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# 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 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 Standard 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 hotchpotch 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.

*Ansar*

**Chief Editor's Profile:** Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily *The Muslim* in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined *Pakistan Observer* as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join *The Nation* as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with *The News* spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as Columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of *The Post*, a sister publication of *daily Khabrain*. In 2010 he launched his own publication *Centreline*. He has authored two books on European Union. He has also served in *Pakistan Telecom Company (PTCL)* as Media Advisor/Director Communications. He Launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012.





**Ali Alizada**

# Azerbaijan to continue close cooperation with Pakistan: Ali Alizada

*Message of Mr. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the National Day of Azerbaijan – May 28.*

DNA

**2** 8th of May is the National Day of Azerbaijan, the day of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and a historic event when a democratic republic was created for the first time in the Muslim world in 1918. The Government and state institutions, armed forces of Azerbaijan were created, a democratically-elected Azerbaijani parliament was formed, official state attributes of Azerbaijan – the national tricolor flag and anthem were adopted, Azerbaijani language was declared the official language. The first majority-Muslim state Azerbaijan was also one of the first countries in the world to extend equal political rights to women in 1918. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic managed to do a lot, but did not last long and 23 months later, the republic fell by the occupation and annexation of the Soviet Union. Azerbaijan Democratic Republic left an indelible mark in the history of



national statehood with its rich state building experience and prepared a good basis for the future independence of Azerbaijan. Annexation of Azerbaijan to the Soviet Union in 1920 shows again that it is even more difficult to maintain independence than to obtain it. As the successor of ADR, Azerbaijan once again regained its independence in 1991 and when Azerbaijan was again at the verge of civil war and loss of independence, Heydar Aliyev, National Leader of Azerbaijan assumed the responsibility of the country, saved the state and the nation of Azerbaijan from the hard and strict tests of history and Azerbaijan embarked on the path of development, ensured stability and the country began to confidently move forward.

Today, thanks to the wise policy of the National Leader, Azerbaijan successfully continues its dynamic development under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. A thought-out and long-term policy is implemented in Azerbaijan at the highest level. Despite the impacts of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the occupation of our lands by aggressor Armenia, economic growth of Azerbaijan has been secured and indicators are very positive. Only in 2019 foreign exchange reserves of Azerbaijan have increased by \$6.4 billion to reach a record high of \$51 billion. Azerbaijan's external public debt is at a very low level – 17 percent of the gross domestic product. According to this indicator, Azerbaijan is in ninth place in the world. The World Bank included Azerbaijan in the list of 20 most reforming countries.

As the successor of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic the modern, emerging, stable, prosper and peaceful Azerbaijan lives in stability today, which is the main condition for the development of the country and continues its friendly relations with all nations which was determined as one of the main foreign policy priorities. Even in this difficult time when the global COVID-19 pandemic has a negative impact on all countries, along with

the measures taken by the Government of Azerbaijan to mitigate the spread of coronavirus in the country, Azerbaijan has also makes its contribution in the global arena as well. Many financial and material support were extended to different countries and WHO. In order to strengthen the solidarity and unity in the fight against deadly pandemic the online Summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement under the motto "United against COVID-19" and an extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council were held by the initiative of the head of the Azerbaijani state. The Turkic Council was even the first international organization on a



global scale to hold a summit on the COVID-19 pandemic at the level of heads of state.

We are very pleased that the relations of Azerbaijan with fraternal country Pakistan also steadily accelerate and both countries always enjoy longstanding warm and cordial relations. Many projects and productive cooperation between the two countries are continued in economic, military, military-technical, defence industry, security, cultural, media, science, education, energy and humanitarian-social fields. Only in past 2019 year several mutual visits of government and military officials

have been implemented from both sides. The President of Pakistan has visited Azerbaijan at the end of 2019, for the first time ever Azerbaijani military contingent led by Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan attended Pakistan National Day Parade 2019, very warm and successful meeting between PM of Pakistan and President of Azerbaijan was held in January of this year in Davos. The mutual attendance of entrepreneurs in different exhibitions and the B2B meetings of businessmen were held, the special attention were given to the strengthening of cooperation in the energy and tourism sectors, the establishment of direct flights was and is of one the main aims in our relations at present time and many works have already done in order to start operations of direct flights from 2020. The global COVID-19 pandemic affected the world countries has also not allowed the completion of some successful projects between our countries as well and forced to postpone many of them, but even in pandemic time Azerbaijan and Pakistan as two brotherly countries are continued to support each other. Humanitarian-social works of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan are continued in Pakistan during this pandemic time too and the Government of Azerbaijan has also allocated financial humanitarian aid to Pakistan for prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and elimination of consequences of pandemic in Pakistan. Pakistan has also supported the efforts of Azerbaijan to fight coronavirus pandemic and President of Pakistan attended the online Summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement under the motto "United against COVID-19" which was held by the initiative of the President of Azerbaijan on May 4, 2020. The Presidents of two countries had also a constructive telephone conversation on May 8, 2020 where they hailed the importance of the NAM online Summit in terms of strengthening efforts to combat the pandemic and its significant contribution to consolidating solidarity and international



**Azerbaijan and Pakistan are bound by the relations strong friendship and strategic partnership which reflects the will of our fraternal nations and we remain committed to further strengthen our relations with brotherly Pakistan.**

cooperation between the countries. The heads of state expressed also their confidence that the two countries will continue to support each other's stance at the international level. The support of both countries to each other on Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir issues based on UN Security Council resolutions are also continued and discussed in every meetings. No any country has recognized the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", the world's leading organizations and

many countries have also reacted harshly and negatively to the illegal elections held there in this year and Pakistan is also among these countries which stands by fair position of Azerbaijan unrecognizing Armenia as an independent state and condemning this aggressor country because of its occupation of the 20 % of internationally recognized Azerbaijani territories. The Government and people of Azerbaijan highly value this

brotherly and fair approach and Azerbaijan considers Pakistan its close fraternal country and will continue to support it at every forum.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan are bound by the relations strong friendship and strategic partnership which reflects the will of our fraternal nations and we remain committed to further strengthen our relations with brotherly Pakistan.

This year we are not able to solemnly celebrate the date "May 28 – National Day of Azerbaijan" in Pakistan due to coronavirus pandemic, but we have already received many congratulations letters, calls, messages of solidarity from the people and Government of Pakistan which give us immense pleasure and honor. I thank the Government and people of brotherly Pakistan for continued cooperation, support and interest to further expand and strengthen our relations and congratulate all my countrymen on the occasion of National Day "May 28 – Republic Day of Azerbaijan".

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# *Daily* Islamabad POST

**A Credible Daily Newspaper**

**Chief Editor: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**

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# Azerbaijani Piano artists show rare solidarity by singing Dil Dil Pakistan

Ansar M Bhatti

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

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

The Azerbaijan embassy spearheaded by Ambassador Ali Alizada has been instrumental in promotion of bilateral links in all fields. Just recently the Ambassador took an initiative of promoting Pakistani national songs in Azerbaijan with a view to further strengthening friendship and brotherly bonds.

In this connection a wonder family of Azerbaijan, well known for their



singing skills performed Pakistani national song Dil Dil Pakistan on Piano.

The performance of Ms. Turan and her family indeed presented a mesmerizing performance and won hearts and minds of Pakistani people.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada in his Tweet said that the wonderful joint performance of the popular

Pakistani song "Dil Dil Pakistan" by Ms. Turan □Manafzadeh and her parents □Maestro Islam Manafov, the honored artist of Azerbaijan and Mrs. Shukufa Manafova in solidarity with brotherly country Pakistan fighting coronavirus pandemic.

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



# Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan provides medical items, food stuff and gifts to Thalassemia patients



By A.M.BHATTI

**I**SLAMABAD : Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada visited Sundas Thalassemia Center of Pakistan in Islamabad and met with the medical staff of the Center, as well as the patients and their families.

The Chief Administrator of the Center, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Aftab Hussain, briefed Ambassador about the facilities of the Center and patients who are being treated there. He said that Sundas Thalassemia Center has been operating for more than 20 years, and more than 350 children from different parts of Pakistan suffering from thalassemia and more than 60 children suffering from hemophilia are currently receiving free treatment and blood transfusion.

He noted that the Center, which was the first of its kind in Pakistan and was visited by the President and First Lady of the country, also provides financial and logistical support to the families of patients. Then the Ambassador of Azerbaijan was invited to get acquainted with transfusion ward, lab, blood bank and pharmacy of the Center.

Greeting the medical personnel and the patients of the Center, as well as their family members, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada on behalf of Heydar Aliyev Foundation congratulated them on the advent of holy month of Ramadan and expressed his best wishes.

He mentioned that Heydar Aliyev Foundation is doing a remarkable work for the treatment of patients suffering from Thalassemia in Azerbaijan and abroad, and the medical equipment, masks, food boxes and gifts presented to the Thalassemia





Center, have also been provided by the support of the Foundation.

Ali Alizada recalled that after the devastating earthquake in 2005, Heydar Aliyev Foundation started its work in Pakistan and constructed a new school for girls in Muzaffarabad, by the initiative of the President of the Foundation, First Lady of Azerbaijan – Mehriban Aliyeva. Ambassador noted that during these 15 years the Foundation initiated a series of social and humanitarian projects in all provinces of Pakistan.

He noted that the Foundation assisted in the establishment of Thalassemia Center in Islamabad, donated ambulances and thousands of blood bags to various charity organizations of Pakistan, did not forget orphans and special children during Ramadan every year, organizing iftar dinners and presenting gifts to them. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to patients of the Sundus Thalassemia Center for joining an iftar dinner organized for orphans and special children at the Aiwan-e-Sadr last year, with the participation of the President of Pakistan and the First Lady. He added that the organization of iftar dinners were not possible this year due to the pandemic, but other charitable activities of the Foundation would be continue. Ambassador A. Alizada expressed that, the social and humanitarian projects implemented in Pakistan by the Foundation serve to further strengthen and deepen friendly and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

At the end, blood bags and medical masks purchased with the support of the Foundation, as well as food boxes and toys prepared for the patients of the Thalassemia Center were presented.

Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Aftab Hussain, Chief Administrator of the Center also stressed that the social and humanitarian projects of Heydar Aliyev Foundation are being implemented regularly in Pakistan



and expressed his gratitude to the Foundation and its leadership for providing

blood bags, medical masks, food boxes and gifts to the Thalassemia Center.

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## Serena's Sarangi Season 4 concludes

DNA

**I**SLAMABAD: Despite COVID-19 challenges, Serena Hotels continue to use the digital platform in engaging the community through their various initiatives. It has recently concluded Season 4 of its nationwide music talent hunt platform "Sarangi", whose theme this year was "Hamd-O-Naat", with the jury announcing the winners of the competition online.

Hamd is exclusive praise to Allah and Allah Alone whereas Naat is praises to the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad P.B.U.H

Sarangi is one of Serena Hotels' cultural diplomacy initiatives that aims to foster the rich cultural heritage of the country and promote arts and activities that inspire peace and hope. Over the years it has become a powerful platform that gives hitherto undiscovered musical talent from around the country the chance to step forward by sending a sample of their performance online, to be discovered and polished by the professionals in the music industry.

This year's competition, which kicked off at the beginning of Ramadan,

received more than 150 submissions from promising vocal talent in the art of Hamd and Naat from all over the country.

The end of season judging event for Serena Sarangi Competition is usually a star-studded affair, however due to Covid-19 the event had to be held in a limited setting with the participants showcasing their talent via video link. However, the quality of the competitors made up for this and the jury consisting of Sufi folk maestro Arieab Azhar, legendary Qawwal Asif Ali Santoo and leading music producer Sarmad Ghafoor, found it difficult to pick a single winner.

Osaid Alam, an FSc. from Punjab College of IT, was picked as one of the winners. Inspired by world renowned Naatkhwan Syed Zabeed Masood Shah, Osaid started reciting Naats from a young age. He was mentored by his teacher Syed Manzoor Ul Konain Shah who helped him polish his talent and passion and won a number of Provincial and National Naat competitions to-date. Another winner was Ayesha Rasheed, a

doctorate student from University of Punjab who said her powerful vocals and Sufi singing style are inspired by Abida Perveen. Ayesha has already won a number district and national level accolades since her young age for Sufi Singing and Kalaam, including Kalam e Iqbal competition held by Iqbal Academy and Unique Drama Festival Lahore.

The third winner was Ayesha Tariq, a 17-year-old second year student from Lahore passionate about Hamd-o-Naat and Sufi Ghazals.

"It would be unfair for us to single out one winner as three of the finalists were at par with their skills, hence we have decided to award all three as co-winners," said Asif Ali Santoo, while extending warm congrats to the winners.

The winners received a certificate and cash prize which will be divided equally. They will also each receive a recording session on Serena Sarangi Nights, an online live music initiative by Serena Hotels which is broadcast around the world.



## Dutch embassy open for business: envoy

A.M.BHATTI



ISLAMABAD" Ambassador of the Netherlands Wouter Plomp has said that both the Netherlands and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations.

In a Twitter message he said economic ties between the two countries are progressing steadily.

He said in last year they participated in many trade exhibitions and trade missions for which they were grateful to government of Pakistan for making all our efforts successful.

He said as we know COVID-19 has hit us hard. We at the embassy are strictly observing all SOPs which mean we will continue working from home. While working from home we are still open for businesses.

He said they had a strong economic team at the embassy which was there to assist all those seeking any information regarding businesses.

"We continue to meeting with Pakistani companies online in order to listen to their concerns", he added.

## Uzbek ambassador says Pakistan his second home

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

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furqat Sidikov paid farewell call on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday. Both sides discussed openly and very friendly the outcomes of the raise of Uzbek-Pak political, economic and cultural relations during tenure of the outgoing ambassador. They also discussed the perspectives of further enhancing bilateral ties as well as bilateral events and visits aimed at cementing our Brotherly cooperation. Uzbekistan became largest trade partner of Pakistan in Central Asia and we are keen to further increase this, as well as to develop our cooperation in interregional connectivity the ambassador told the Foreign Minister. Ambassador expressed his gratitude to esteemed Pakistan's Foreign Ministry for sincere support our activity towards development of the relations between our countries. "Pakistan is my second home and I will always keep in my heart pure Pakistani kindness, sincerity, strong friendship, rich culture and faith. I always remain a true friend of Pakistan and I express my thankfulness to my Pakistani Brothers and Sisters who were always with me and rendered strong support towards development of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Fraternal relations" Ambassador Furqat said in his statement after the meeting. Ambassador Furqat Sidikov has been appointed Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan and he will soon assume charge of his new assignment.



## Amb. Furqat appointed Dy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan



ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Ambassador Furqat Sidikov has been appointed as deputy for Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan. The President of Uzbekistan has issued a decree of in this regard.

Ambassador Furqat spent an eventful tenure in Pakistan and during his tenure relations between the two countries were further strengthened.

Ambassador Furqat will soon take charge of his new assignment in Tashkent.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan relations saw new heights during Mr. Furqat tenure. During his tenure he arranged a number of bilateral visits as well as exhibitions in order to promote Uzbekistan in Pakistan.

It was because of his untiring efforts that Uzbek air started operations from Pakistan due to which peoples of both countries had chance to visit each other.

Resumption of flights also increased tourism.



# Shahzad Waseem new Leader of House in Senate

A.M.Bhatti

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





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# Uzbek Ambassador Furqat Sidiqov's valuable services

**Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan**



**P**resident of Uzbekistan Mirziyoyev has appointed Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV, deputy foreign minister which showed a paradigm shift in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan based on "engaging" world through "commercial diplomacy" and Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV is indeed a "champion" of commercial diplomacy.

On his appointment as Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, the Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad congratulated Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV which is indeed recognition of his tireless hard-work and superior professional qualities.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV has been "striving" hard to achieve desired goals of bilateral trade volumes, foreign direct investments (FDIs), and regional connectivity since his arrival in Pakistan. He has been pursuing diversified but integrated plans to achieve greater commercial diplomacy, religious diplomacy, economic integration, and science and technology cooperation for further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two sides. Uzbekistan and Pakistan offer lots of untapped potentials which ambassador SIDIQOV successfully explored and untapped for the betterment of bilateral relations of both the countries.

Diplomacy is a sensitive job which requires height of professionalism and human traits and Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV is the ideal combination of both the arts through which he revolutionized the nature, composition, utility and prospects of Uzbekistan-Pakistan bilateral relations. He has been an innovative, purposeful, and result oriented diplomat in Pakistan who

successfully demonstrated real beauty and economic potential of his beloved country, Uzbekistan, the land of human wisdom and knowledge.

He has been pioneer of cultural, people, commercial, digital and last but not least military diplomacy in Pakistan. He has been a living wire even in diplomatic community in Islamabad who always institutionalized true colors of Uzbekistan's diversity, rich culture, heritage, traditions, civilization, humanity and hospitality in national receptions, seminars, conferences and events.

Many prominent experts of modern diplomacy pinpoint three important benchmarks to evaluate overall performance of an ambassadorial slot i.e. close political affiliation/consultation or better understanding, rise to bilateral trade volumes, business and commerce activities, rise to commercial diplomacy and last but not least cultural ties and Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV undoubtedly, achieved a grand success in all these fields of diplomacy and professional career during his stay in Pakistan.

Uzbekistan-Pakistan bilateral relations were further strengthened during ambassadorial tenure of Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV because of the better political understanding, improvement in bilateral trade volumes, phenomenal rise to tourism and last but not least joint efforts to bring peace and harmony in the region especially in Afghanistan.

According to latest statistical data of Board of Investment and finance ministry (March, 2020), trade turnover of Uzbekistan with Pakistan reached more than 122 million dollars in 2019. In 2018 the volume was estimated at 98 million dollars while in 2017 it was just 36.6 million. Through rigorous commercial diplomacy of Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV bilateral trade may reach to US\$300 million in the days to come. Thanks to his immaculate qualities of commercial diplomacy, trade & commerce and people-to-people connectivity, the Republic of Uzbekistan has now become one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan in Central Asian Region (CAR).

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's passionate persuasions of commercial diplomacy, close consultation and motivation with interested Pakistani businessmen,

investors and of course partners, Uzbekistan has succeeded to seek investments in restaurants, hotels, trade companies, textile and pharmaceutical factories, and chemical industries of Uzbekistan.

He successfully institutionalized concept of "Uzbek-Pakistani Joint ventures" as well as establishment of trade representation in Tashkent, which both countries acknowledged beneficial for further development of mutually valuable trade and economic cooperation as one of the key priorities in bilateral relations. As a true serviceman of his country and expert of international marketing he introduced the Uzbekistan's agricultural-machinery in Pakistan with the possibilities of exporting the output to contiguous countries expanding from year to year. He arranged various "Road-Shows" for the projection of Uzbek agricultural machinery in different cities of Pakistan i.e. Multan, Karachi and Sialkot.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's had urged Pakistani farmers to explore possibilities of importing Uzbekistan manufactured high quality tractors, agriculture machinery, heavy duty trucks and buses that would help in improving agriculture productivity and transportation facilities in Pakistan.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV's has been staunch supporter of greater socio-economic integration and regional connectivity. He always showed his country keen interest to be part of the CPEC, reaching Pakistani sea ports Gwadar and Karachi.

Most recently, he signed a meaningful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood to establish a 'Joint Working Group' for trade and investment. Being pioneer of bilateral, trilateral or cluster trading propositions, he assured the Uzbek support to join Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA).

Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan Furqat Sidiqov had a fruitful meeting at the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad during which both sides expressed their desire to enhance trade relations between the two countries, establishing joint ventures in the fields of agriculture, textile, pharma, tourism and construction.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan also agreed on



greater utilisation of the institutions like Inter-Governmental Commission and Joint Business Council for giving impetus to Government to Government and Business to Business cooperation.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV established Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Council which instrumented to realize mutual untapped potential and will of business circles of both the countries towards further enhancing trade & investment cooperation, economic coordination, investments, tourism and cultural collaboration as well as to bring private sectors' active interaction.

For the further strengthening of bilateral relations, the Business Council proved a game changer and organized more than 30 bilateral business visits to Uzbekistan and Pakistan as well as organized 63 Pak-Uzbek business forums in the cities Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Karachi, Multan, Rawalpindi, Swabi and others. Moreover, 200 Pakistani companies visited Uzbekistan in order to hold negotiations on the matters of export and import of wide range of goods and to realize joint investment projects.

Due to his assiduous advocacy Pakistani importers showed their interest in Uzbek textile yarns, petrochemical products, 100% natural and healthy fruit-vegetables, red & white kidney beans, green mugs, peas, pure Uzbek silk products and agricultural machinery. On the other hand, Uzbek importers got interested in Pakistani ready textile and leather garments, pharmacy, sugar and potatoes as well as mango and kinnows. As a result of this, in 2018-2019 years Uzbekistan became main trade partner of Pakistan in Central Asian states. It is worth mentioning that he separately worked out establishment of trade houses of five cities of Pakistan which deemed to project trade & commerce potential of Namangan province of Uzbekistan. Through these trade houses volumes of



import-export of Uzbekistan-Pakistan would be further increased.

Ambassador Furqat SIDIQOV was the pioneer of religious diplomacy in Pakistan and introduced "Ziarat tourism" which achieved a grand success. He institutionalized the initiative of Uzbekistan's president to develop "Ziarat Tourism" for foreign pilgrims. He developed religious tourism quickly and created the most favourable conditions for tourists.

His sincere efforts showcasing his country religious treasure to rest of the world and especially Pakistan motivated them to pay homage to great Islamic scholars and thinkers such as Al-Khorazmiy, Al-Beruniy, Imom Al-Bukhariy, Bahouddin Naqshbandiy, Al-Motrudiy, At-Termiziy and others.

He truly projected greatness and holiness of ancient and precious cities such as

Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez, Kokand and Namangan among Pakistani tourists which has been geared up having direct flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan (Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent in April 2017).

Because of his untiring efforts, direct flights from Tashkent to Lahore and from Lahore to Tashkent were resumed. Annually 12 thousand passengers of Pakistan use this direction. It served as an only bridge connecting Pakistan with Central Asian countries.

He has been center of gravity in terms of greater socio-economic integration, high bilateral trade volumes, regional connectivity, booming commercial diplomacy, military ties, tourism, cultural activities and last but not least, close liaison of political understanding. The CGSS, Pakistan wishes him great success in all his future ministerial commitments.

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# Daily Islamabad POST

**A Credible Daily Newspaper**

**Chief Editor: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**

**Deputy Editor: Abid Raza**



# The question of Palestine; from vocal to practical support



**Following the illegal acts of Britain during the trusteeship period, in 1948 the Zionist regime was recognized by the United States and later by other countries such as the former Soviet Union, whereas the people of the territory of Palestine were never consulted about their fate. In fact, the Zionist regime was established without allowing the native population of the territory of Palestine to exercise their right to self-determination**

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**Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini**

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## **A brief History:**

**P**alestine was among former Ottoman territories placed under UK administration by the League of Nations in 1922. The British Mandate incorporated the "Balfour Declaration" of 1917, expressing support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people". During the Mandate, from 1922 to 1947, large-scale Jewish immigration, mainly from Eastern Europe took place, the numbers swelling in the 1930s with the Nazi persecution. Benefiting from false and inapplicable slogans like "A land without a people for a people without a land", and US absolute support, these large migrations, coinciding with plunder of Palestinian properties and infringement of their essential rights by the occupiers, finally resulted in the establishment of the Zionist regime.

Following the illegal acts of Britain during the trusteeship period, in 1948 the Zionist regime was recognized by the United States and later by other countries such as the former Soviet Union, whereas the people of the territory of Palestine were never consulted about their fate. In fact, the Zionist regime was established without allowing the native population of the territory of Palestine to exercise their right to self-determination.

The measures that led to the formation of the Zionist regime were contrary to international law. According to Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, Britain had no sovereignty over Palestine and should have allowed the exercise of the right to self-determination, namely holding a free referendum with the participation of all inhabitants of

Palestine. Not only this important didn't happen, but maximum pressures like subjugation of opponents, enforced displacement the Palestinian intellectuals, evacuation of indigenous Palestinians from their homeland and many other ferocious actions occurred against them.

negligence of the then big powers to the Islamic countries demands for resistance to and cease of immigrations coincided with violence against people of Palestine and lead to conflicts in the area. During this asymmetric conflict, the occupier was endowed with highest military technology and arsenals while people of Palestine just had some stones in their hands to throw. People of Palestine were losing both their land and entity and Zionists were reaching both power and lands by usurpation.

**Lack of comprehensive solutions:**

From that time, some proposals were offered to the UN to whitewash heinous crimes perpetrated by expansionist Zionists in Palestine; also different resolutions were issued to orally condemn the Zionist regime atrocities in international and regional organizations that none of them lead to a breakthrough for the sake of oppressed people of Palestine.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that the philosophy of its establishment in 25 September 1969 (following the criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem) was to support Palestine, has so far miserably failed to liberate the long-persecuted Palestinians from the yoke of imperial Zionist regime due to its members divisions and negative role of interventionists. The defeat of proposed plans and ratified resolutions that

supposedly wanted to bringing peace and stability for the Palestine, paved the ground for the Zionist regime to first occupy and then annex Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) that resulted in great exodus of Palestinians to other countries. Unsuccessful attempts of the UN in defending the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for self-determination, national independence, sovereignty, and returning their homeland, forced the Palestinians to resort to first and Second Intifada.

From the struggle inception till today, Palestinians are yearning for international support for their need to at least oppose Zionist settlements and Zionist actions in changing the status of Jerusalem, and they are also longing for their right for realization of other internationally recognized legitimate, inalienable rights enshrined in international conventions like ICCPR(International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and ICESCR(International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

From the time that Palestine question referred to multilateral organizations till now, Islamic countries rendered some efforts to push these organizations towards full realization of Palestinian rights but due to US obliterations most of the UN decisions and resolutions came fanatically in favor of Zionists and with minimum attention to Palestinian rights. Putting aside the unjust and one-sided approaches in most of UN initiatives (From Human Rights Commission to Human Rights Council and from UN Security Council to the subsidiary bodies of General Assembly), even these minimum



rights of Palestinians faced considerable impediment to reach tangible results. These facts show that avaricious Zionists and their supporters were not even ready to grant minimum advantages to Palestinians in the above mentioned efforts. History is a good witness of the fact that how US locked Human Rights Commission because this organization was seriously condemning the brutal activities of Zionist regime in Palestinian lands. As the UN went weaker in helping the Palestinians and western countries more blind on brutalities, Zionist regime utilized further savage in violating the rights of these defenseless people. The atrocities even went severe by seeing the full support of US behind its bully approaches and infringement of internationally recognized rules and procedures.

What more deteriorated the situation for Palestinians was the passive gesture of some Arab states towards new agendas leading sweeping the question of Palestine under the rug of betrayal. One of the recent efforts for sweeping the issue was the doom Trump so-called peace plan entitled "Deal of the Century" that not only doesn't have any landscape for prosperity and stability for Palestinians but makes Zionist regime more vigorous to claim new territories for annexation. No different looking at the Deal as a "smokescreen" for annexation or "slap of the century"; this plan won't bring any amelioration for the already struggle stricken situation.

A glance at Islamic Republic of Iran reaction to the Question of Palestine On August 7, 1979, the founder of Islamic Revolution in Iran and the then Supreme leader, Imam Khomeini, declared the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan each year as Quds Day, in which Muslims worldwide would unite in solidarity against Zionist regime and in support of

the Palestinians and declared the "liberation" of Jerusalem/Al-Quds a religious duty to all Muslims.

Besides this symbolic collective movement, Iran spared no efforts to comprehensively support Palestinian resistance against suppression and plunder. The main support of Iran was a spiritual one and comprises a wide range of issues from helping the Palestinian voices to be heard in multilateral forums to enforce the rights-seeking spirit of these people. These kind of supports made people of Palestine more confident to fulfill their rights for self-defense that is well acclaimed in article 51 of the UN charter.

Considering the inefficiency and oppressive nature of previously suggested plans for the question of Palestine, Iran presents a precise and well measured plan entitled "National Referendum in Palestine" to the UN for the salvage of the issue. In this plan, Iran clearly proposes a platform that provides the grounds for the true and original people of Palestine to exercise their right to self-determination. According to this initiative, that is in full compliance with United Nations Charter and rules of international law, particularly international humanitarian law and human rights, all the authentic people of Palestine including the followers of all religions (including Muslims, Christians and Jews) who inhabited in Palestine before the issuance of the Balfour Declaration will hold a national referendum and establish a political system by majority that will decide on the status of the non-indigenous residents of Palestine. The main requirement of this initiative, is the return of indigenous Palestinians refugee to their homeland; something that is both the request of people of Palestine and UN resolutions.

As mentioned before, Iran spared no effort to support Palestine and incurred many

costs and loses during this path. During past decades Iran has suffered a lot from US unilateral sanctions, it's illegal act of defamation and designation of Iranian defensive unit (Al-Quds Force) and terror of Iranian high ranking military officials like "Shahid Al Quds" Brigadier General Qassem Suleimani who within the context of international rules was supporting the oppressed peoples in the region and standing against terrorism, oppression and occupation. In spite of these sacrifices and hardness, the vigilant nation of Iran beside other observant consciences around the world are still firmly standing for the goal of independent, sovereign and free Palestine.

**Conclusion:**

It is a source of grave concern that after seven decades, the question of Palestine is still unresolved and the international community has failed to settle this chronic complicated crisis. Considering the inattention and inefficiency of the UN in helping the Palestinians to gain their rights, Islamic Ummah should according to their Islamic mandate, consolidate and take firm stance against cunning expansionist Zionist regime that has nothing except massacre, terror, destruction, violation to Islamic sanctities and so forth for our region.

In support of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif and resonating with Imam Khomeini, we also today, like the previous years, consecrate the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as Al-Quds Day and proclaim the global solidarity of Muslims in support of the legitimate rights of the Muslim people of Palestine.

*The writer is the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran. The Article is written on the occasion of Quds week*

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# A Lone Long Walk: Beautiful Addition in English Literature

REVIEW BY PROF. DR. MAQSOOD JAFRI

**A** Lone Long Walk is a collection of the tales told by a creative and fertile mind Tahir Mehmood. He is the Chief Editor monthly Hilal. He has kindly presented this rare literary gift to me. I feel honoured and humbled. These twenty-eight tales are the saga of life, love, and patriotism. The book is so interesting, inspiring, and insightful that I intuitively felt to extensively comment on it. As a soldier his passion for motherland exhibits gallantry and as a writer his intense feelings for love, justice and peace are exuberantly meritorious. These are short stories comprising a candid message for the promotion of truth, beauty, love, life, and patriotism. I would very briefly like to comment on these tales depicting the moral of each tale. In the first tale titled "The Choice", the author introduced a soldier who is brave, patriotic and full of fortitude depicting zeal and zest with vehemence for his motherland. The wandering man is a great adorer of his country and is ever ready to sacrifice for his sacred land. In a tale titled "Candy", the writer describes love expressed by a lady to a soldier who presented her a candy. It is just a short meeting between them that develops an understanding and love for each other. Unfortunately, she became the victim of tuberculosis and died. The writer quotes a melancholic poem of Lord Byron in this tale that is full of agony and anguish. The end of their meeting is very deplorable and heartbreaking. This tale has a moral: "Unconditional Love", whether it is the love of a lady or the love of the motherland. In a tale titled "Love Across High Mountains", the writer describes the feeling of a tourist who visits Hunza Valley in Gilgit Baltistan. Sitting all alone on the peak of a mountain like a hypersensitive poet and a meditative philosopher, he observes: "These Mountains give a message to the human to stand tall against all ills of times, suffer in silence, endure with fortitude, fight back with resolve, believe in glory and celebrate the triumph with grace and dignity". Actually these lines portray the whole philosophy as a committed soldier throughout the book. Besides, gallantry, the second topic of all tales is the unconditional love that is the union of souls. On the border between

China and Pakistan on Khunjerab Post, there is a Chinese group of tourists. The tourist meets a Chinese lady there and they become just friends and express love and reverence through their eyes to each other as according to the writer love does not need words, it is a spiritual experience. The lady is a professor of sociology. The writer depicts the scenario in these words, on the question of the lady about love. He responds, "Love is more of giving than asking. Love only survives in trust and truth. Love is unconditional

***The tale titled "Christmas in Waziristan" is a marvelous message of interfaith harmony. David is a Christian and Gul Bub is a Muslim, both are like chums. David celebrates Christmas while Gul Bub joins him in his religious festivity.***

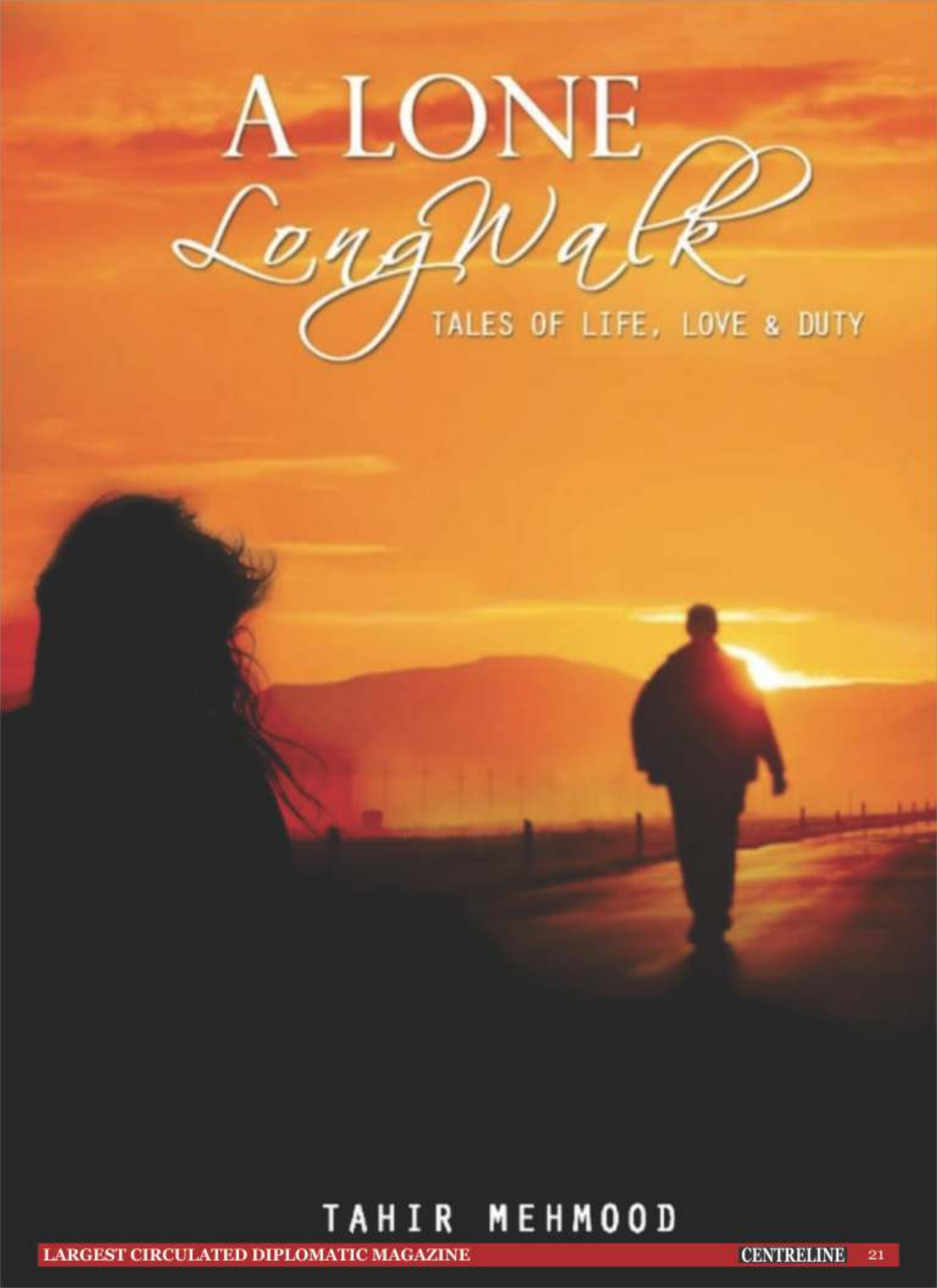
surrender to the goodness of the human hearts and souls". In this tale, the whole ideology of the writer about love is fervidly and fervently assorted and animates the conviction of the writer for the sublimity of love, passion and the spirit of solemnity for the motherland. In another tale titled "The Remains", also ends with a tragic phenomenon. It is a momentary expression of love between two travelers. They perchance meet and then part away. They sail in a boat for a short time and expressed love to each

other. She asks him whenever he would see the Great Bear in the constellation he should remember her. She says our gazes will always meet at Great Bear and our souls will feel union and contentment. This tale is based on some of the other tales on the Platonic concept of love. The tale titled "Riddle", speaks volumes of social reforms. In this tale, the writer propounds a national vision. He writes, "In fact, people are the real power. People in support of soldiers are fundamental to success. Soldiers and people both are bound by love for the motherland". In this tale, the writer also asserts the need for love, justice, and peace like an exponent and proponent of human values. He exhorts: "Your strength lies in justice, distribute fairly, listen carefully and allow freedom to think and construct. But remember freedom must follow a method otherwise anarchy would not be far off." Besides, a prose writer, the author has poetic propensities and proclivity. There are four poems titled "Sleep, In Sorrows, Traveler and the Dust" included in the book. They are fascinating and exquisite poems and are heart wrenching, pensive and plaintive in mood and spirit. John Keats in the separation of his beloved Fanny Brown lamented and wrote odes full of agony and pain. He failed to woo his beloved and anguish pervaded his wounded soul. It seems pertinent to decipher that the author of this treatise shares the pains of love with John Keats.

The tale titled "Christmas in Waziristan" is a marvelous message of interfaith harmony. David is a Christian and Gul Bub is a Muslim, both are like chums. David celebrates Christmas while Gul Bub joins him in his religious festivity. David feels elevated when officers also cut a cake of Christmas with him. This tale rejects religious extremism and promotes moderation, tolerance and harmonious relations between the people of different faiths. It is a great message for the whole world.

In a tale titled "Line", the writer narrates the story of Shirdi and Nardi, two mountain peaks and the river Neelum of Kashmir. It is an allegorical fable that narrates the hostility of an alien captor who captivated the young painter girl, molested her and ravished her chastity.



A person is walking away from the viewer on a long, straight road that stretches towards the horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow across the sky and reflecting on the road. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright background. In the distance, there are faint outlines of hills or mountains. The overall mood is contemplative and solitary.

# A LONE *Long Walk*

TALES OF LIFE, LOVE & DUTY

TAHIR MEHMOOD



Her lover is a poet, whose hypersensitive heart is broken on this horrendous plight. One day, she is found dead and drowned in the Neelum River. This tale marks the unprecedented Indian atrocities being perpetrated on docile and defenseless Kashmiris. This tale is like a similitude based on Greek Mythological tradition but it also infers the hard realities of life. This tale stands for the accentuation of the platonic concept of love: the vigorous love between two souls and rejects the Byronic concept of love that is the union of two bodies. The author seems to imbibe and incorporate two major missions in this tale. The unconditional love for the motherland and beloved.

A Long Long Walk is the title of the book as well. It is the tale of a soldier deployed far from his house in the East Wing of his country. He used to occasionally have a cup of coffee in a village café. The soldier meets an educated breath breaking damsel and they become friends and get bound in the chain of love. It is the tale of an East Pakistani girl and a West Pakistani soldier. Here love is also sacrificed on the altar of love for the motherland. Friends become enemies. Aldous Huxley, in his book titled "Oliver Tree", writes how the word enemy becomes the cause of hatred and animosity. "Peace and War" of Tolstoy also reflects the same tragedy of human contradictions and controversies.

Another tale titled "From Piccadilly to Gatwick" narrates a meeting between a lady doctor surnamed "Life" with the soldier. Both discussed the metaphysical and social subjects like two intellectual stalwarts and savants. Peace, humanity, time, space and love are the topics of their interaction. She was also a tourist and shortly had to fly back to her homeland, leaving behind an aura of sadness and separation. In a tale titled "At Crossroads", the writer describes the mindset of a common busy man who is devoid of knowledge and wisdom. The writer is of the opinion that the circular motion is a hindrance in the way of revolution as it is a routine lifestyle. The writer like a dynamic and progressive mind exhorts: "Be a man of deeds than of rhetoric alone". Another tale titled "The Stretch of Rise and Fall" is a brief address of an old sage, he tells the people about the rise and decline of nations. He advises the people to love their motherland, the land of dreams and aspirations of their forefathers and shun the petty differences and stay united to achieve the cherished goals. In "Mortals Immortals" is an apology with a pathetic situation. The family of a martyr suffers and silently bears the pains of separation but stands firm like a rock facing the flow of tempestuous ripples and rills. "Across" is

also a very touchy tale. Across the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan, the divided families bear the brunt of agonies and Indian brutalities. It is the story of freedom fighters and their unprecedented sacrifices. The writer displays how two ladies in the Teetwale sector become the prey of the shelling of the Indian Forces. The whole story is heart-rending.

"The man who lived hundredth Cut" is a tale that portrays the meeting of a young girl with an old scholar but their union is the union of the souls as is the theme of most of the tales of the book. The girl asks him: "So when we will find justice and peace". The man says: "Nature adores power". The quest of the writer is to see a world in which justice and peace prevails

***"The man who lived hundredth Cut" is a tale that portrays the meeting of a young girl with an old scholar but their union is the union of the souls as is the theme of most of the tales of the book.***

but he is dissipated and dismayed to see the harsh reality of life and that is Might is Right. "Pride in Anguish" is a tale of a martyr who valiantly laid down his life for his homeland. The writer observes: "The soldiers would always go on to the battle zones. Life will go on: so would the pride and anguish". A tale titled "He Chose to Die" is the story of the death of a revolutionary. He is a freedom fighter who pledges to free his nation from the alien oppressors and eventually is martyred. He rebelled against the alien occupiers. His wife admired his rebellious struggle and strife but desired to have a calm homely life with him. The revolutionary stood for higher human ideals such as freedom, justice, and

equality. He preferred national cause over love and routine homely life. He was surrounded by the enemy army and was given the choice either to surrender or choose death. He preferred death but did not surrender. The moral of the tale is that cause is more important than life. The tale titled "She Lives in the Garden" is a tale of a soldier who was betrothed to a girl who was his university friend. Mostly they use to meet and interact. She is a great stalwart of peace and abhors war. The soldier tells her that peace is welcomed but when war becomes incumbent than to defend the motherland becomes a sacred duty. Their discussions are very rational and inspirational. She believes in dialogue to resolve all issues and abstain from bloodshed and war. The soldier responds to her concerns that when one's enemy is greedy, ambitious, arrogant, and aggressor can your quest for dialogue and peace save you. He tells his fiancée about the border skirmish in which a bomb splinter had hit the head of one soldier of his battalion who died there and then. He also sobbingly tells her how a young officer was also martyred by the heavy shelling of the enemy forces on that day. The soldier was asked to move to a city, which was captured by the terrorist and were inflicting intense brutalities on the peaceful citizens. The soldier used to present red roses to his fiancée as a gift. Now defending his people he was martyred. He was buried with military protocol, wrapped in a national flag and red roses were Strawn on his grave. She wept bitterly to see the red roses on his grave which he used to present her as a gift of love. This tale unveils the pugnacious plans of our enemies. On one hand, our brave soldiers are fighting on the border and on the other they are fighting the agents of the enemy within the country. There are some extremists and terrorists who are a plaything in the hands of our adversaries.

"A Cloud Above the Land" is a symbolic, allegorical and philosophical tale. There is a dialogue between Land and Cloud. Spring, Autumn, and Time are allegorically presented. It reminds me of the poem by Edmond Spencer titled "Fairy Queen" which is also an allegorical poem. Land represents numbness, solidarity, and stability while the cloud represents restlessness and mobility. Time represents change and movement like a nomad. The love bond between Land and Cloud is a fascinating idea. The rain pour is the tears of Cloud that enlivens the Land and makes it fertile. In spring, the Land looks beautiful, nourishing and productive. In autumn, it is arid, barren, non-productive and dry. The Cloud feels sorry for the plight of the



poor, the oppressed and the downtrodden. It floats and watches over the activities of the people while Land awaits for a "Messiah" to release its inhabitants from the transgressors and oppressors. In this allegory, the writer infers the intricate and mysterious plan of Nature. Time changes and alters the course of history. The weather changes and the circumstances of individuals and nations also change. The writer in a pondering mood propounds: "Each moment has a living spirit". It is an optimistic message for love and life. Past is dead, the future yet to be born and the present is the existing moment. This tale teaches us that the present moment is the actually existing moment. The writer further observes: "The continuity of life and longing for love are inseparable in Nature".

"A Town Beyond Sorrows" is also an allegorical and mystifying tale. The Finger Puppet and Sock Puppet are two symbols of different shades of life. It is the tale of a puppeteer. It is a vicarious sarcasm on the persons who act like puppets on the stage of life. They are flatters and blabbers. They are adept in the art of wheedling and coaxing. They are conscious of fewer mummies, dummies, and ninnies. These dandies and dullards know the art of charming and dulcifying their masters. The writer unveils the mystery that out of many puppets on stage, one puppet innately realizes that she could think and exercise free will. She feels a rising power or self-awareness and consciousness. On this wish, she was tenaciously and tightly controlled by the strings so that her quest for freedom could be contained. Eventually, we see that the puppeteer and the puppet are in consonance of the compassion of love and from the state of nothingness both felt transformed into a state of oneness. The consciousness of self makes life eternal. The consciousness of infinity and self-realization make every moment immortal. This tale is very philosophical and exhibits the well-known dictum of Socrates, "Know thyself".

"Where Cherries Grow" is a tale of a newly wedded young soldier of Gilgit-Baltistan. He and his wife enjoyed the natural and simple mountainous life but their short-lived companionship ended soon. The young soldier got martyred in a border skirmish by the Indian Army. She lived with her father-in-law and bore a child but lost her life also in the birth travail. The saddened old man takes his grandson to the Pakistan Flag hoisted on the rooftop and salutes the flag.

The next tale titled "The Next Day" is the story of a family of owls who broods over the importance of peace and harmony in

the jungle and condemns the animals who prey on the weaker species to feed them. But for their own survival fly to fetch insects to satiate their hunger. Preaching peace like sages and saints does not correlate and corroborate the needs of survival. The philosophy of owls does not work in the pragmatic realities. The writer intends to profess that power and action are required to exist; not the empty words. "Red Roses in Courtyard" is a love story, a revolutionary who believes in the evolutionary process of change as a reformer interacts with his sweetheart. Mostly they present red roses to each other on their birthdays as a sign of love. They express their love through the language of roses. The reformer is a fiery orator and an essayist as well and

***"A Town Beyond Sorrows" is also an allegorical and mystifying tale. The Finger Puppet and Sock Puppet are two symbols of different shades of life. It is the tale of a puppeteer.***

emphasizes the ideals of peace, justice, freedom, and prosperity. She loves him and his revolutionary ideals. The reformer is a great patriot and he says: "Martyrdom is nothing less than a victory". They occasionally meet in a café. The man talks about the revolution of the downtrodden masses and supports the cause of have-nots. He also rejects totalitarianism and envisages to establish a welfare state through "Continuous Evolution". She honors and values his ideas but being a woman naturally desires to get married to him. Once she asks him to knot the perfection of love in a "Perfect Union" but she means the bond of the wedding. The reformer tells her that change shall come in our lives but it

can be smoothened and harnessed through the magical power of love. It is love for his beloved, his people and his motherland. In this story, we find the writer as a romanticist and a reformer.

The last story is titled "Nomads", in this tale a traveler narrates his experiences to his beloved who was an author and a lady of erudition. They interact while sitting on a bench in an orchard. The traveler tells her about the vast deep oceans, high mountain peaks, and the multitude of humanity that taught him the lessons of life. He criticizes the proud, selfish, egotistic and fake and spurious lifestyle of cities. The lesson that he learned as a voyager is; the oceans boasted freedom. The vessels could go around in any direction, never bound by limits. But the vessels have to reach the seashore. Freedom is not unlimited. It is only the sky that claims uncharted freedom. This tale manifests the core of the conversations between them and reflects the philosophical awareness of many riddles of life. The traveler portrays his sagacious inferences in the form of didactic dictums by the author, such as: "Love and freedom are not always absolute or perfect." – "Does freedom absolve one from responsibility." – "Absolute Freedom is like absolute power both corrupting". It is noteworthy that William Shakespeare also stated that absolute power corrupts absolutely. The traveler meets her after some time. He had gone climbing a peak, in a snowstorm he had to hide in a niche. Though he survived due to frostbite, his foot was amputated. He walked with the support of crutches. Both conversed for a long time. She was deeply grieved on this tragedy but expressed her firm resolve to stand by him. This tale shows that when there is no gap in communication and people think alike with deep soul chanting connectivity they have a happy life. The writer concludes this tale with optimistic promise and pledge in these golden and glorious words: "The shared firm resolve to master the art of living together".

All these tales preach the message that love is the love of souls and is unconditional and the love of homeland is real love. Change is the natural course of history whether it occurs by revolution or evolution. Justice, peace, equality, humanity, and love are the pillars of the edifice of a rational, civilized and humanistic mansion. We need to subdue and subjugate our false pride and prejudices and tame our unharnessed steed of egotism to develop Positive Self.

***(The writer is an eminent author, poet, scholar and columnist. He can be reached at [drmaqsoodjafri@gmail.com](mailto:drmaqsoodjafri@gmail.com))***



# Kenya set to contribute its experiences to UNSC

*The 'building bridges' agenda resonates at the domestic level in deepening our democratic credentials while securing the peace during political transitions and elections. This agenda is particularly relevant today as the world needs multilateral consensus the global COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects. President Uhuru Kenyatta who is the current President of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and a member of the Bureau of African Union Heads of State and Government has been at the forefront engaging world leaders and institutions in proffering solutions for concerted response measures*

## Amb. Raychelle Omamo



In just under a month, Kenya will be on the ballot for one of the five vacant slots

reserved for non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Kenya's bid follows: a resounding endorsement by the African Union in August 2019; a reaffirmation of the trust the Union has in Kenya's leadership to pursue the continent's interests in the Council. Kenya is renowned for many things: it is the archeological cradle of mankind; its galaxy of middle and long distance runners have dominated the world athletics scene for decades; and, its tourist attractions, that includes the great annual wildebeest migration, the Great Rift Valley, the Maasai Mara, the expansive beaches and mountainous landscape, are, probably, unrivalled. In addition to these and many others is that the country stands out as a global thought leader and a champion for galvanizing regional and global consensus on matters of international concern. Following its endorsement as African Union's candidate, Kenya has run a campaign based on a "Ten Point Agenda". The Agenda focuses on regional and global concerns that the country champions, namely: building bridges; peace keeping and support operations; regional peace and security; countering terrorism and prevention of extremism; women, peace and security; youth empowerment; humanitarian action; justice, human rights and democracy; environment and climate change; and, sustainable

development goals. The 'building bridges' agenda resonates at the domestic level in deepening our democratic credentials while securing the peace during political transitions and elections. This agenda is particularly relevant today as the world needs multilateral consensus the global COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects. President Uhuru Kenyatta who is the current President of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and a member of the Bureau of African Union Heads of State and Government has been at the forefront engaging world leaders and institutions in proffering solutions for concerted response measures. During its tenure in the UNSC, Kenya will pursue an approach that ensures the achievement of world peace, security and sustainable development. Kenya has played a leading role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Africa and beyond. It co-facilitated with Ireland the post-2015 Development Agenda Process leading to adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Domestically, Kenya has made substantial progress towards the achievement of SDGs, also developed under its co-chairpersonship, recognizing that sustainable development and peace and security are mutually dependent. In Africa, Kenya is an anchor state and guarantor of regional peace and security. Kenya made immense contributions in the process leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement also known as the "Naivasha Agreement" in 2005 between the Government of the Sudan the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. It also played a key role in the Somali peace process and continues to support South Sudan and Somalia in their peace and state building efforts. Additionally, Kenya has taken part in peace missions across 40 countries and runs one of the largest and oldest peacekeeping training centers on the continent; the International Peace Support Training Center. Further, Kenya stands out as an excellent example for the progressive achievement of gender equality in peace keeping, having one of the highest percentage of female officers

serving in peacekeeping missions. Kenya intends to vigorously pursue the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda during its tenure as non-permanent member of the UNSC. Over the years, Kenya, which was home to the late Prof. Wangari Maathai - the first African Woman Nobel Peace Laureate - has a long and distinguished tradition in conservation and environmental protection. It is the first East African nation to establish a legal framework on climate change with laws against high carbon development and a ban on single-use plastic. Kenya will leverage on her experience and position as host country for the United Nations Environmental Programme to give a fresh momentum and support to the global environmental agenda. On humanitarian action, Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to standing for peace by providing a haven for over 600,000 refugees fleeing conflict and instability in Somalia, South Sudan and other parts of Africa and indeed further afield. By the same token, the 2010 Kenyan Constitution is one of the most transformative and progressive documents on the African continent based on its guarantees of basic human rights and the power it gives citizens to determine how they are to be led. One of the most significant threats to Kenya's security has been terrorism and violent extremism. Apart from counter terrorism measures at the domestic level, Kenya has been an integral part of regional and global efforts particularly in putting in place punitive measures to dismantle terrorist networks wherever they are. Kenya will vigorously pursue this agenda in the Council with a view to creating an environment for the achievement of long-lasting and sustainable peace and development. With this set of credentials, it is evident that Kenya has a wealth of experience that it would bring to bear as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

**Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH**  
is the Kenya's Foreign Affairs  
Cabinet Secretary



# Uzbek Govt, businessmen join hands against COVID 19

**T**ASHKENT, (DNA) – Dr. Muhsinjon M. Kholmukhamedov Center for Economic Researches and Reforms Until mid-March, residents of Uzbekistan – a doubly landlocked state – experienced the coronavirus epidemic with some degree of surprise: the epidemic, which originally found in China, circled the center of Asia and began to spread in Europe. On March 15, Uzbekistan officially announced the detection of the first case of coronavirus infection in a citizen who arrived from France. 2 months passed and during this time the number of infected COVID-19 on May 19, 2020, has reached 2802 people, of which 2314 (82.6%) – recovered, and 13 – died.

The mortality rate in Uzbekistan remains extremely low – 0.46% of the total number of cases. In the fight against coronavirus in Uzbekistan, the best features of the Uzbek society were manifested: general support of the population and quickly mobilized government apparatus.

On the other side, the introduction of restrictive measures against the pandemic paralyzed both formal and informal economies, which left most of the country's population without a subsistence. Social protection systems are crucial to safeguarding the poor and vulnerable during coronavirus pandemic and crises hit.

As of May 8, 2020, a total of 171 countries (12 more since last week) have planned and adapted 801 social protection measures in response to COVID-19. Social assistance transfers keep remaining the most widely used class of interventions (60.7% of global responses, or 487 measures). These are complemented by significant contribution in social insurance and labor market-related measures (supply-side measures). In addition, 246 (30.7%) of COVID-related measures goes to cash transfer programs.

Composition of global social protection response and cash transfers as % of social assistance – Cash transfers are being implemented in three ways, including expanding coverage, increasing benefits, and making administrative requirements simpler and more user-friendly. Combined, those adaptations in social assistance benefit over 1.46 billion people.

Specifically, for cash transfers administrative adaptations are occurring in 27 countries. Increases in benefits among preexisting programs are implemented in 37 countries, including transfer value being increased in 29 countries and additional payment cycles taking place in 11 countries.

Coverage extension is underway in 88 countries: this includes expanding coverage of existing programs (6 countries) and one-off programs provided in 38 countries (5 universal and 34 targeted). Combined, those adaptations across administration, generosity and coverage in cash transfers benefit over 1.04 billion people. If only consider coverage (horizontal expansion) of new and existing cash transfer schemes, these cover an estimated 577.2 million people. There has also been a remarkable growth in measures related to social insurance – 215 measures. Developing countries have introduced selective top-ups in favor of the lower income pensioners (countries such as Serbia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Tunisia). Other countries like Costa Rica, Colombia, Kosovo and Mexico, have decided to anticipate pension payments. Social security

contributions have been subsidized in 49 programs – a level equal to paid sick leave measures. Unemployment benefits are present in 61 cases. The number of labor market interventions is also growing. Wage subsidies continue to dominate those interventions. There is considerable diversity in generosity and accompanying conditions. Together with wage subsidies, countries are strengthening their active labor market programs, particularly intermediation services and skills training. Graph.1. Key measures taken by the Government of Uzbekistan in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Uzbek government is also announced 3 packages of social assistance measures and labor market interventions by the Government of Uzbekistan[1](Graph□1). Social Security Priority As a result of quarantine, economic activity of 196 thousand enterprises were significantly dropped, and about 95 thousand individual entrepreneurs suspended their activities. The service sector has been affected too, where 13 thousand food service enterprises, 45 thousand trade enterprises, 19 thousand service companies, and 7 thousand transport enterprises stopped or experienced significant losses in revenue. As a result, the number of unemployed has grown significantly. During the quarantine period, the number of visits to employment centers increased to 150 thousand, which is three times more than in January-February of this year. It is clear that the poverty level in Uzbekistan is already quite high. During a video conference on February 27, the President of Uzbekistan noted that 12-15 percent or 4-5 million of the population of our country are remaining in poverty. This means that their daily income does not exceed 10-13 thousand UZS. The World Bank estimates that the impact of coronavirus infection through declining household incomes and remittances will increase poverty in 2020. Pandemic Risk Groups At the same time, direct state aid cannot always reach all objective groups, mainly the groups of people whose income plummeted due to coronavirus and lockdown measures. First of all, this concerns the informal economy and labor migrants. Accounting for the incomes of citizens employed in these sectors is very difficult for some objective reasons, which further creates difficulties in classifying them into the support group. Even in the most developed countries of the world, the shadow economy is at least 7.5% of GDP. According to UNDP estimates in 2019, the size of the shadow economy in Uzbekistan varies between 40% and 50% of GDP. Furthermore, according to the international non-governmental non-profit organization BUYUK KELAJAK, the size of the shadow economy in Uzbekistan reached 50% of GDP in 2019. On the report of World Bank, the total number of employees in Uzbekistan in 2019 amounted to 13.2 million people. Of these, 7.9 million informally employed (59.8%) and 5.3 million formally employed (40.2%). The ratio of formal and informal employment by type of activity in Uzbekistan\* (thousand people) \* As of the 1 st January 2020 This implies that more than half of the economically active labor force of the country is not covered by social insurance, which makes them more vulnerable to the consequences of pandemic. Labor migration is important for Uzbekistan, as it provides an inflow of foreign exchange earnings and income for migrant





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# German humanitarian aid in context of COVID-19

**German Federal Foreign Office is providing 300 million euros for COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance worldwide; Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck says world is united**

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: While in Germany cautious hope is growing that the curve of COVID-19 infections is gradually flattening, other countries like Pakistan are still facing rising numbers of cases. As the virus knows no borders, global solidarity is required which implies working on joint solutions as well as strengthening multilateralism. Germany is therefore offering humanitarian assistance to countries like Pakistan, both on a multilateral and bilateral level. Hence, the German Federal Foreign Office is providing 300 million euros for COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance worldwide. Germany is thus making a substantial contribution in response to the global humanitarian appeals from the United Nations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These funds will contribute to global relief measures in countries already facing a humanitarian crisis. Additionally, Germany as part of Team Europe has pledged 525 million

euros for the Global Response Initiative to fight COVID-19.

Most of Germany's COVID-19-related financial support is realized through multilateral institutions like the World Bank or Asian Development Bank. However, in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis funds for bilateral projects in Pakistan have been partially reallocated – especially in the field of humanitarian aid. Thus, the German government financially supports humanitarian organizations like Malteser International or the German Red Cross which is closely cooperating with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to provide the Pakistani people with access to emergency food assistance, hygiene knowledge and material as well as preventive health care services, particularly in Sindh. Moreover, the German Embassy is supporting Pakistani organizations to offer food rations and hygiene kits to vulnerable parts of the Pakistani population as well

as education about physical and mental health.

Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck underlined: "These days the world is united in the face of the necessity to put a halt to the spread of COVID-19. Only in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation will we be able to address this common challenge. Many Pakistani families are hit hard by the loss of loved ones due to the pandemic. My sincere condolences are with all of them. The joint fight against the novel virus and its socio-economic consequences is yet another – a new – facet of the many-sided trustful cooperation between Germany and Pakistan. Let us try together to overcome economic hardships and bring relief to the vulnerable. With German financial support in the framework of multilateral organizations as well as bilateral support to fight COVID-19 in Pakistan, Germany would like to underline that it stands side by side with the Pakistani people in these trying times."



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

by Vladimir Norov

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

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

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

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

Speaking of this cooperation, it is

important to keep in mind that the peoples of the "SCO family" are united by several objective factors that form a solid basis for the successful development of mutually beneficial relations. We are connected by

many historical, cultural points of contact, common cultural heritage, common traditions, the similarity of languages and cultures, ethnocultural proximity, good-neighborly relations, and much more.





The humanitarian space of the SCO is connected with the names of the greatest thinkers and scientists who have made an invaluable contribution to world culture. In the Ancient and Middle Ages, the

between peoples, cognition and convergence of their cultures and civilizations.

The basis for building such multifaceted cooperation is the SCO Charter, a

geographical area of Eurasia was one of the most developed in the world. Thanks to the Great Silk Road, one of the most advanced models of economic development has been developed in the region, and the most advanced cultural policy has been created. Revenues from the operation of the Great Silk Road allowed the countries of the region to invest in cultural construction.

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

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

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

United by the "Shanghai spirit", SCO Member States, based on the principles of mutual respect and equal dialogue, from year to year intensify practical work in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, health, sports, tourism, and youth contacts. These aspects of cooperation will continue to be an essential part of the Organization's activities and will continue to serve the goals of cultural construction in the SCO space.

The SCO's expanding cultural and humanitarian cooperation from year to year contributes to the further deepening of interstate cultural dialogue, in order to bring the SCO countries and peoples closer together. A striking example of this is the comprehensive SCO-our Common Home program, which includes the days of SCO culture, the cycle of piano concerts "Nine Magic Notes", the annual "SCO Marathons" and the "Eight Wonders of the SCO" project aimed at creating a single tourist space. The world community is now facing serious challenges related to a sudden attack called COVID-19. The consequences of the pandemic for further favourable world development are unpredictable and may cause dramatic changes in the modern world order. All this further actualizes the value of a single human civilization with the diversity of its forms of existence, the self-identification of the peoples and ethnicities of the world and their responsibility for its future.

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

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

*The writer is the SCO Secretary General*



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

CORNELIA MEYER



**A**fter George Floyd died last week at the hands of a police officer, what ensued was dramatic and dangerous. Demonstrators took to the streets across

all metropolises in the US.

As many protests turned violent, President Donald Trump wanted to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 and draft the army to quell the unrest. This met with bipartisan opposition. It is unclear whether the president has the right to deploy troops without the invitation of a state governor. Texas Governor Greg Abbott (a Republican) proclaimed that "Texans can take care of Texans," while New York State Attorney General Letitia James (a Democrat) responded to Trump by saying that he "does not have the right

to unilaterally deploy US military across American states."

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

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

from the White House to St. John's.

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

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







Americans has followed.

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

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

In 1968, like now, we have a presidential race. Johnson put his re-election into question by forcefully pushing for the Civil Rights Act, putting country before self.

Trump was probably looking at history when he declared himself the "president of law and order," but his

attempts to do so seem to have backfired — and not just with the left. Pentagon officials have criticized the potential deployment of the military on the streets. Meanwhile, in response to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper calling the country a "battle space," former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen.

Martin Dempsey tweeted: "America is not a battleground. Our fellow citizens are not the enemy."

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

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

The question remains, what are we going to be left with once the spotlight stops shining on this issue? America still seems to have an uneasy relationship with race, 57 years after King told the nation he had a dream,

and despite eight years of an African-American holding the presidency.

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

One can argue that it is hard to build a sense of community in a society as transient as America's. However, the scars laid bare over the last week can only heal when people are prepared to reach across the divide and see members of other groups as part of their bigger community. That is precisely why Obama was onto something when he said solving these problems should start at the local level.

**Cornelia Meyer is a business consultant, macro-economist and energy expert. Twitter: @MeyerResources. Courtesy Arab News**



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# NAB's

## Destination- Corruption Free Pakistan

By Asim Ali

**T**he elimination of corruption is voice of the whole nation. Corruption is a curse which is the root cause and mother of all ills being confronted by the country. Corrupt elements have no respect in the society. Corruption is the main hurdle in the progress and prosperity of the country. NAB was established for recovering the hard earned looted money from corrupt elements and to nab corrupt elements as per law.

Chairman NAB Justice Javed Iqbal immediately after taking over responsibilities of the Chairman NAB not only chalked out comprehensive anti corruption strategy by adopting Accountability for all policy zero tolerance.

Honourable Mr Justice Javed Iqbal's top priority is the eradication of corruption from country at all cost by utilising all resources as per law. He is an upright, honest and committed person and under his leadership today NAB is progressing excellent.

Justice Javed Iqbal had introduced various reforms in NAB. He believes in taking action against the corrupt elements without any discrimination and fear as per law. According to PILDAT survey 42 percent people expressed their confidence over NAB.

Other such institutions specially police enjoy 30 percent confidence of the people. The performance of NAB has also been appreciated by Transparency International, World Economic Forum, PILDAT and MISHAL Pakistan. NAB has himself changed its standard of Procedures and fixed time frame of 10 months from complaint Verification to inquiry to investigation and finally filling of reference in respected Accountability court which is yielding positive results.

NAB has also introduced best of the best system of combine investigation team in each case in order to benefit from collective wisdom which has been not only put in place but the standard of investigation is improving day by day as well as the This has improved the workings of investigation officers.

NAB has also established forensic science laboratory in Islamabad and anti corruption training academy in



Islamabad to train NAB its officers to investigation officers about white collar crimes on modern lines. Positive results are being expected to pour in. More than 1229 corruption references of MAB are under trial in respected accountability courts as per law and approximately value is more than Rs 900.

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) under the dynamic leadership of Justice Javed Iqbal has recovered Rs. 178 billion directly or indirectly from the corrupt elements and deposited in the national exchequer which is exemplary achievement.

Pakistan is the only country which has signed anti corruption MoU with China in order to oversee CEPC projects being completed in Pakistan which is honour not only for Pakistan due to NAB. NAB is the role model for SARRC Countries, due to which NAB was elected Chairman of SAARC anti corruption forum. NAB is the focal department of Pakistan under United Nations Convention against corruption which is pride for Pakistan. NAB has established Pakistan Anti corruption Academy in order to train its officers on modern lines. The conviction ratio of NAB is about 70 percent which is one of the highest as related to other anti corruption organisations in Pakistan. NAB has devised a state of art monitoring and evaluation system as well as annual grading system in order to judge the performance of its officers/officials on regular basis. NAB strongly believes in

self respect of every person as well as NAB is committed to have its own self accountability. On the directions of Chairman NAB, NAB has established complaints cells in NAB headquarters as well as in all regional bureaus to address the complaints of people related to corruption and corrupt practices. More than 3500 people have met with chairman nab personally in order for resolution of their complaints which are happy as their complaints are processed on merit. The anti corruption strategy of NAB is being acknowledged as the most effective strategy against corruption in Pakistan. Today

NAB has become most prestigious and effective anti corruption institution of the country due to its effective measures taken in last 28 months under the leadership of present chairman NAB.

Chairman NAB always appreciates honest, hard working and committed officer working with dedication. He believes taking strict action as per law against diligent officers as per law. The Chairman NAB took notices of against 56 complaints in Punjab, fake currency accounts and 435 off shore companies as well as notice related to sugar, wheat and high prices of medicines as per law. Youth is the future of Pakistan, On the directions of Chairman NAB, NAB has signed MOU with higher education commission in order to award students in universities and colleges about the ill effects of corruption. Today more than 50 thousands character building societies have been established in universities and colleges due to nab efforts. Honourable Chairman NAB Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal is absolutely committed to take all the mega corruption cases into logical conclusion as per law. It is important to note here that bail is not the Logical conclusion of any case. NAB has decided to file appeals against the bails after receipt of certified copies of the decisions of the Honourable Courts as per law. NAB hopes that joint efforts of all stakeholders could materialise the dream of corruption free Pakistan into reality. NAB officers/officials are committed to eradicate corruption considering it as their national duty under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB.



# Kashmiris a victim of Nehru - Mountbatten conspiracy

By Asim Ali

In the end I supplicate the people and the government of Great Britain to mitigate the great wrong done to the people of Kashmir by Mountbatten and his team by using its influence in stopping Indian aggression against civilian population in Kashmir, altering its disputed status, and by addressing the UN using the norm of Respect 2 protection.

The red onyx clad room (khooni Kumra) where we judges met at tea break was a frequent reminder of the dishonest partition award for Punjab given by Radcliffe. Gurdaspur district a Muslim majority area adjoins Jammu And Kashmir southern border was among the districts listed in the Indian Independence Act in Pakistan Punjab. But the 16th August Award 1947 changed this by giving Muslim majority thesils to India. These were Gurdaspur, Batala, Ajnala, Jullundur, Nakodar, Ferozpur and Zira and part of Kasur. This led to riots, huge exodus and massive killings of over a million people. While Radcliffe was flying back he was seeing below the bloodshed caused by the last minute dishonest changes he made in the award.

The book freedom at night gives us a factual picture of the consequences.

Why the award was altered so suddenly in favour of India? According to Radcliffe to save the railways and the canal system. This argument was never convincing neither did he ever give better reasons for taking an excursion from the principle of contagious communal majority used for partition. Before leaving Radcliffe destroyed all his notes.

Who influenced him? All records and opinions point towards Mountbatten and Nehru who was influencing him although Mountbatten already had a Kashmir policy. Beaumont secretary to Mountbatten in a written statement he deposited in 1989 at the All Souls College Oxford had said that "Radcliffe had in fact allocated Ferozepore and Zira thesils to Pakistan" That, learning of this Mountbatten arranged lunch for Radcliffe and persuaded him to alter this position in favour of India under pressure from Nehru. And this was done. According to Beaumont the viceroy was manipulating from behind the boundary award.

Alastair Lamb in his book the Kashmir dispute 1991 argues that the so called accession to India on 27th Oct 1947 was the end result of deliberate planning, begun well before independence and that it was



orchestrated to a considerable extent by Mountbatten. It is argued that origins of the dispute have to be sought in the strategic outlook that the British acquired in regards to India's vulnerable northern frontier. So changing the boundary award meant giving strategic access to India for Kashmir.

In his book the agony of Pakistan sir Ch Zafarulla Khan who represented Pakistan before the commission and later before the UN mentions how Mountbatten had been influencing the British Government and its U.N. representative at the UN against the strong case of Pakistan for self determination in Kashmir.

Ziegler the biographer of Mountbatten said there was good evidence that Mountbatten asked Radcliffe to change the award.

Mountbatten manipulated political changes by installing Justice Mahjan of Punjab as the Prime Minister removing Mr Kak who was not agreeing to the conspiracy. He gave his own plane to carry Mahjan. The lady Mountbatten was in the plane as well. The Maharaja who was delaying his decision of accession to India too was influenced by Mountbatten and Sh Abdulla a friend of Mr Nehru of the National Congress.

I saw Sh. Abdulla at the Lquat gardens Rawalpindi when he visited Pakistan before Nehru's death. Perhaps he was regretful of his past conduct in becoming a part of the conspiracy. But it was too late. Kashmiris had been betrayed by their own leader.

Kashmir is bleeding since over seventy years. The world is deaf towards the gross violations of their human rights and state led crimes against humanity. The two nuclear countries were at war three times. Daily there are breaches of the line of control. A lot of wasteful expenditure is being made for armament by both sides

instead of amelioration of the teeming millions. So the pre-partition policy based on strategic considerations contemplated before partition and still nourished seem to be the great impediment.

Any way legally speaking India is an occupying force, the territory is disputed. Any change in the India constitution has no validity in international Law. We have to expose the Indian brutalities before the world. This is the best we can do and keep Pakistan strong united and prosperous. My salute to the Kashmiri martyrs of freedom and our soldiers who laid lives in defence.

In the end I supplicate the people and the government of Great Britain to mitigate the great wrong done to the people of Kashmir by Mountbatten and his team by using its influence in stopping Indian aggression against civilian population in Kashmir, altering its disputed status, and by addressing the UN using the norm of Respect 2 protection.

Justice (R) Alinawaz Chowhan.

Formerly UN intl judge at The Hague, Chief Justice of The Gambia, first chairman of national commission for Human Rights. Justice Pakistan superior judiciary visiting professor.

**Justice (r) Ali Nawaz Chowhan**  
Chairman,  
National Commission for Human  
Rights,  
Government of Pakistan. Formerly:  
Chief Justice Of The Gambia  
International Judge Of The UN at  
The Hague.  
Co-Chairman, UNESCO Appeal  
Board-Paris, France.  
Visiting Professor Of Law at  
various universities.



# Pak, Uzbek ties to be cemented

**During the negotiations, the parties discussed measures to prevent the further spread of coronavirus infection, eliminate its negative consequences on the economies of both countries**



**I**SLAMABAD: Abdul Razak Dawood Prime Minister Foreign Affairs and Commerce interaction and its prospects, Adviser on Commerce has Ministry. Ambassador of including cooperation on expressed desire to cultivate Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov and diversification and development even deeper business relations other embassy officials were also of interregional transport and with Uzbekistan. present on the occasion. logistics cooperation.

He expressed these views during a video meeting between him the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov. The meeting that took place on Thursday was facilitated by Embassy of Uzbekistan in well as the current bilateral the two fraternal States.



# European Commission pledges 300 mln Euros for kids immunization

DNA

#TeamJunckerEU

Europese  
Commissie

Commission  
européenne

European  
Commission



**I**SLAMABAD :, The European Commission has announced a pledge of €300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the period 2021-2025. It will help immunise 300 million children around the world and finance vaccine stockpiles to shield against outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Today's Global Vaccine Summit organised by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is an important milestone in strengthening health systems and immunisation capacities of the world's most vulnerable countries. This is instrumental in reaching the objectives of the Coronavirus Global Response.

At the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event co-hosted by the European Commission on 4 May, more than €1.5 billion was pledged for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, including €488 million for deploying, once available, a vaccine against coronavirus.

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said, "Vaccines can only save lives if everyone who needs them can access them, especially in the most vulnerable communities and regions of the world. This is why Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's work is so important. It gives developing countries the means to build stronger health systems and immunisation programmes, to make the world a safer place. I am glad that the European Commission can support Gavi in such a crucial endeavour. This will help us overcome this pandemic and avoid another."

Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen

said, "Building up immunisation systems is a fundamental part of the work the EU does with partner countries and Gavi to strengthen health systems, which will be more important than ever on our road to

**Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said, "Building up immunisation systems is a fundamental part of the work the EU does with partner countries and Gavi to strengthen health systems, which will be more important than ever on our road to recovery from COVID-19."**

recovery from COVID-19. Improving children's access to basic health care, notably effective and safe vaccines, was key to almost halving global child mortality between 2000 and 2017. Ensuring more

vulnerable children have continued access to vaccines will be key for our collective success over the next five years."

The new Commission pledge of €300 million represents more than its total contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance so far. The funding will help:

Vaccinate 300 million children and save up to 8 million lives.

Ensure the successful transition of some countries into self-financing.

Leverage US\$ 3.6 billion in national co-financing and self-funded vaccine programmes.

Deliver over 3.2 billion doses of life-saving vaccines to 55 countries.

Facilitate 1.4 billion contacts between families and health services through vaccination.

Insure the world against the re-emergence of polio through routine inactivated polio vaccine programmes in collaboration with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Fund vaccine stockpiles for emergency use to stop dangerous outbreaks.

Today's pledge is made under the assumption that the EU's new Multiannual Financial Framework and in particular the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), where the funds pledged for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, would come from, are adopted broadly along the lines proposed by the European Commission. On 2 June, the Commission proposed to increase NDICI funding for 2021-2027 to €86 billion in 2018 prices (€96.4 billion in current prices), including €10.5 billion from the new 'Next Generation EU'.



# Indian society worst example of invidious discrimination

ALI SUKHANVER



**D**iscrimination on the basis of caste and creed is simply a heinous crime. The worst example of communal discrimination we

can find today in the Indian society where no security or safety could be guaranteed to those who are not Hindus. Not only the Muslims but all other communities including the Sikhs and the Christians are always living a life of fear and harassment. The condition of the low-caste Hindus is also not very much different from that of the other minorities. Some people are of the opinion that such discrimination could flourish only in uncivilized, uneducated and financially disappointed and depressed societies but the murder of a black man George Floyd in US police custody, a few days back, simply rejected this opinion.

The horrible reaction of the American people proved another thing too; in a state of aggression and anger, all the nations behave in the same way. The same burning of police vehicles, looting of shops, raising of slogans, attempt of trespassing the official residences of President Trump and an overall lawlessness could be observed there which we have observed in Pakistan, India and in so many other countries so many times. Is all this agitation simply a protest against the murder of a Black American or it is a reaction against police brutality; if George Floyd were not a black man and if the policeman were not a white-man, would the people have reacted in the same way; these questions are also very important. And above all is the question; would things have proceeded the same way if 2020 were not the election year and if Mr. Donald Trump was not the President. Surely the story behind seems somewhat different. As a nation, if the Americans were

narrow-minded and prejudiced with reference to the racial discrimination; Barack Obama would never have been elected the President of USA. At individual or personal level this

***The same burning of police vehicles, looting of shops, raising of slogans, attempt of trespassing the official residences of President Trump and an overall lawlessness could be observed there which we have observed in Pakistan, India and in so many other countries so many times. Is all this agitation simply a protest against the murder of a Black American or it is a reaction against police brutality; if George Floyd were not a black man and if the policeman were not a white-man, would the people have reacted in the same way; these questions are also very important.***

discrimination does exist in a very harsh rather rigid way but this attitude is very common all over the world in almost all countries. So same is the situation in America too; some of the

Whites dislike rather hate the Blacks and vice versa. In other words, it could be said that racial hatred and disliking is a part of the American society but education, scientific advancement, technical achievement and an overall superiority of the American people in the field of economy has simply buried these negative passion somewhere in the depth not so deep. In spite of the fact that these riots have a lot of hidden positivity too but at the same time they have simply peeled off the widely honoured mask of decency, politeness and civility from the face of the American society. Certainly the countries which have been ranking the US as their god-father with a never-declining ultimate authority will have to review their point of view now.

The Trump Administration is openly blaming that Far-Left Extremists are airing and fueling the protests against murder of George Floyd. In an interview with some media group, Attorney General William Barr said, "Unfortunately, with the rioting that is occurring in many of our cities around the country, the voices of peaceful protest are being hijacked by violent, radical elements." According to the VOA, there could be four different extremist groups which are trying to add to the intensity of protest. These groups include the White Supremacists, Boogaloo Boys, Antifa and the Anarchists. By putting blame on the 'far-left' extremists, the Trump administration has, however, admitted that even USA is not free of the extremists and their extremism. Astonishingly for more than two decades, the USA has been admonishing rather reprimanding almost all Muslim countries for their alleged extremism; sometimes punishing them in shape of putting sanctions and sometimes in form of imposing bans of different types on them but it could not keep a vigilant eye on the extremism nurturing inside its own boundaries.





## EU extends Rs 26 bln COVID-19 package

**Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara met with Prime Minister Imran Khan; presented the 26 billion PKR Covid19 package**

**DNA**

**I**SLAMABAD (DNA) - Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara met with Prime Minister Imran Khan to reiterate the EU's commitment to support Pakistan during and beyond the Covid-19 crisis. She presented the 26 billion PKR Covid19 package that the EU has put together in support to Pakistan. Ambassador Kaminara and the Prime Minister also discussed how Pakistan and the EU can further benefit from a stronger political partnership in light of the political, economic and security developments. Ambassador Androulla Kaminara said: "A longstanding friend and partner of Pakistan, the European Union stands side by side with Pakistan as the country faces the extraordinary challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU is convinced that the global pandemic requires global solidarity and cooperation. I very much appreciate the constructive discussion with Prime Minister Imran Khan and I am looking forward to continued collaboration during and beyond the current crisis." The Prime Minister briefed the Ambassador on the government's vision and action to fight Covid19. Ambassador Kaminara lauded the governments' efforts, including the scale-up of the Ehsaas programme for the most vulnerable and poor. She pointed out the

opportunities of the partnership with the EU as major trade partner and key donor in Pakistan. The European Union is directing more than € 150 million (26 billion PKR; 163 MUSD) towards the short and medium term response in the emerging health crisis in Pakistan and into strengthening the preparedness of Pakistan's people for its social and economic impact, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable. Milko van Gool, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan explained: "The EU and its 27 Member States, as #TeamEurope, are collaborating on a comprehensive response to help Pakistan address the challenges related to Covid19. We are working closely with the Pakistani government and our partners to make sure our assistance intervenes where it is most needed and where it can make the biggest difference to help the Pakistani people in this crisis." The package covers a wide range of measures for the short and medium term: Humanitarian support of € 48.9 million: Projects worth approximately € 11 million have been launched to provide emergency health support for the most vulnerable population across Pakistan. Another € 27.9 million will be released soon to scale-up this assistance. A further € 10 million will help mitigate the impact of the Covid-

19 crisis on Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan. Existing and upcoming development programmes in several sectors and across Pakistan will be partially adjusted to tackle challenges arising from Covid-19. Activities worth approximately € 56 million will focus on: mass awareness raising among the population to reduce infection risk; strengthening diagnostic capacities; purchasing of protective gear and sanitary materials for the rural poor, for medical officers as well as for law enforcement staff; maintaining a helpline to ensure women's safety during the crisis; helping people to generate income in order to avoid or address poverty due to the crisis; supporting vulnerable Small and Medium Enterprises (SME); ensuring education for children; and supporting Covid-19- related policymaking. Payments worth over € 31 million to directly support the government budget are accelerated to provide the provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh with the means to fund Covid-19 crisis responses. Civil society organizations across Pakistan are invited through a € 6.65 million call for proposals to address the social and economic impact of the crisis, while particularly involving young people. DNA





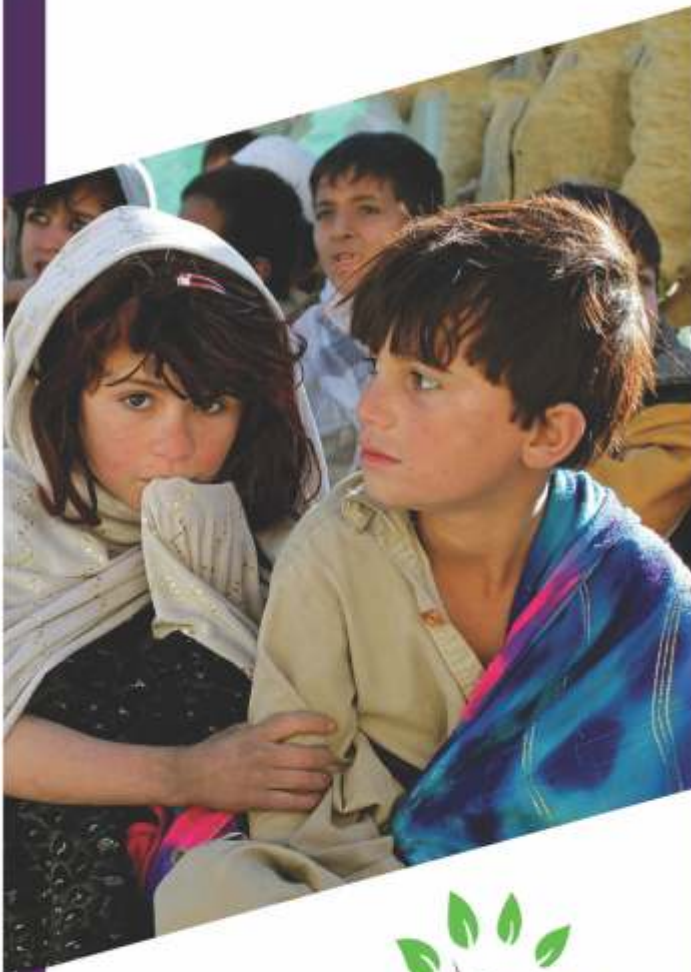
**DR AAMIR HANIF**

Chairman Wellness Trust

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## HEALTH CARE

1

- Providing basic health facilities to the under privileged
- Develop effective health care plans to provide access in remote areas

## EDUCATION

2

- To make education accessible to children in remote areas
- Facilitating learning and acquisition of knowledge
- Making strategies to reduce illiteracy

## CLEAN WATER

3

- To use resources to provide clean drinking water
- Awareness about the importance of clean drinking water in order to tackle infective diseases
- Installation of water filtration plants and digging of wells

## GREEN ENVIRONMENT

4

- Aim to raise the awareness of sustainable green environment
- Increase numbers of parks and plantation to reduce harmful effects of dangerous gases and chemicals
- To provide strategies for waste disposal mechanism

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5

- Aim to support people to become creative entrepreneurs in order to stand on their feet
- Provide both financial and technical support to the deserving people
- Building financially stable nation

## HEALTH CARE:

6

- Aim to support people to gain self-confidence and improve decision making abilities for the best interest of their communities and for the whole nation
- Leadership training camps certificates and degrees
- Targeting remote areas for flourishing of the country



# PM Imran Khan phones Nigerian president

**The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest including the unprecedented socio-economic challenges arising out of the Covid-19 Pandemic. They agreed that Pakistan and Nigeria faced similar circumstances**

DNA



**I**SLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan held a telephonic conversation with President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, today. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest including the unprecedented socio-economic challenges arising out of the Covid-19 Pandemic. They agreed that Pakistan and Nigeria faced similar circumstances.

The Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's solidarity with the Government and people of Nigeria, and commended their effective measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. The Prime Minister also highlighted the steps

taken to contain the spread of Coronavirus in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister highlighted exceptional challenge faced by developing countries to save lives from Covid-19 as well fighting poverty and hunger. While noting encouraging response from the UN, IMF, the World Bank and other stakeholders, the Prime Minister underscored the need for additional measures and resources imperative for regenerating growth and livelihoods.

In this context, the Prime Minister highlighted his call for "Global Initiative for Debt Relief" for developing countries. President Buhari expressed support for the

initiative.

The two leaders agreed that both sides would work closely in New York alongside the UN Secretary-General and other interested countries and partners to advance the shared goals. Expressing satisfaction at the current level of cooperation, the Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to further deepen bilateral relations with Nigeria, particularly in the trade and economic domains, in the context of Pakistan's "Engage Africa" Initiative. Prime Minister Imran Khan also extended a cordial invitation to President Buhari to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.





## **President K. Tokayev: Kazakhstan on course to progressive reforms**

**By DNA News Agency**

A major package of political reforms is being implemented in Kazakhstan, which opens a new stage in the progressive liberalization of social and political life. They affect the further development of the basic institutions of democracy – the rights of citizens to peaceful Assembly, the organization of elections and the activities of political parties.

At the end of May 2020, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a number of important laws for the further socio-political development of the country. Among them – "On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies in the Republic of Kazakhstan", "On amendments to the constitutional law of the Republic of Kazakhstan", "On elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and "On amendments and additions to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "on political parties".

These laws and their innovations are part of the political reforms put forward by the

President of the country within the framework of the National Council of public trust. Their adoption is an important step towards implementing the concept of a "hearing state" and enhancing the role of civil society. New legal norms further strengthen the values of pluralism of opinions, alternative views, constructive attitude and responsibility in Kazakhstan.

Thus, the new law on rallies significantly simplifies the legal regulation of peaceful assemblies. Independent experts, civil activists, human rights defenders, and non-governmental organizations took part in the process of creating the draft law. The result of a multi-level public discussion was the expansion of the provisions originally laid down by the government in the direction of further liberalization.

The law fully complies with article 21 of the International Covenant on civil and political rights and the European Convention for the protection of human

rights and fundamental freedoms. The document sets out the basic principles of peaceful Assembly: they must be legal, voluntary, non-violent and not pose a threat to the state or to citizens. Bans and duties that restrict the activities of journalists are also excluded.

Now in the cities of Kazakhstan, public platforms will be organized for citizens to hold peaceful meetings, and the notification procedure for peaceful meetings will be reduced from 15 to 5 days.

"We are forming a new political culture. Pluralism of opinions and alternative views come to the fore. The government does not believe that dissent is destructive," said President K. Tokayev. According to the President of Kazakhstan, it is time for society and the state to adequately address the public expression of positions. "And it is better to come to this independently, consciously, and not forced," the Head of state notes.



The previous law was adopted 25 years ago and, according to Kazakh experts and international observers, has long required a conceptual revision. The new law of 2020 fully complies with international standards — the principles of the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and article 21 of the International Covenant on civil and political rights. The law guarantees the most important thing — the right to Express one's will.

The new document clearly sets out the basic principles of peaceful Assembly: they must be legal, voluntary, non-violent and not pose a threat to the state or to citizens. That is, the principles of human rights are observed — "everything is allowed that is not forbidden" and "your rights end where the rights of others begin".

Thus, the law "on peaceful assemblies" became a confirmation of the successful implementation of the concept of a "hearing state", which was proclaimed by President K.Tokayev.

Legislation on elections is being improved. The new laws will further strengthen the rights of women and young people to participate in the country's political life. They provide for the introduction of a mandatory 30% quota for women and young people under 29 years of age in electoral party lists.

Currently, the Parliament of Kazakhstan is represented by women by 22% (the average representation of women in the legislative bodies of the OECD is 30%). In the Mazhilis of the Parliament (lower House), the number of women is 29, in the Senate — 6, and young people under the age of 29 are not yet represented in the Parliament.

In Maslikhats (local representative bodies), the representation of women is about 22%, or 740 women, and only 53 deputies under the age of 29 are young people. In total, the total number of Deputy seats in Maslikhats in Kazakhstan is 3335.

According to statistics, more than 4.5 million economically active women and 2.8 million young people aged 20 to 29 live in Kazakhstan today. From now on, this category of citizens will participate more widely in the elections of deputies of the local representative body and the lower house of Parliament.

In General, the quota policy is a fairly widespread international practice. Special party quotas are applied in European countries and are most common in Germany, Norway, France and Belgium, where these norms are enshrined in law.

The introduction of special quotas in

Kazakhstan by the new law will encourage the younger generation of Kazakhstanis and women to actively participate in the political life of the country. The effect of the new legal norms will be implemented in 2021 — the year of regular elections to the Majilis (the previous parliamentary elections were held in 2016, according to the Constitution the term of mandate of

***Justice -  
implemented by  
the development  
of gender  
balance through  
quotas for  
women in  
representative  
bodies of the  
country, as  
strengthening  
the rights of  
citizens to  
peaceful  
Assembly and  
new  
opportunities for  
political parties.***

deputies of the Mazhilis of Parliament is 5 years).

Amendments to the constitutional law "on elections" and the Law "on political parties" signed by the President of the country have become an important part of the package of reforms that continue to modernize the political system of Kazakhstan.

Reducing the threshold number of

signatures for creating a political Association that can participate in elections from 40,000 to 20,000 people is an important step for the further development of the party system in Kazakhstan.

Thus, the changes made to the legislation will help to increase the influence of parties on political processes in the country. They facilitate the creation of new political parties and the General activation of party life in the country, which is expected to have a positive impact on the development and adoption of state decisions. As of today, 6 political parties have been registered and operate in Kazakhstan.

The measures provided for in the laws are collectively aimed at reformatting the socio-political space, increasing competition in the party field, and making elected bodies more inclusive and balanced.

Along with the most important issues of improving the quality of life of Kazakh people and strengthening social policy, the President of Kazakhstan is taking serious steps to improve the current political system.

In 2019, in his election program, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev clearly outlined the key principles of his management policy — "Continuity. Justice. Progress». And during his first year As President of Kazakhstan, he has successfully implemented these principles at the legislative level.

Continuity - is ensured by strengthening the role of young people in the political life of the country, thus providing training for the young generation of Kazakhstani managers who will promote the effective development of the state in the future.

Justice - implemented by the development of gender balance through quotas for women in representative bodies of the country, as well as strengthening the rights of citizens to peaceful Assembly and new opportunities for political parties.

Progress - in general, is reflected in the consistent movement of Kazakhstan along the path of political modernization and expansion of democratic practices in the life of the state.

And on the example of the adopted package of political reforms, it is clear that, implementing the concept of a "hearing state", President K.Tokayev, as promised, takes into account first of all the requests of citizens. Thus, at a new historical stage, Kazakhstan continues to strengthen democracy, the course for the development of which was initially and deliberately chosen by the people of the Republic almost three decades ago.





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# US riots to bolster support for Trump

RAY HANANIA



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

by a white police officer.

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

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

Despite the fact that the system responded to the killing with criminal charges, BLM supporters still incited people around the country to take to the streets and protest the perceived racism and injustice of Chauvin's death. Minneapolis subsequently exploded in arson, looting and violence. Some 170 businesses were either destroyed or seriously damaged and forced to close. Countless employees of those stores, who had nothing to do with the Floyd killing, were threatened and in some cases injured.

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

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

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



Some of the demonstrators vandalized police vehicles. They taunted police officers, calling them names and provoking them to take action. They spray-painted graffiti on the walls of buildings that were later torched, vandalized or looted.

Floyd's family hired a lawyer, who will undoubtedly file a wrongful death lawsuit against the Minneapolis police, seeking millions of dollars in compensation.

Both sides — police and protesters — deserve criticism, but the primary blame must fall on the shoulders of the protest leaders who called for the demonstrations. Left-leaning sections of the national news media are fueling the narrative of blaming

the authorities, exploiting it for political reasons. They use it to criticize President Donald Trump while pandering to African-American voters, who historically vote overwhelmingly for the Democrats in national elections.

However, I believe the looting and protests are backfiring on the Democrats. These riots could bolster the support Trump needs to win re-election. Mainstream voters fear the rioters and the reality of watching looters and arsonists go unpunished.

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



# Modi's Mistimed Adventurism in the Himalayas; A Battleground on Sino-Indian Border?

**Lt. Col. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd)**



**A**s the whole world is struggling to combat one of the biggest crises of the century caused by Covid-19, the BJP government's propensity for violence and hegemonic attitude remains intact. Pursuing coercive and expansionist policies in the region has become an established norm in India since the moment it gained independence and has compounded under the Modi administration. This is not only becoming a serious threat to India's bordering states but to the security and stability of the entire region.

Just recently, the Modi government has triggered tensions with China in several disputed areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh region and has stationed thousands of troops on the ceasefire line. BJP's illicit actions demonstrate its ill-intentions to assert control over the disputed territory by construction of roads and airstrips through the valley, thereby drawing

Beijing's ire. As a necessary response, Chinese troops appear to be heading towards a face-off and India's aggressive military activities near the border are mounting insecurities and concerns between the world actors since both China and India are nuclear-armed states. Since last month, India has been violating the boundary line in the valley and building defense fortifications to disrupt Chinese border defense troops' regular patrol activities. This shows nothing but an intentionally evoked conflict and a blatant attempt by the Indian government to create chaos in the disputed territory. These actions by the Indian military have not only breached the border agreements between the two countries but have violated China's territorial sovereignty as well.

**Modi's Hegemonic Aspirations and Competition Over Great Power Status**  
India and China have experienced border frictions in the past like the Doklam standoff in 2017, but this time the military build-up is the largest and Chinese response is believed to be the strongest military response to India's illegal intruding incident along the Actual Line of Control. This indicates the strong determination and preparedness of China to defend its sovereignty against any hindering element. The balance of power between China and India is incomparable and India's relative strength to China is extremely shallow.

Modi's political ideology is based on the persuasion of hard power to advocate

'Hindutva', marginalize minorities and his hegemonic aspirations to gain regional economic and geopolitical influence. China's dominance in the region and the path to rising global power is seen as a potential threat by Modi. However, India by no means can compete with the unparalleled economic and military might of China, and thus any entanglement with China would cost India more than it can ever imagine. China has all the military, technological, and strategic superiority over India to retort forcefully and firmly.

**Modi's Misadventure; A Distraction from Domestic Setbacks**

We have observed time and again that whenever the BJP government is undergoing a political crisis and being pressured by the public for its malicious decisions and major policy failures, it conducts such misadventures to distract the attention of the people as well as the international community. The same has happened in the current border incident with China. India being an extremely populous country has adopted no appropriate measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Moreover, India's economy is weakening and the Modi administration has failed to address these major issues.

According to international reports, the Indian economy will undergo a major recession shortly. Other issues including the discrimination against minorities, mass violence in Indian Occupied Kashmir, unemployment,



and various domestic challenges have raised a question on the effectiveness of Modi government. Thus, a border issue with China would serve as a key element to divert the public and international attention by hyping nationalism against China, which Modi has continued to do against Kashmiri Muslims for a long time. However, Modi has misperceived the fact that facing countless internal and external challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, India can ill-afford any risky adventurism.

#### **The Iron Brothers –Pakistan & China Raise BJP's Concerns**

In addition to the territorial disputes, one of the core issues in the Sino-Indian rivalry include the burgeoning China-Pakistan relations. Sino-Pakistan relations have gained momentum over the years. India feels that the mega project, Pakistan China Economic Corridor (CPEC) is detrimental to her overall hegemonic designs for gaining regional supremacy. Moreover, China's support for Pakistan has also become more overt on the occupied Kashmir issue. China vigorously supported Pakistan against India's abrogation of article 370 at the United Nations Security Council. Modi fears this strengthening relationship and wishes to prove that India alone is a dominant player in the region.

China is well aware of Modi's expansionist mindset as what happened in Kashmir when its special status was revoked on August 5, 2019. BJP government has repeatedly, illegally demanded the return of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit, and Baltistan, and openly stated on many occasions that the people of Baluchistan province will be given independence from Pakistan by Narendra Modi. China is a rising power and has a pragmatic foreign policy. The Indian annexation of Ladakh is a blow to China's sovereignty and would be responded seriously. Pakistan has supported Beijing on the issue and expressed concerns over the illegal construction in the disputed territory of Ladakh as it would disrupt regional peace. Modi has continued to suppress the Kashmiris right to self-determination, has been a spoiler in the Afghan peace process, and trying to create chaos and unrest in Pakistan by promoting ethnic violence in Balochistan.

#### **India's Continual History of Military Adventurism**

Neville Maxwell, a British journalist and scholar, who authored the famous book 'India's China War' has conducted

a detailed analysis of the 1962 Sino-Indian War. He has explained and claimed that India provoked China into the war. Many other international experts have also proved how India pursued a flawed strategy of provoking China in the 1962 war. Similarly, revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was a clear indication of provoking Pakistan for confrontation. The BJP government has failed to realize that China is a potent regional power and not far from reaching the status of global power. Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping has a great vision of creating a multipolar world, creating the conditions of mutual development of

***India and China have experienced border frictions in the past like the Doklam standoff in 2017, but this time the military build-up is the largest and Chinese response is believed to be the strongest military response to India's illegal intruding incident along the Actual Line of Control.***

nations. These territorial skirmishes and irrational border claims to provoke China would not harm Chinese sovereignty and power dynamics. To malign and prompt Pakistan, India has tried to conduct numerous false flag operations, violations of international law especially in Kashmir, breaching the line of control, etc. but has not been able to succeed in these evil intentions.

#### **Trump's Mediation Offer**

US President Donald Trump waded into the Sino-Indian standoff, affirming that he is willing and able to mediate or arbitrate the border dispute. This

mediation offer had come at the time when China ordered massive military deployment in the disputed territory and brace themselves for worst-case scenarios, scaling up the training and battle preparedness to promptly and effectively deal with all possible complex situations. China demonstrated that it is all set to resolutely safeguard the national sovereignty, security, and development interests of the country.

Rising China is a big challenge for the United States and the latter supports India to maintain a foothold in the region to contain China's influence and dominance. Thus, Trump fears any serious situation that enables China to portray its power capabilities and establish influence over the region, and so he immediately offered to mediate and resolve the dispute. Moreover, under the prevailing pandemic crisis, Washington and Beijing are engaged in a war of words over the origin of the coronavirus pandemic, where the former has continued to blame the latter. Under such circumstances, President Trump can least afford Chinese hegemony or confrontation in a region that is vital for US interests in many ways.

#### **What Next?**

History holds difficult lessons for India. India suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of China during the border conflict in 1962. China controls the Aksai Chin area and this region holds strategic importance for Beijing as it connects its Xinjiang province with western Tibet. To maintain peace, stability, and security in the region, India should be compelled to stop breaching the bilateral as well as international agreements and laws, which it has continued to violate. China and India have signed an agreement on the "Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility" along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 1993. Modi has failed to comply with the agreement continued to give belligerent posture over the issue. There is no military or political solution for the border conflict at the time being and India does not have the military and economic might of China. Therefore it is in favor of all parties to maintain and sustain conditions for peace rather than chaos in the region.

***The Writer is Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad***



## Speakers recognize services of Heydar Aliyev, national leader of Azerbaijan



Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) and Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamabad jointly organized "International Webinar" on "Importance of Leadership Skills during Crisis Management; speakers also talk about COVID-19"  
**A.M.BHATI/DNA**

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) and Embassy of the Republic of

Azerbaijan, Islamabad jointly organized an "International Webinar" on "Importance of Leadership Skills during Crisis Management". This Webinar was dedicated to the 97th Birth Anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, National Leader of Azerbaijan. The Webinar was aimed at spreading awareness on the significance of leadership qualities during the crisis in context of COVID-19. Ahmed Yar Hiraj, Chairman, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, Govt. of Pakistan highlighted the contribution of the national leader of Azerbaijan.

He stated that COVID-19 has pressurized the leadership. In third world countries, due to lack of opportunities and facilities it is very difficult to handle the crisis but the incumbent Government of Pakistan is taking excellent measures through tax break and huge relief package to the needy. In this pandemic, the Government should show optimism to eradicate the depression during COVID-19. Fuad Muradov, Chairman of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan explained the leadership qualities of Heydar Aliyev that how he contributed for the people of Azerbaijan. In 1990s, when Azerbaijan was in havoc, Heydar proved that the situation can be changed through economic development and social reforms.

Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan presented special remarks on the birth anniversary of Heydar. He stated that the current leadership of Azerbaijan is following the footsteps of Heydar as Azerbaijan was facing multiple territorial issues, H.E. Heydar played a vital role to curb these issues. In present COVID-19 crisis, Azerbaijan Government has taken sufficient measures to contain the pandemic. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore stated that the common interest of Pakistan and Azerbaijan is a peaceful environment in the country. International laws should be implemented to avoid the conflicts. He also explained the various measures that University of the Punjab has taken to support the nation in these testing times. He also highlighted the characteristics of a great leader and national hero of Azerbaijan. Dr. Farid Shafiyev, Chairman, Center of Analysis of International Relations, Baku discussed the typology of leadership especially in context to crisis management. He stated that H.E. Hyder combined all types of leadership and how he recovered the country crisis in 1990s. The Azerbaijan Government was prepared for the pandemic by analyzing the situation of the world. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts in COVID-19. He explained the measures taken by Azerbaijan Government and the reforms in health sector. The Webinar moderated by Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director CGSS and was attended by approximately 60 participants including experts from Azerbaijan and Pakistan. It was concluded that both the countries should enhance the mutual cooperation as they have a great leadership and can follow the footsteps of great leaders skills of Heydar Aliyev and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

## 'Azerbaijan able to eliminate epidemic'



BAKU (DNA) -Despite the number of cases of coronavirus infection is decreasing in Western Europe per day, this indicator is still at the stage of growth in Eastern Europe and the CIS countries, but Azerbaijan is able to eliminate the epidemic, Head of the Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Azerbaijan Hande Harmanci said.

Harmanci made the remark at the briefing of the Operational Headquarters under the Azerbaijani Cabinet of Ministers, AzVision.az reports.

Thanking President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for the prompt and effective measures to combat coronavirus in Azerbaijan, the head of the country office of WHO in Azerbaijan stressed that while working in collaboration with WHO, Azerbaijan is distinguished in the fight against the pandemic at the international level.

"Thus, the country twice rendered humanitarian aid in the amount of \$5 million while the fight against infectious diseases is an important sphere in the country's social policy," Harmanci added.

"The fight against coronavirus will be very useful if everyone cooperates with the state and at the stage of gradual softening of the tough quarantine regime will wear a medical mask and follow the social distance rules at least one meter," the head of the country office of WHO in Azerbaijan said.





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