature of Islam, endorsed by the muftis, scholars and thinkers of the Muslim world – and to the greatness of our faith.

The charter speaks of tolerance for all people, and an acceptance of the diversity that is divine will. It is important to proclaim these things, but even more important to act upon them.

And so we have aggressively reached out to all faiths with our message of tolerance and understanding.

Only a week ago, I spoke at two Jewish conferences in the United States, reaffirming my commitment to stand in solidarity against anti-Semitism and reiterating the statement I made when I visited the death camp in Auschwitz earlier this year: Never again to the atrocities that took place there. Not for Jews. Not for Muslims. Not for Christians. Not for anyone else, Allah willing. I was inspired to see the values and positions we expressed so strongly welcomed across the Muslim world. But I was not surprised, for these represent my moral and spiritual obligations as a religious leader, and emanate from the true values of Islam. My outreach has been consistent with the Charter of Makkah, and is backed by the rich and diverse membership of the Muslim World League.

I have received messages of solidarity from thousands of muftis, scholars and Muslim thinkers. It was heartwarming to be reminded of the global network of advocates representing the true values of our religion, and matching the words of the Charter of Makkah with deeds. And it is a testament to our efforts to spread awareness and the true tenets of Islam.

Unfortunately, there will always be outliers in our community, isolated groups with little influence or weight, but determined to shout loudest from their fortresses of isolation or social media channels of cynicism. They would have it that tolerance is a transgression, and violence a virtue. We know whose these individuals are, and what ideology guides them. It is one counter to the true meaning of Islam. And we know who backs them with huge political and financial backing, determined not just to promote anti-Semitism but even to corrupt the very understanding of Islam.

I won't mention them by name, because they take sick credit in espousing hatred. Just take a look at their Twitter and Facebook contributions in response to my recent outreach

to Jews, Christians and our other brothers and sisters. Posts glorifying Hitler? Tweets praising the burning of Jews?

Seeing this level of hatred and hostility gives my heart pain – especially from people falsely claiming some sort of Islamic mandate. These disturbed individuals should ask themselves: Why would anyone publish such material? Who does it benefit? Does it help their children?

These voices represent a tiny majority of the Muslim world, but their news outlets insist on disseminating video clips with the ugliest images of hate and hostility, and spreading them through social media via verified accounts, indoctrinating children with backward views. And somehow their accounts remain active, with Twitter and Facebook providing them with an international platform from which to spread hatred and incitement toward the Jewish people.

This radical fringe has attacked me for defending Semitism, for visiting Auschwitz and calling Jews "my brothers." They have tried to sell their lies to ordinary people in the Muslim world.

Thankfully, they have failed miserably and repeatedly. The Muslim World League carries far greater weight than the barking of extremists, and we have the backing of the thousands of scholars and muftis across the Ummah, who congregated last year to adopt the Charter of Makkah. They represented all Islamic schools of thought. They came from every sect, including Sunni, Shiite, Druze and others. They traveled from every Muslim country, as well as those with Muslim minorities.

I am focused on these true carriers of Islam's light, not the devious machinations of the heretics. The heretics have no influence with the vast majority of the world's Muslims, who believe in the divine principles of tolerance and coexistence. And the Muslim World League stands with communities of Muslims everywhere, determined to spread the true message of Islam, peace, tolerance, and love. We will stand steadfast with our brothers from the Jewish, Christian and other faiths to defend our shared values, cooperate in serving humanity, spread peace and harmony among all, and fight all forms of hatred, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. These are our unwavering principles, and we will hold true to them with pride.

**(Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa is secretary-general of the Muslim World League and president of the Organization of Muslim Scholars)**

This Article was First Published by Arab News on June 20

# Memorials to white supremacy are falling

Christine Emba



Virginia has more memorials to the Confederacy than any other state, but there are similar monuments spread everywhere in the South. Many were installed not directly after the Civil War but instead in the late 1800s and early 1900s. During the recent protests, statues of Columbus have been tagged, toppled and removed

**A**MERICA'S protests began as a response to police brutality, in particular the May 25 death of George Floyd while in custody of Minneapolis police. But in the weeks that followed the incident, the marches and demonstrations have expanded in size and scope.

In 50 states and 18 countries, protesters have sparked a long-delayed conversation about structural racism, persistent inequality and the long history of white supremacy that has enabled injustice to persist.

Statues and obelisks celebrate the questionable heroes of a racist past, and the protests have spurred reconsiderations of these memorials in Congress and in legislatures around the world. But rather than wait for official decisions to trickle down, protesters have taken action themselves. It's a monumental shift.

Richmond, for example, was the capital of the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Its Monument Avenue is home to prominent statues honoring Confederate leaders. In recent weeks, demonstrators painted the statues lining Monument Avenue with messages underscoring their connection to a history of racial inequality and injustice.

Perhaps the most well known is that of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, which Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) vowed on June 4 to remove.

Virginia has more memorials to the Confederacy than any other state, but there are similar monuments spread everywhere in the South. Many were installed not directly after the Civil War but instead in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They literally solidified the "Lost Cause" narrative that cast the Civil War as a battle fought nobly over "states' rights" rather than the right to own African slaves, and signified the South's triumph over Reconstruction. They marked the streets and squares in which they stood as white-dominated territory – another sign of segregation's success – but protesters are now reclaiming those spaces as their own.

Other monuments are being challenged as well. In the late 1800s, Christopher Columbus entered the American pantheon as Italian immigrants sought a representation of their heritage in our country's founding myths. But today, Columbus is recognized by many as a violent colonizer who brutally subjugated indigenous populations, killing and enslaving thousands in the Caribbean and South America.

During the recent protests, statues of Columbus have been tagged, toppled and removed. Monumental shifts are also taking place abroad.

In Belgium, protesters have targeted statues of King Léopold II, responsible for the violent colonization of central Africa in the

19th century. His rule in what is now Congo caused an estimated 10 million Congolese deaths between 1885 and 1908 and was distinguished by its atrocities but produced vast wealth for Belgium in the form of rubber and ivory.

In Antwerp, statues of Léopold have been defaced and set on fire. In Brussels, city authorities have been petitioned to remove all statues of the king by the end of June.

In the United Kingdom, statues of former slave traders, colonialists and defenders of empire have been toppled or defaced.

As the monuments come down, it remains to be seen what, if anything, will go up in their place. Some artists have begun to re-envision public space. In Richmond, Kehinde Wiley's "Rumors of War" stands only a few streets removed from Monument Avenue.

Installed in 2019, the 27-foot-tall equestrian statue by Barack Obama's presidential portraitist commemorates victims of state violence and stands as a rebuke to the Confederate memorials blocks away.

"To use the language of the monumental towards underserved communities, people who deserve to be seen on the great walls of museums, people who deserve to imagine themselves in their best light. That's what the sculpture was designed to do," Wiley said after its unveiling.

A monumental shift, indeed.

## Briefs

### New York reopens

NEW YORK: New York businesses opened their doors to returning waves of workers Monday as the city that was once the epicenter of the global pandemic marked an important milestone in its return to normalcy, even as other US states were seeing an alarming rise in COVID-19 cases.

Nationwide, cases have been on the rise for the past two weeks following a long plateau in the spring, with California hitting levels of new infections not seen since March and Florida passing the 100,000 cases benchmark on Monday.

President Donald Trump acknowledged that the US death toll - which has surpassed 120,000 - could reach 150,000 people. "It could go beyond that," he said. But for many in hard-hit New York, where more than 20,000 people succumbed to the disease, the return to normal meant resuming their small everyday rituals. For some, that meant getting a haircut. "I've been cutting it myself and doing a very bad job, so I was very excited to see (the barber)," said Jeremiah Zinn, a man in his 50s who was the first client to walk through the door at Benny's Barbershop in Brooklyn. Yury Ykubov, the owner, told AFP he had opened the shop six months prior, and negotiated with the landlord to make rent during the lockdown. Ykubov himself contracted COVID-19 but, like the city itself, has recovered and has antibodies for protection. - APP

### China launches final satellite

DNA

BEIJING: China has successfully put into orbit the final satellite in its BeiDou-3 navigation system, further advancing the country as a major power in space.

Tuesday's launch will allow China to no longer rely on the US government-owned Global Positioning System (GPS). The \$10bn (£8bn) network is made up of 35 satellites and provides global navigation coverage. It comes as tensions between Beijing and Washington are increasing over the coronavirus, trade and Hong Kong.

The launch had been scheduled for last week but was delayed after technical problems were found with the rocket in pre-launch tests.

The third version of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) offers an alternative to Russia's GLONASS and the European Galileo systems, as well as America's GPS.

Future plans promise to support a more accessible and integrated system scheduled to come online by 2035 with BDS at its core. The first version of BeiDou, meaning "Big Dipper," was decommissioned in 2012.

### UN orders probe into HR abuses in Libya

DNA

NEW YORK: A fact-finding mission to Libya has been established by the United Nations' top rights body after prosecutors from the International Criminal Court said that mass graves discovered recently may constitute war crimes.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution strongly condemning all acts of violence in Libya and urging UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the North African country. Libya, a major oil producer, has been mired in turmoil since 2011, when longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in a NATO-backed uprising. Since 2015, a power struggle has pitted the UN-recognised government in Tripoli against eastern-based renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar, with both sides backed by rival foreign powers.

# Chinese Co. applies new steps to manage Thar coal mine

"To avoid over-heating of machineries, operators inspect equipment as requested. Therefore, once there're any unit exception, we can analysis and solve it timely Even if under severe heat, the machineries can operate constantly," said Zhang Xiaojun

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) applied a series of measures and techniques on equipment management for Thar coal mine project. Meanwhile, CRCC also teaches Pakistani personnel how to maintain machines in order to operate machines under a severe climate in Thar, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

Temperatures in Thar desert keep above 40 degrees in June. Whereas construction machineries are unable to constantly operate under such a severe climate, CRCC Thar coal mine project has formulated a strict inspection system that personnel observe the working conditions of each equipment and inspect operational situations routinely. "To avoid over-heating of machineries, operators inspect equipment as requested. Therefore, once there're any unit exception, we can analysis and solve it timely. Even if under severe



heat, the machineries can operate constantly," said Zhang Xiaojun, manager of That coal mine project. Besides severe heat, sandstorm is another difficulty

for equipment management. Zhang said, "equipment cannot resist continuous and intensive invasion of sand. Thus, we have increased the frequent of lubrication, maintenance and fittings replacement."

Through a long-term research and practice, they also designed a sand prevention device for machines. Meanwhile, 4G and GPS automatic dispatching system established last month, silt removers designed and made by CRCC staff and knowledge of equipment management play an impor-

tant role of Thar coal mine project as well.

Machines of Thar coal mine project are rare in Pakistan, "We haven't seen such large and precise equipment, and we have never worked in large mine before."

Chinese staff teach us how to maintain equipment in every detail, including basic introduction, inspection and repairment."

After professional training, Pakistani employees have become the backbone of mechanical management in Thar coal mine, the report added.

# Pakistan-Kyrgyz ties excellent: Mandviwalla



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla has said that Pakistan and Kyrgyz have good relations at parliamentary level and also enjoy cordial bilateral ties, however, economic cooperation needs to be further enhanced for mutual benefit of both the countries. He expressed this view while talking to Ambassa-

dor of Kyrgyz Erik Beishembiev, here at Parliament House on Tuesday. Mandviwalla said that Pakistan and Kyrgyz have shared common ideological and political stances on major international issues and the cooperation between the two sides at parliamentary forums is remarkable. He said that both the countries have historical relations which can be traced back centuries ago as both the nations have long time and close cul-

tural and spiritual ties. The mutual exchange of the visits of the senior leadership of both the countries have also strengthened bilateral relations, however, there is huge potential for trade and economic cooperation. He said that the existing excellent political relations should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations. He said both the countries are rich in mineral resources,

have high skilled human resources, excellent opportunities for developing industry and agriculture, attracting foreign investments for joint production and supply of goods, including those for export.

Deputy Chairman Senate extended invitation to Speakers of Supreme Council of Republic of Kyrgyz to visit Pakistan and called for more frequent exchange of Parliamentary and trade delegations.

He also urged that there is a need for better connectivity between the two countries and option for direct flights needs to be explored. The Ambassador of Kyrgyz agreed with the views of the Deputy Chairman Senate and called for better parliamentary linkages and people to people contact for promoting social and economic ties for mutual benefit of both the countries.

He suggested the idea of organizing caravan of businessmen, tourists and media persons to travel from Pakistan to Kyrgyz to boost mutual ties.

# China rebuffs EU criticism

BEIJING: China rebuffed a warning from the European Union over a new Hong Kong national security law on Tuesday, with the foreign ministry insisting the matter was a "domestic affair". "We oppose any foreign interference in this matter," said Wang Lutong, director general of European Affairs at China's foreign ministry, adding that China had made its position clear in an EU video summit Monday between President Xi Jinping and top EU officials. - APP

# Shibli pays tribute to Kashmiri widows

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz paid tribute to brave Kashmiri women on International Widows' Day, observed on Tuesday. In tweet, the minister said that the husbands of Kashmiri widows sacrificed their lives in the struggle for self-determination and were victims of the Indian oppression. He saluted to the determination of those Kashmiri half-widows whose husbands have been subjected to inhuman torture in Indian prisons. - APP

# Govt urged to waive off six month rent

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Tahir Abbasi, on Tuesday said businesses have been ruined due to coronavirus and lockdown was still going on in different areas of Islamabad.

He said the situation has sent small traders to the point of starvation, and urged the government either waive off six-month rent of small traders or pay it on its own as it has paid the electricity bills of businesses.

He expressed these views while talking to Malik Rab Nawaz, President, Traders Welfare Association Jinnah Supermarket, Khalid Mehmood Chaudhry, Secretary Traders Action Committee.

Executive Member ICCI, Mehboob Ahmed Khan and Saeed Ahmed Bhatti, Former Vice President ICCI were also present at

the occasion. Expressing his views on the occasion, former Senior Vice President of ICCI Khalid Chaudhry said Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad has increased water bills by several hundred times which was tantamount to great injustice to the citizens and traders of Islamabad.

He said ordinary people were blaming the incumbent government while such increase was being made at the behest of Mayor, Sheikh Ansar Aziz to discredit the government.

He demanded immediate reversal of the illegal increase in water bills. He added that due to the four-month lockdown, restaurants have been closed and thousands of people have lost their jobs.

He also urged the government to allow restaurants to open under standard operating procedures and weekly lockdown should be limited to one day instead of two days with an increase in the timings of businesses.

# Trump to extend work visa freeze to year-end

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump will prolong a ban on US employment permits to year-end and broaden it to include H-1B visas used widely in the tech industry, the White House said Monday. A senior administration official told journalists the move would free up 525,000 jobs, making a dent in the high unemployment rate caused by the coronavirus pandemic. "President Trump is focused on getting Americans back to work as quickly as possible," the official said, on condition of anonymity. Trump had endlessly touted a strong economy, but now finds himself desperate for a political boost ahead of

the November election. His executive order, signed Monday afternoon, will extend and widen the 60-day freeze Trump placed on new work permits for non-US citizens two months ago.

The administration official said the new order would extend to the end of 2020 and include H-1B visas provided to 85,000 workers each year with special skills, many of them joining the US technology industry.

It will also cover most J visas, common for academics and researchers, and L visas used by companies to shift workers based overseas to their US offices. - APP

# Germany bans neo-Nazi group

"From this morning, police measures are under way in four regional states"

BERLIN: Germany's interior ministry announced Tuesday it had banned a far-right neo-Nazi group that operates mainly via social media networks. "From this morning, police measures are under way in four regional states," a ministry spokesman said on Twitter, referring to raids targeting the Nordadler (Eagle of the north) group. - APP

# Australian envoy all praise for Pakistani mangoes



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Geoffrey Shaw shared pictures of him eating famous Pakistani mangoes on Twitter. He tweeted: "Savouring the Pakistani 'aam', my favourite summer fruit that's an intrinsic part of Pakistan's culture, art, poetry and literature. Pakistan is the world's sixth largest exporter of mangoes, with its delicious and juicy #mangoes becoming increasing popular in Australia."

# Indian troops martyr two more Kashmiri youth

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism, martyred two more Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district, Tuesday. The youth were killed by troops during a cordon and search operation at Band-zoo area of the district, Kashmir Media Service reported.

Earlier, an Indian central Reserve Police Force personnel was killed in an attack during operation in the same area. The operation continued till last reports came in. The authorities blocked all entry and exit points of the area and also suspended mobile internet services. - APP

# England to reopen cinemas

LONDON: Cinemas, museums and galleries in England will reopen on July 4 in the next phase of easing the coronavirus lockdown, the government said Monday, as infection and death rates continued to slow.

Venues will be asked to introduce social distancing measures including one-way systems, spaced queuing, increased ventilation and pre-booked tickets, a Downing Street source said. Prime Minister Boris Johnson will unveil the changes in a statement to parliament on Tuesday, and say whether hairdressers, places of worship, pubs and restaurants will also be allowed to open. He will also announce the outcome of a review into the rule that people stay two metres apart, which the hospitality industry and many lawmakers want cut to one metre, saying it is impractical and unnecessary.

Britain's coronavirus outbreak has been the deadliest in Europe, but stay-at-home orders imposed in late March are slowly being eased as infection rates fall. The death toll among people who tested positive for COVID-19 rose by 15 to 42,647 on Sunday, the lowest daily increase since March 15, although there is always a lag in reported deaths over the weekend. - APP

# Call to ban non-Halal meat from India

FAIZ CHAUDHRY

MUZAFFARABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has proposed a ban on import of the non-Halal meat and all non-Halal products into the member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He also called on the OIC leadership to initiate a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against India and establish a Kashmir Humanitarian Fund with the help of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF).

The President made these proposals while addressing an Emergency Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir convened at the request of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by OIC Secretary General Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Niger Ambassador Abubakar Hassan and Pakistan's Permanent Representative to OIC Ambassador Rizwan Shiekh. The Emergency Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, True Representative of the Kashmiri people, and Mr Marghoob Butt, Executive Director OIC-Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) also spoke at the meeting.

After sharing the harrowing details of the human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), Sardar Masood Khan urged the OIC leadership to urgently send a message to the UN Secretary General to immediately appoint a Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir and request the UN Security Council to hold result-oriented meetings to implement its relevant Kashmir resolutions.