

## Events of December, 2019

### December 1, 2019

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed government's willingness to restore student unions that were banned for nearly four decades. A comprehensive code of conduct was set in motion to prevent campuses from becoming "violent battlegrounds" and protect academic atmosphere.

London police shot dead a knife wielding man, Usman Khan, after he stabbed and killed two people. As the incident caused tensions between the ruling Conservative Party and opposition's Labour Party, each accused the other of being responsible for his early release after serving nearly a half term on terror charges.

### December 2, 2019

China ordered telecom operators to collect face scans besides personal data, using "artificial intelligence and other technical means" to verify people's identities when registering new phone numbers. This was done to protect the rights of citizens online.

### December 4, 2019

NAB seized 23 properties of the leader of the opposition and PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif, his sons, Hamza and Salman, and other family members including daughters and sons-in-law, in connection with the cases related to having assets beyond income and money laundering.

### December 5, 2019

UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) took ownership of Pakistan's property tycoon Malik Riaz's Hyde Park flat in connection with the money laundering case and announced that it would be sold to return the money to Pakistan along with the 190 million pounds already settled to be paid to Pakistan last week.

[December 6, 2019](#)

The transport of France's capital, Paris, was paralyzed with a massive strike, as people opposing president Macron's pension reforms blocked roads demanding withdrawal of proposed reforms for cutting down benefits.

[December 7, 2019](#)

Prime Minister Imran Khan's advisor on accountability, Shahzad Akbar said the 190 million pound recovered as settlement from Malik Riaz and deposited to Supreme Court's account by the UK authorities would be used on public welfare if the court released it for the purpose.

[December 8, 2019](#)

Kidnapped law student, Dua Manghi, from DHA Karachi returned home after a week, as family denied paying ransom while police refused to disclose how she reached home. Her friend, Haris Fateh Soomro, was shot in the neck by the kidnappers, who was hospitalized while struggling against the wound.

[December 9, 2019](#)

Huge fire in a bag factory in New Delhi's old quarters burnt 45 workers alive and left scores wounded.

[December 10, 2019](#)

Indian parliament passed the most biased law against the Muslim minority in its history, allowing Indian citizenship to "persecute non-Muslims" of neighboring countries including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis (Zoroastrians) and Christians.

[December 12, 2019](#)

Finland's Sanna Marin, 34, became the world's youngest female prime minister and the youngest head of the government, as she was the elected leader of the Social Democratic Party heading a five party coalition government.

Hundreds of lawyers tried to avenge offensive remarks on social media by a doctor leader by attacking Punjab Institute of Cardiology and ransacking the building. The damage caused amounted to tens of millions of rupees and killed seven heart patients.

[December 13, 2019](#)

Indian Supreme Court rejected 18 review petitions by Muslim groups against its earlier decision of granting the 16th century Babri Masjid in Ayodhya to Hindu extremist groups for building a Hindu Temple in its place.

[December 14, 2019](#)

With escalating riots and a rising death toll across India, six state governments of the Indian Union declared their inability to implement the biased Citizenship Law, including those of New Delhi, West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Internet, phone links and markets closed down in many cities. The riots prompted Indian PM Modi and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe to postpone a summit meeting, as UN Human Rights Office in Geneva urged India "to respect the democratic rights of assembly, and international norms and standards on the use of force against protests." Indian parliamentarians equated the law to the anti-Jewish legislation by the Nazis in 1930s Germany.

December 15, 2019

PTI government announced to go back on its electoral promise of making South Punjab a province. PTI's Information Minister, Fayyaz Chohan, said PTI has abandoned the promise since it has neither required majority for legislation nor support of opposition parties. US, UK and other Western countries barred their citizens from traveling to India after clashes between police and protestors intensified leaving dozens dead and several hundred wounded. Amnesty International termed the Indian Citizenship Law "discriminatory on the basis of religion".

December 16, 2019

Ending over two decades blue-eyed boy status for India, a US State Department spokesperson urged India to protect the rights of its religious minorities, keeping in view the Indian constitution and democratic values. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom called for sanctions to be considered against India's hawkish, firebrand Home Minister, Amit Shah.

December 17, 2019

Prime Minister Imran Khan cancelled his scheduled visit to Kuala Lumpur to attend the Muslim Summit called by Dr Mahatir Muhammad to discuss the Muslim strategy over pressing issues like Palestine, Kashmir etc. Khan announced the visit cancellation after allegedly being forced by the Saudi crown prince, Muhammad Bin Salman, this week.

December 18, 2019

A special court constituted on the orders of Supreme Court announced a death sentence for the former military dictator, Gen Pervez Musharraf, for committing high treason by his acts of subverting the constitution, imposing emergency, detaining judges of superior judiciary and forcibly amending the constitution on Nov 3, 2007. Pakistan Army's spokesperson, DG ISPR Asim Ghafoor, rejected the sentence, terming it illegal and unjustified, warning that the Army would foil all designs of enemies to weaken the country and its institutions.

US House of Representatives impeached president Donald Trump on the charges of coercing Ukraine and other foreign governments into fake inquiry against his presidential opponent Joe Biden, to help him get reelected in 2020 elections. Impeachment proceedings in the Senate having Trump's Republican Party majority will begin in January 2020 and could overturn the impeachment. Trump is the third US president impeached, after Andrew Johnson (1868) and Bill Clinton (1999).

[December 19, 2019](#)

Special Court's 3-member bench headed by Justice Waqar Seth issued detailed judgement of death punishment against military dictator, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

[December 20, 2019](#)

PTI government announced filing reference before Supreme Judicial Council to disqualify the Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, who penned the judgment against former military dictator, Gen. Musharraf.

[December 21, 2019](#)

Police opened direct fire, teargas and baton charge, killing and wounding dozens among thousands of protestors, majority of the victims being Muslims, who blocked streets in major Indian cities, protesting against the biased citizenship law.

Junaid Hafeez, a former lecturer of Bahauddin Zakaria University, sentenced to death with a fine of Rs 500,000 on charges of blasphemy for posting material offending the sanctity of Holy Prophet (SAW) on social media. The sentence came in a 6 years trial after he was arrested in 2013.

[December 22, 2019](#)

At Kuala Lumpur summit, four strong Muslim economies including Malaysia, Turkey, Qatar and Iran discussed trading among themselves in gold and through barter system to block any western future economic sanctions on them, and urged Muslim world to trade each other's currencies to protect themselves from western economic threats. Pakistan did not attend the summit due to the apprehensions from Saudi Arabia.

[December 23, 2019](#)

India reacted to Malaysian PM Dr Mahathir's criticism at the Kuala Lumpur summit over India's Citizenship Law, forcing Muslims to convert to Hinduism or leave India. Delhi summons Malaysian ambassador, telling him that Mahathir's comments were interference in Delhi's internal affairs and baseless. OIC expressed concern over India's Muslim-biased citizenship law and giving away of historic Babri Masjid to Hindu extremists, urging Delhi to abide by UN and relevant international covenants for minorities rights. In a press release posted on its website, OIC secretariat said violations of global principles and obligations might lead to further tensions and serious implications on peace and security across the globe.

[December 24, 2019](#)

A Saudi Court sentenced to death five people and jailed three for killing and butchering Saudi-insider turned critic- journalist of Washington Post, Jamal Khashoggi, 59, at Istanbul's Saudi consulate in Oct 2018, but two alleged masterminds were exonerated as authorities said the killing was not premeditated. Turkey and rights groups termed the verdict a travesty of justice.

[December 25, 2019](#)

Christmas in France was gloomy and panicked as 20-days transport strike over government's pension cut plan left millions deprived of reaching their holiday destinations with loved ones and families.

[December 27, 2019](#)

Turkish court convicted six journalists and one employee of newspaper Sozcu for aiding coup plot against president Erdogan influenced by the network of US-based cleric, Fathullah Gulen, who is accused of masterminding the failed coup in 2016. The paper's chief editor Metin Yilmaz and online edition's managing editor, Mustafa Cetin, received three years in prison, while online news editor Yucel Ari, financial manager Yonca Yucelan and journalist Gokmen Ulu were sentenced to two-years. Columnists Emin Colasan and Necati Dogru were sentenced to three years and six months in prison.

## Events of January, 2020

[Jan 1, 2020](#)

Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf government imposed heavy fines and sentences for smuggling currency, gold and gems out of Pakistan. The move is in line with the demand of the UN's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as pre conditions for not slapping sanctions on the country.

[Jan 2, 2020](#)

All opposition parties in the National Assembly, except JUI of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Jamaat-elIslami and Pushtoon nationalist parties, agreed upon the Draft Legislation, extending the term/retiring age of the chief of the Army and other forces to 64 years.

[Jan 3, 2020](#)

US drone attacked near the Baghdad airport, killing a dozen military officials in two vehicles including the most feared chief of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, General Qasim Soleimani, and the Deputy Head of Iraqi Paramilitary Force, Hashed al Shaabi, Abu Mehdi al Mohandis, creating fears of a fresh US-Iran war in the Middle East as thousands of protestors across Iran called upon President Rouhani for avenging US with a tough response.

[Jan 5, 2020](#)

DG ISPR Gen Asif Ghafoor categorically declared that Pakistan would neither become part of any war nor allow its soil to be used for war, as Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi phoned the counterparts of Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkey to offer mediation in resolving the prevailing tension and war threats emerging after US killed Irani military commander in Baghdad.

Jan 6, 2020

As the US-Iran tension escalated with verbal threats from each side, Iraqi parliament reiterated its last months stance, calling for all the US and allied troops to leave the country immediately. The US President, Trump, responded to the withdrawal demand with a threat to impose tougher sanctions unless Iraq paid back multi billion dollars spent on building military bases and infrastructure in Iraq. Fresh wave of protests spread in major Indian cities against anti-Muslim citizenship law after groups of masked men wielding batons and iron rods attacked Delhi's Jawah Lal Nehru university where students had been raising strong voices against the controversial law, leaving scores of students wounded and also attacked the doctors and nurses who came to treat the wounded students.

Jan 7, 2020

The National Assembly hastily passed an amendment in the Army Act extending the tenure of armed forces' chiefs up to 64 years of age within just 20 minutes as opposition displayed a rare harmony with the government after PPP withdrew its amendments. Dissent only came from JUI-F and Jamaat Islami legislators and the two independent MNAs from tribal areas, Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir.

Jan 8, 2020

Iran fired several missiles on a US military base in Iraq to avenge the killing of General Suleimani, claiming several deaths but US said no casualty occurred as its troops had evacuated the base after Iran had informed Iraq before the attack. Iranian officials and people celebrated the attack as successful but US President Trump said Iran deliberately missed the targets to reduce escalation of war threats.

The Senate also passed an amendment in the Army Act in a quick 22 minutes sitting extending the retirement age of services chiefs as JI, JUI-F, PkMAP and NP opposed the legislation.

After DG ISPR, Prime Minister Imran Khan also announced that Pakistan would not join another war since the country had already suffered huge losses due to fighting war on behalf of others in the past.



Jan 9, 2020

British Parliament finally approved the Brexit deal with 330 to 231 majority, making UK the first country to leave the 28-nation European Union by January 31, 2020 after an association of nearly five decades, bringing to end a four year long political strife that saw severe tension that led two governments to resign. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the whole nation were shocked by the sudden announcement of Prince Harry and his American wife, Meghan Markle, about resigning from front-line royal duties, cutting off ties with media and leading a private life, dividing their time between UK and North America. The announcement made on their website was in defiance of Queen's orders of not going public without her consent and created a serious crisis in Buckingham Palace.

Jan 10, 2020

Amidst increasing war threats in the Middle East, Washington again rejected Iraqi parliament's demand to pull out troops. Responding to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mehdi's request to send its delegation to discuss and begin preparation for withdrawing its troops from the country, State Department Spokeswoman said US would not withdraw from its right, appropriate force posture in the Middle East.

Iran admitted its army shot down the Ukrainian passenger plane 'by human error' that had crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran four days before, killing all 176 on board. Government finally admitted the western allegations that the plane was hit by a missile, giving up its insistence that a technical fault caused the crash. President Rouhani and grand leader Khamenei issued statements of regret, offering sympathies and compensation to bereaved families and ordered inquiry against those responsible.

New Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane said during his first press conference that his army could occupy Pakistan-controlled Kashmir any time 'if the Parliament mandated so'. DG ISPR Gen Asif Ghafoor brushed aside the threat, terming it as a routine rhetoric by Indian officials for domestic audience, with the aim of diverting attention from the growing internal turmoil.

[Jan 13, 2020](#)

Lahore High Court revoked the death sentence awarded to former dictator General Musharraf last month by a special court that found him guilty of high treason, suspending the judiciary and the constitution. The LHC full bench declared that the special court formulated on the orders of the Chief Justice of Supreme Court to hear the high treason case was itself unconstitutional, hence its verdict was null and void.

[Jan 14, 2020](#)

US scientists claimed creating the first "living robots" called "Xenobots", entirely new life-forms created by turning living cells taken from a frog's embryo into a machine using supercomputers. The biological machine, Xenobots, can be programmed to work as they wish, like transporting medicine around a patient's body, cleaning up pollution, radioactive waste and microplastics from the oceans. It's a new class of artifact: a living, programmable organism which can also heal itself if damaged. It can also help researchers learn more about cell biology -- opening doors to future advancement in human health and longevity.

[Jan 15, 2020](#)

The US authorities agreed to count Sikhs as a separate ethnic group in the 2020 census for the first time. The decision came after a series of meetings between Sikh representatives with the US Census department and benefit other ethnicities in the US to be coded separately.

[Jan 16, 2020](#)

General Musharraf's lawyer filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against his death sentence in the high treason case. Despite that, a full bench of the Lahore High Court had already declared that the special court formulated on the orders of the chief justice of the supreme court to hear the high treason case was itself unconstitutional, hence its verdict was null and void.

[Jan 17, 2020](#)

Supreme Court refused to entertain an appeal filed by the lawyer of former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf against his death sentence for high treason awarded last month by a special court. SC Registrar Office returned the appeal with the objection that the accused must surrender before the authorities in order to file an appeal against conviction.

Pakistan demanded that the armies of the US and allies fighting the war on terror should not be pulled out of Afghanistan completely and keep their presence for rebuilding and rehabilitation even if the peace deal with Taliban that is about to be finalized called for troops' withdrawal. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told the US administration in Washington that the US must not irresponsibly withdraw like it did in the 80's after Soviet withdrawal.

[Jan 18, 2020](#)

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi asked the US government to help remove Pakistan from the grey list of FATF. During his meetings with different US officials including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brian, Senators and Congressmen, Qureshi said Pakistan had done more than enough to fulfill US demands and it was time Washington fulfilled Islamabad's expectations. He said removal from the grey list before the FATF meeting in April is necessary, otherwise Pakistan could be put in the black list, requiring imposition of tough sanctions.

[Jan 19, 2020](#)

After 10-day deliberations, Buckingham Palace resolved the crisis erupting from Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's desire to quit royal duties and lead a private life, as Queen Elizabeth allowed them to live like ordinary people on the conditions of not use royal titles, losing royal funding and returning 2.4 million pounds spent on renovating their Frogmore Cottage home near Windsor Castle. Harry will also be stripped of military titles and awards.

[Jan 20, 2020](#)

The Flour Shortage Crisis lingering since last week deepened in KPK and Sindh where atta price in open market rose to Rs 70/kg, forcing the authorities to crack down against roti sellers charging as high as Rs 15 per piece. KPK roti sellers went on strike after the arrests of few roti sellers on over charging. The crisis continued for many days as government ministers had been denying any shortage but at the same time the government allowed duty free import of 0.3 million tons of wheat immediately.

[Jan 21, 2020](#)

Impeachment trial of President Donald Trump began in a 100 member US Senate, presided over by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, as Democrats accused Republicans of covering up evidence against his abuse of powers.

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[Jan 22, 2020](#)

China announced developing J-20 stealth fighter aircraft, the most sophisticated among the contemporaries to end their domination of the skies, especially against those of the US and European planes. Production will commence later this year.

[Jan 23, 2020](#)

Trump Administration amended visa rules to prevent 'birth tourism', disallowing pregnant women from visiting to give birth in the US so their children could get nationality. White House spokesperson said visa consuls will determine if pregnant travelers have a genuine medical need or are covering up to give birth in the US.

[Jan 24, 2020](#)

Tens of thousands of supporters of Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadar marched on Baghdad's streets demanding immediate expulsion of US troops from the country, revoking of security agreements with US, and closure of airspace for US planes. The massive rally came after Washington last week turned down Iraqi parliament's unanimous demand for pulling out US troops.

[Jan 25, 2020](#)

After Kerala and Punjab, Rajasthan became the third Indian state to pass a resolution demanding repeal of the controversial anti-Muslim Citizenship Act. The move came amidst growing protests across the country against the law which spread to Europe as hundreds of Indians protested against Indian High Commission in London and the European Parliament is about to vote on a resolution against India for annexing Kashmir in violation of UN resolutions and discriminating against Muslims in citizenship law.

Jan 26, 2020

For the first time in history, Israel allowed its citizens to visit Saudi Arabia for religious and business purposes, a move considered as a major step towards establishing formal relations between the two countries. Previously, Israeli citizens needed special permission to travel to Saudi Arabia.

In what appeared as serious cracks in PTI ranks, KPK government sacked three provincial ministers on charges of plotting to form a forward bloc against the chief minister. Just a day after meeting between PM Imran Khan and chief Minister Mehmood Khan, the governor denotified Senior minister Atif Khan, Health minister Shehram Tarkai and revenue minister Shakeel Ahmad from their portfolios.

Jan 27, 2020

The fast spreading deadly 'Coronavirus' took over in most parts of China, which killed nearly 100 and affected over 3000 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, now ringing alarms across the globe as large number of European and Asian countries either closely bordering China continue interpersonal associations with her. Strict checks have been imposed on Chinese visitors and travelers across the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) admitted an error in its assessment of the global risk of the virus, saying it was "high" and not "moderate".

Jan 28, 2020

US president Trump announced a solution to Palestine issue, calling it 'Deal of the Century', proposing creation of a Palestinian State having capital in East Jerusalem and greater control over Gaza and West Bank, but on condition of accepting the plan and negotiating its details with Israel. Standing alongside Israeli PM Netanyahu, Trump said the plan legitimized the Israeli settlements in Jerusalem and other areas it occupied in 1967 war, and said Israel would freeze new settlements for four years during which Palestinian statehood would be negotiated. All Palestinian groups including PA president Mahmoud Abbas rejected the Deal primarily because it legitimized Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and shifting its Capital there.

Jan 29, 2020

Trump's Middle East Peace Plan called 'Deal of the Century' met mixed response from the world as Israel accepted it while Palestinians completely rejected it, European countries welcomed it some with caution that it might not gain wider acceptance, while majority of the Muslim countries, including Turkey, Iran, Sudan and Libya rejected it, whereas others like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan accepted it partially, calling for the entire Jerusalem to be considered as the capital of Palestine.

Jan 30, 2020

Pakistan strongly rejected the rumors regarding military plans to annex Azad Kashmir into its mainland like India did with Kashmir few months back. The Foreign Office spokesperson rejected these statements, which started circulating a few weeks back when AJK Prime Minister, Farooq Haider, told the media that he was told he would be the last PM of AJK.

A gunman standing few meters from the police cordon opened fire on the mob protesting against India's anti-Muslim citizenship law outside a Delhi's university, wounding few of them, and escaped easily. The shooting marked a new wave of anti-Muslim sentiments after several Indian ministers, BJP leaders and PM Modi himself was criticized for terming the protestors as traitors and encouraging the Hindus to raise slogans of death to traitors.

Jan 31, 2020

Protests raged across the Muslim countries against the Trump's New Middle East Peace Plan, as the Muslim world appeared divided on the plan after angry mobs in various Muslim cities chanted slogans against US, Israel and those Arab countries who backed the plan. Turkish president Erdogan, addressing a meeting slammed those Muslim countries as traitors, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman etc. which backed Trump's 'Deal of the Century'.

## Events of February, 2020

Feb 11, 2020

Indian PM Narendra Modi's BJP suffered a humiliating defeat in Delhi Assembly polls at the hands of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmy Party which won 62 seats out of total 70.

Feb 12, 2020

Jamaat ud Dawah Ameer Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and his aide Zafar Iqbal were sentenced to 11 years by an anti-terrorism court on charges of terror financing and running banned outfit. His lawyer commented on the judgment alleging that fund raising for terrorism purposes could not be established by the same prosecution before the trial court, and sentence was awarded to fulfil the requirements of financial Action Task Force (FATF), besides pleasing US and India.

Feb 16, 2020

UN secretary General Antonio Guterres, after arriving in Islamabad, praised Pakistan for weeding out terrorism and terror financing, reiterated mediation offer to India and Pakistan for resolving Kashmir issue. But Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi readily rejected the offer. Addressing a rally, Modi vowed to resist world pressure against all the controversial anti-Muslim decisions of his government, and ruled out reviewing citizenship act and annexation of Kashmir by scrapping Article 370 of the constitution.

Feb 17, 2020

British government and media outraged over Indian government's denying entry to prominent politician and Labour MP Debbie Abrahams, Chair of Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir, and known for supporting Kashmiris against Modi regime's anti-Muslim laws and policies. Despite having a visa, she was refused entry at Delhi airport, visa was canceled, treated rudely and deported to Dubai.

Feb 18, 2020

The urology surgeon, Dr Fawad Mumtaz, accused of performing illegal kidney transplant of the daughter of veteran comedian Umar Sharif, Hira Umar, 36, which caused her death, fled from his house minutes before FIA and Human Organ Transplant Authority (HOTA) raided there. He charged 3.4 million rupees for the illegal surgery conducted at some undisclosed location in Azad Kashmir, but the woman died of developing complications and infections.

Feb 19, 2020

Britain decided to close its borders to unskilled, non English-speaking workers after a fundamental overhaul of immigration laws that will end the era of cheap EU labour in factories, warehouses, hotels and restaurants. Unveiling its Australian-style points system after existing from EU, London aims at taking "full control of borders for the first time in decades". The policy met immediate widespread criticism as it will damage the economy with job losses and closures in factories and the high street.

Feb 20, 2020

FATF withheld Pakistan in grey list for another 4 months, expressing dissatisfaction with Pak compliance of its 27 point action plan as Islamabad could comply with only 14 of them. The Paris based financial watchdog warned Pakistan of the danger of becoming blacklisted if the remaining 13 points were not complied with till June 2020.

Feb 21, 2020

US and Taliban agreed to sign a historic peace deal on Feb 29 in Doha to end the 18 year war in Afghanistan, the costliest and longest war in US history that left millions dead, wounded and handicapped, as Washington agreed to pull out its forces if the week-long ceasefire by both sides prior to signing the deal worked out. Taliban and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the deal would be signed after a week-long truce beginning now.

US president Donald Trump's long time advisor Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months by a federal judge on charges of lying and impeding Congressional investigation, tampering with witnesses, and obstructing House investigations into whether Trump campaign conspired with Russia to cheat in 2016 US elections. Trump told the media that it was a miscarriage of justice, accusing jury of being biased and hoped Stone would be cleared in the review, adding that "I personally think he was treated very unfairly," and hinted he would at some time award Stone presidential pardon.

Prime minister of small African country Lesotho, Thomas Thabane, 80, sneaked to neighboring South Africa overnight instead of appearing before the court where he was due to be charged sheeted with murdering his divorced wife, Lilopelo Thabane, 58, two days before taking oath as PM in 2017. PM office told the court he had not fled but gone for a medical check up. His current wife Maesaiah Thabane, 42, whom he married two months after Lipolelo's death, is a co-accused in the murder.

Feb 22, 2020

Corona virus threat sounded alarm bells in Pakistan as authorities feared its entry into country from neighboring Iran where its outbreak killed nearly a dozen people and dozens more were tested positive. Iran and Pakistan considered closing land borders where no screening facility is available to detect the virus which had killed over three thousand people in China and affected over fifty thousand. .

Feb 23, 2020

An Israeli cycling team raced through Dubai in Middle East's top cycle race, The UAE Tour, for the first time in history despite that the two countries have no diplomatic relations. On Palestine issue, all Arab countries, except Jordan and Egypt, have no official relations with Israel which has been quietly working to woo Gulf Arab countries on the basis of shared security interests and a common rival - Iran.

Feb 24, 2020

Fresh wave of violence swept Indian capital Delhi and other cities in northern areas killing at least a dozen people and wounding over two hundred as US president Trump began 2-day visit.

## Events of March, 2020

### March 1, 2020

Just a day after the Taliban and US signed the Afghan peace deal in Qatar, the new Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, threatened to derail the entire peace process by refusing to release 5000 Taliban prisoners agreed to by the US as a swap of 1000 Afghan government prisoners which were to be released later by Taliban.

The Sindh government extended the closure of educational institutions in the province, from the earlier date of Feb 28, upto March 13 in view of the growing threats of Coronavirus outbreak, despite the fact that only one case had been reported in Karachi.&nbsMarch 2

### March 2, 2020

Afghan Peace Deal looked shattered just after two days as the Taliban refused to join intra-Afghan talks scheduled in Oslo on March 10 unless the condition of releasing 5000 prisoners was fulfilled, which president Ashraf Ghani had rejected a day before. Taliban decided to revoke the conditional ceasefire, ordering fighters to resume attacks against Afghan forces, as Kabul rocked with an immediate bomb blast. Taliban spokesman said they would not target foreign forces at present.

New cases of Coronavirus reported from the US, Europe and Saudi Arabia, death toll reached well above 3000 and total affected people over 100,000, as the virus reached over 60 countries.

### March 3, 2020

After US president Trump talked to Taliban chief negotiator Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban agreed to extend their offer to meet Afghan officials in dialogue next week but not before they had carried out dozens of attacks against Afghan army bases following the revoking of conditional truce in response to president Ghani's refusal to release Taliban prisoners.



March 4, 2020

Taliban killed at least 20 Afghan soldiers after resuming deadly attacks while US forces also responded with airstrikes and missile attacks on Taliban to defend Afghan forces, as the peace deal's future became hopeless in the wake of president Ghani's refusal to honor the peace deal and release 5000 Taliban prisoners promised by the US.

Saudi Arabia suspended round the year Umrah pilgrimage for its citizens and residents just one month ahead of the peak season in the holy month of Ramadan, in an unprecedented move, raising uncertainty over annual Hajj pilgrimage only four months away, after the fears of a coronavirus outbreak grew further. Indian PM Modi also announced to refrain from going to the biggest festival, Holi, while several other world leaders and celebrities announced the observation of seclusion in the wake of the virus outbreak.

Senate passed the Zainab Alert Bill, the law to punish child molesters with sentences from 7-years to 14-years, and establishing the authority to promptly respond the cases, as Jamaat Islami and other religious parties voted against it, alleging that it aimed at protecting the child molesters since it had no provision of death sentence.

March 5, 2020

As the fourth case of coronavirus was reported from Karachi, the total number of cases in Pakistan reached 6. Saudi authorities evacuated pilgrims from Holy Kaaba, emptying the place around it for sterilization in its efforts to prevent the outbreak, but declaring that the upper floors would remain open for tawaf and worship, as three new cases of coronavirus reported in the kingdom, bringing the total to five. UAE asked the mosques to reduce Friday sermon to only ten minutes, while reducing the normal prayer timings as well.

Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei urged India to control BJP extremists massacring and persecuting Muslim population, just days after Indian government expressed resentment on Iranian foreign minister Javed Zarif's statement on the same issue, calling it interference in India's internal affairs.

March 6, 2020

In fast escalating violence in Afghanistan, a bomb blast in Kabul killed 32 and injured 70, as US president Trump warned that Taliban could take over Afghanistan again after US and foreign troops withdrew if the Kabul regime did not learn to defend itself without the US.

March 7, 2020

Saudi authorities averted an alleged coup plot against Saudi crown prince Muhammad Bin Salman, arresting among several royal family members and princes, the three top princes, including King Salman's only surviving full brother and prominent critic of the Royal policies, prince Ahmad bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, besides prince Muhammad Bin Nayef who was crown prince till 2017 when King Salman removed him to nominate his own son Muhammad, and prince Nawaf bin Nayef.

Only a day after US intelligence reports said Taliban were not serious in abiding by the peace deal with US, a statement from Taliban spokesman claimed they were the legal ruler of Afghanistan and US peace deal did not change that fact, adding that Taliban were bound by Islamic law to re-establish Islamic regime after foreign troops withdrawal.

March 8, 2020

In a drastic step, Italy locked down one third of its area, include the north regions around Venice and financial capital Milan, closing cinemas, theaters, markets and offices, putting nearly one fourth population (16 m) in self quarantine zones till April 3, after coronavirus deaths crossed one hundred, making it third most hit country after China (3000 deaths) and Iran (over 200).

March 9, 2020

World stock markets showed sharp declines in last 24 hours on the fears of fast spreading coronavirus that now reached 100 countries, losing billions of dollars, while oil prices recorded their biggest one-day crash since the first Gulf War in 1991.

March 10, 2020

As the coronavirus hit nearly 100 countries including many in Europe, with nearly 3500 deaths and over 100,000 suffering, Italian government extended the lock down and self quarantine to the entire country after the death toll from coronavirus reached 450 and affected over 9000. US also reported 27 deaths as over 700 affected, while the death toll in Iran crossed 500. On the other hand, the spread of the virus was halted in China as the number of new affected persons reduced considerably. Total number of affected in Pakistan reached to 19, with 15 in Sindh only.

March 11, 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) stepped up the level of Coronavirus threat, declaring it a global pandemic after it reached nearly one hundred countries including many European and Asian nations, ringing alarm bells for the governments responding to it either slowly or with inaction.

Afghan Taliban refused to join intra Afghan talks in Oslo unless 5000 prisoners were released in advance as part of the peace accord, and also rejected conditional release offered by Kabul, pushing the deal's future on the verge of collapse.

March 12, 2020

NAB arrested Jang/Geo TV chief editor Mir Shakil ur Rehman in a 35-year old property exchange deal made with LDA, in what appears a victimization as overwhelming criticism in the country and abroad accused PTI government of attacking media freedom.

As the US, Saudi Arabia and many European countries halted flight operations mainly from those countries affected with coronavirus, a fresh wave of panic gripped the world after thousands of stranded passengers flocked airports, train and bus stations, and world stock markets dropped to record depths.

### March 13, 2020

As the global death toll of coronavirus crossed 5000 with nearly 150,000 suffering, Pakistan closed down borders with Iran and Afghanistan, extended closure of educational institutions till April 13, banned wedding and other gatherings including Tablighi Ijtima at Raiwind, cinemas, offices etc for at least 15 days, changed PSL cricket schedule to hold both semi finals on March 17 and final on 18th.

Blame game between China and the US over which country was the origin of coronavirus intensified after China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian again claimed the US was its birthplace and in a tweet reiterated the allegation that the US army brought it to Wuhan. He referred to a video on China's twitter-like Weibo showing a US Health official, Dr Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, claiming that some among the thousands of Flu victims last year were posthumously tested to have died of coronavirus, saying it proved his claim. With cases falling in China and rising abroad, Beijing is bent upon rejecting the widely held claim that Wuhan was the origin of the outbreak.

### March 14, 2020

After the death toll reached 5800 and affected over 150,000, Coronavirus began crippling the whole world as many more countries in Europe and middle east halted flight operations, issuing visas except diplomatic, closing down markets, gatherings and transport. With a number of top government officials across the world testing positive, including Canadian first lady Sophie Trudeau, Iranian president appealed to the UN to lift sanctions which were hindering its fight against coronavirus.

### March 15, 2020

After the corona virus reached nearly 140 countries, killing over 6000 and affecting 160,000 people, many countries including India, Kuwait, Iraq etc, shut land borders, banned mass prayers, shopping malls, offices etc. extremely restricting the internal flights and transport systems. In Pakistan, the affectees tally crossed 50, as 22 new cases took the number to 52, majority of whom visited Iran in recent weeks.

#### March 16, 2020

With death toll crossing 7300 and suffering 180,000, corona cases in Pakistan jumped to 183, with only 150 in Sindh, as more countries of the world halted flights, transport systems, schools, colleges, restaurants and businesses, Turkey suspended mass prayers in mosques until the risk of coronavirus outbreak passes. Israel shut down Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Dome of the Rock, asking Jewish worshippers not to kiss Western Wall. However, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar said govt had no plan to ban Friday congregations, yet the noted clerics appealed to limit the Friday prayers to only two Rakats, asking the believers to pray the remaining Salat at homes. Sindh chief minister blamed federal government for not properly quarantining the pilgrims from Iran and let them in without testing, fearing more of them had gone to Punjab than Sindh, fearing an outbreak in Punjab soon.

After the world financial markets crashed sharply, Pakistan stock exchange also collapsed registering the historic one day decline of 2375 points, vanishing the assets of thousands of investors who joined millions of people abroad, becoming poor overnight.

#### March 17, 2020

In a major move, Sindh government ordered a lock down of all markets, hotels and restaurants besides the government offices, except grocery stores, meat and vegetable shops.

March 18, 2020

Coronavirus began taking a toll on Pakistan as two died in KP and the infected tally reached 295, while the panicked world sealed off borders including those of EU, US-Canada and a number of countries in middle east and Asia, with total deaths crossed 8000 and infected over 200,000. Poor nations appealed to the rich countries to pump in financial help to fight the global pandemic, while China expelled three US journalists representing top journals accusing them of biased and racist, as the war of words intensified between Beijing and Washington on which country spread coronavirus in the world.

March 19, 2020

The Army was called in to assist the civil administration deal with the coronavirus threat, setting up a command and control center to monitor the situation and provide latest updates on the situation.

March 20, 2020

Sindh imposed a 3-day lock down in the province to counter coronavirus spread, after reporting its first death from the virus, closing offices, markets and businesses except vital needs, and banning more than five people to gather, as chief minister Murad Ali Shah asked people to go in complete isolation.

Four accused of notorious gang rape and murder of a girl in moving bus were hanged in Delhi's Tihar jail, bringing an end to the case titled Nirbhaya case that rocked the entire country since 2012.

March 21, 2020

Pakistan suspended all flight operations for two weeks except diplomatic and cargo, besides allowing the scheduled return flights to the country as 3 deaths were reported with nearly 600 patients. Punjab and Balochistan also ordered partial lockdown after Sindh clamped it two days ago to prevent coronavirus spread. America and many European countries all major cities under lockdown amidst rising death toll, putting over one billion people in isolation to ward off the deadly disease.

US and China again accused each other of spreading coronavirus, as US secretary of State Mike Pompeo also demanded China to share the coronavirus cure data with the world to save lives, besides accusing Beijing of allowing affected people to leave Wuhan to Italy, Spain and other parts of the world. While Chinese Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying accused the US of trying to shift blame to China, adding that Beijing prevented world lives by struggling hard to contain the virus as WHO also praised its efforts.

March 22, 2020

Punjab and Balochistan also reached out to the Army to help them counter the spread of coronavirus despite that prime minister Imran Khan opposes complete lock down in the country to prevent miseries to the poor and middle classes. as the death toll in the country surged to five with over 750 patients. Media reports and opposition leaders accused PM's advisor on overseas Pakistanis and son-in-law of first lady Bushra Bibi, Zulfi Bukhari of spreading the coronavirus in the country by using his influence to bring in a number of pilgrims from Iran without mandatory quarantine after Irani authorities pushed them into Pakistan for want of facilities to keep them.

March 23, 2020

Finally, the federal government imposed a countrywide lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus, two days after Sindh and Islamabad had already locked down their territories, as the tally of deadly virus affectees reached close to 900 and six people had died.

As China recovered from the Corona pandemic and life in Wuhan began returning to normalcy after 90 days of lockdown, people began returning to jobs and markets reopening after no new deaths or infections were reported.

March 24, 2020

As India imposed a complete countrywide lock down against the coronavirus threat, over one third of the world population has now been placed under curfew, including several cities of Europe which now remains the heart of the epidemic. First Italy and now Spain's death toll have overtaken that of China, while Britain's Prince Charles became the latest prominent figure to test positive.

March 25, 2020

In response to a request by President Arif Alvi, Egypt's historic seminary Jamia Al Azhar university issued an edict, saying congregational prayers, including Friday and daily prayers, could be suspended in times of a serious epidemic threatening spread among the masses. President Alvi, in a tweet, said he had asked for the edict after many countries already suspended congregational prayers including UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

As India enforced an abrupt lockdown and suspended all transport, factories, markets and businesses etc, millions of migrant workers and commuters were left stranded and jobless and panicky scenes were witnessed at the massively crowded trains and bus stations. The Modi government was massively criticised after slamming a complete lockdown without prior planning giving only four hours notice to its 1.3 billion population.



March 26, 2020

Saudi government asked Pakistan not to book Hajj pilgrims for this year and wait for a final decision by King Salman later, as the greatest Muslim worship may be canceled in view of the coronavirus threat. Following the Jamia Al-Azhar edict to ban mass congregational prayers, Sindh government banned congregational prayers in mosques including Friday prayers, limiting the number to 5 persons in prayers including mosque staff.

March 27, 2020

World saw the deadliest day in over 3 months' disaster of coronavirus as 2975 deaths were recorded in a single day, pushing the death toll to over 28,000 and total affectees in 183 countries reached over 600,000. The influx of the virus which surfaced in China in December, is now directed towards Europe and US, as the US surpassed China with over 87,000 affectees with 1350 deaths, followed by Italy which has 83,000 affectees with 9461 deaths, Spain has 72000 affectees with 5700 deaths and Iran 35,000 affectees with 2400 deaths. In Pakistan the corona cases reached 1373 with 11 deaths.

March 28, 2020

The fast rising death toll from coronavirus reached upto 31,000 with over 3000 deaths reported in a single day after it reached over 190 countries, among them the US became the worst hit with 105,000 patients and 1751 deaths, while Italy's death toll reached over 10,000 with 89,000 patients. On the other hand, China partially lifted lock down of Wuhan city, the epicenter of the coronavirus, as locked out residents and workers returned to the city after 10 weeks, but the passengers and the residents were in complete protective kits, showing that the danger was not over. Legendary Squash player Azam Khan who won four British open, died of coronavirus in England.

Afghan Taliban rejected to meet the negotiating team formed by Afghan government for starting the much awaited intra Afghan talks, accusing Kabul of violating the conditions of peace deal requiring release of 5000 Taliban prisoners and including all Afghan factions in the talks.

March 29, 2020

The global death toll of coronavirus reached 33,600 as number of infected persons reached 715,000, and the worst hit were Europe and US where the life came to a stand still after President Trump who announced quarantining New York, reversing his earlier decision of not shutting the city down which accounted for one third of all 2500 deaths in the country. Italy and Spain are staggering as death toll is climbing high with over 10,000 and 6000 respectively. Spain's 86 years old princess Maria Teresa became the first royal figure to die of coronavirus, while Germany's Hesse state's finance minister, Thomas Schaefer, committed suicide due to the mounting economic crises of coronavirus.

In Pakistan, death toll reached 17 and affected reached 1500, despite the major parts of the country were under volunteer lockdown, since PM Imran Khan refused a forced shutdown saying half the population would die of hunger as a result.

March 30, 2020

Government said that the rate of coronavirus infections decreased during the last 24 hours compared to the past few days, as only 99 new cases were reported, while total deaths reached 25 with five deaths reported during the last 24 hours, and total patients reached 1,776, of which 566 in Sindh, Punjab 651, Balochistan 144, KP 217, Islamabad 51, Gilgit Baltistan 142 and JK 6. PM's advisor Dr Zafar Mirza said that the number of recovered patients would increase in the coming days, hoping that the rate of infections would also decrease.

## Events of April, 2020

### April 1, 2020

As the coronavirus death toll in Pakistan reached 30, with 2250 confirmed cases, the federal government extended the lock down of major cities for two weeks, up to April 15, extending the suspension of domestic flight operations till April 11. Globally, coronavirus pandemic has claimed over 40,000 lives in 206 countries, over 33,000 in Europe alone, as the UN described it as humanity's worst crisis since World War II, though half of the planet's population is already under some form of lockdown in a battle to halt the contagion. Spain reported a record 864 deaths in 24 hours, pushing the total deaths past 9,000, while Italy's 12,500 people were killed. US President Donald Trump warned America to brace for a "very, very painful two weeks" as the pandemic was projected to take 100,000 to 240,000 lives.

Indian government of BJP announced new laws, that experts and residents fear will alter the demographic status of the Muslim-majority Himalayan region, by allowing such Hindus to become permanent residents and domicile holders of Muslim majority state of Kashmir who have resided for a period of 15 years in Kashmir or studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10/12 examinations in educational institutions located in the region.

April 2, 2020

The coronavirus death toll in the world crossed 52,000, with 5,500 deaths in one day, the worst so far. The Saudi authorities put holy cities of Makkah and Madinah under 24-hour curfew to prevent the spread. Europe bore the brunt of deaths, 1355 in France, 760 in Italy, 709 Spain, 705 in US and 569 in UK, as the number of patients in the world crosses one million.

Deciding appeals in US journalist Daniel Pearl kidnapping for ransom and murder case, Sindh High Court revoked the death sentence of British citizen Ahmed Omer Sheikh and life imprisonment of 3 Pakistanis Fahad Naseem, Syed Salman Saqib and Sheikh Mohammad Adil, awarded by anti-terrorism court 18 years ago. The court observed "kidnapping for ransom and murder charges could not be established against the accused," but convicted Omer Sheikh of abducting Daniel Pearl "by deceitful means", and sentenced him to 7 years and Rs.2 million fine which he had already undergone.

The broken Afghan peace deal found fresh hope after the Kabul regime announced the release of 100 Taliban militants in a prisoner swap for 20 of its soldiers, as part of the larger swap of 5000 Taliban for 1000 Afghan soldiers, agreed in Feb 28 Peace Deal at Doha. The Peace Deal was dealt with a serious blow when the Taliban refused to join the intra Afghan dialogue scheduled in Oslo after Kabul had earlier refused to release Taliban prisoners.

April 3, 2020

The financial gurus declared that the coronavirus could cause the world economy to suffer over 4 trillion dollars losses. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced huge incentives for the construction industry, lifting all taxes, duties, relieving investors from disclosing source of income and exempting capital gains tax on sale, purchase of houses, and 90 per cent tax exemption for investors of Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme.

The coronavirus death toll crossed 58,000 as the world registered the worst day with 5400 deaths, including 1120 in France, US 857, Italy 766, UK 684 and Spain 661.

A veteran Indian politician, ruling BJP's MP, Subramunim Swami revealed the true Muslim-hater face of Hindu extremists, declaring that Muslims are not equal citizens as they pose threat to the world when their number grows from 30 per cent of the population. Giving an interview to a western journalist Isobel Yeung, Mr Swami said that the article 14 of Indian constitution ensuring equal rights to all citizens has been misunderstood regarding Muslims who were not equal citizens.

April 4, 2020

PTI government was jolted at the most troubled time of its political career after a report into the sugar and flour crises in past few months held that the major beneficiaries of the shortage of those commodities Rs 3 billion subsidy on Sugar export were the mills owned by top PTI leaders including Jahangir Tareen, Federal Minister Khusro Bakhtiar, his brother and Punjab Minister Hashim Jawan Bakht, and coalition partner in PML-Q, Chaudhri Moonis Elahi, and Chaudhri Munir. The investigation by a 3 member FIA team headed by Wajid Zia was appointed by Prime Minister Imran Khan himself.

Deaths from corona virus in Pakistan reached 43, while the number of patients rose to 2815. A government report said the number of patients could reach 50,000 by April 25, expressing satisfaction that after 35 days of suffering from the virus, the number of affectees so far was far less than the European countries during this period. Globally, the number of affectees crossed 1.1 million with 60,000 deaths, as the US became the top country with nearly 300,000 patients followed by Spain 130,000, Italy 125,000, Germany 97,000 and France 89,000. But the death toll in Italy is higher (15,400) than Spain (12,500) followed by France (7500) while in Germany it is 1470.

April 5, 2020

Afghan Taliban warned the US and Kabul regimes that the Doha peace deal was nearing a breaking point, accusing them of violating the deal by frequent drone attacks on civilians and delaying the promised release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners. A Taliban spokesman said they had abided by the deal by halting attacks on foreing forces and restricting attacks on Afghan security forces. They threatened to resume attacks if the US, Kabul continued violations and created an atmosphere of mistrust.

Global fatalities from the coronavirus pandemic soared past 69,000, with the US becoming the new center, reporting 9,550 deaths including 1,084 in the last 24 hours and the total patients reaching 333,000. Europe continues to bear the brunt of the epidemic, claiming over 45,000 of the worldwide deaths, as over 1.27 million confirmed coronavirus cases around the planet, half of which is locked down, shutting schools, businesses, markets taking a huge cost to the global economy. Italy and Spain took some sigh of relief, with Rome reporting a drop in the number of intensive care cases from 4,068 to 3,994 in the last 24 hours. Spain, which is under a near-total lockdown, saw a second successive daily fall in coronavirus-related deaths with 809 fatalities, which totaled 11,744. In Pakistan, Coronavirus cases reached 3161 with 47 deaths.

[April 6, 2020](#)

Pakistan saw 600 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, as the number of patients reached 3766 and deaths to 52. Both heads were doubled during the week before, forcing the authorities to consider extending the lockdown beyond April 14.

Prime Minister Imran Khan reshuffled the cabinet in the wake of an inquiry report accusing PTI top leaders and ministers of directly benefiting from the billions of subsidy on sugar and flour export, changing the portfolio of Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, one of the main accused, from minister of food security to finance affairs, while other accused Jahangir Khan Tareen was removed from the chair of the taskforce on Agriculture.

[April 7, 2020](#)

Afghan peace process halted after the Taliban suspended talks with the Kabul regime on prisoner exchange and called back its 3-member delegation to Doha just a couple of days in Kabul, as the regime refused to release those 15 prisoners who were to identify and verify the 5000 Taliban prisoners. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened to withdraw all troops and halt \$1 Billion aid to Kabul if it failed to reach an agreement with Taliban.

[April 8, 2020](#)

Nearly three weeks after Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a relief package to poor workers affected by coronavirus lockdown, he finally declared that a Rs 12000, 4-month stipend will begin to be distributed among 12,000,000 families from 17,000 distribution centers from April 9.

The Kabul regime released 100 low-ranking Taliban prisoners a day after the Taliban had walked out of talks and withdrew their delegation following Kabul's refusal to first release 15 important Taliban to identify and verify the 5000 prisoners in Afghan jails. Taliban spokesman said it was not yet verified if the released prisoners were on their list.

April 9, 2020

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned that the coronavirus pandemic has pushed the world economy to the worst recession since the Great Depression of 1930's, with emerging markets and low-income nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia at particularly high risk after the closure of businesses, industries and agriculture sparked huge unemployment and starvation. IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva said emergency financing to world countries demanded over \$100 billion, for a partial recovery in the global economy in 2021 if the pandemic fades in the second half of this year to allow a gradual lifting of lockdown measures. But, if it continued, things may get even worse.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet warned countries against using the coronavirus crisis as a "blank cheque" to crush civil liberties, adopting "unlimited" emergency powers to penalize journalists and opponents for criticizing extreme restrictions. The former Chilean president warned certain governments including the US employing "needless and unproportionate emergency measures" to justify repressive changes to regular legislation, which will remain in force long after the emergency is over." She cited reports of journalists being penalised for reporting a lack of masks, health-workers reprimanded for saying they lack protection, and ordinary people arrested for social media postings about the pandemic. "Criticism is not a crime. Bachelet also called on governments to "greatly increase access to accurate information and statistics" on the pandemic, stressing that "transparency is paramount and can be life-saving in a health crisis".

April 10, 2020

Chief Justice took suo motu notice of the "inadequate facilities and relief measures" in the country to combat coronavirus, asking the attorney general to provide details of facilities provided at the hospitals to contain the virus.

Global death toll of coronavirus reached 102,099 with total confirmed cases standing at 1,685,610, with the US now emerging as the global hotspot of the virus as over 1,700 people died in one day pushing total deaths at 18,331, people died followed by 18,849 deaths in Italy, 15,970 in Spain, 13,197 in France, 8,958 in UK and 4,232 in Iran.

Some 17 million Americans have so far lost their jobs, prompting the US government to launch a \$2.3 trillion rescue package, while the European Union late Thursday struck a 500-billion euro (\$550 billion) deal to help hard-hit member states.

April 11, 2020

United States announced a 10 million-dollar reward for "any information on the activities, networks and associates" of Muhammad Kawtharani, a Lebanese Hezbollah commander accused of playing a key role in coordinating Iran-backed Shiite movement in Iraq, taking over General Qasim Sulemani who was killed two months ago by the US. The US State Department said Kawtharani is coordinating Iran-backed military groups organized by Sulemani.

The United States surpassed Italy to have the highest coronavirus deaths, reporting more than 19,600 fatalities since the outbreak began, Italy has second highest death toll of 19,468, followed by Spain with 16,353, France with 13,832 and Britain with 8,975 deaths. The global death toll reached 108,000 with over 5,700 new deaths, as infections reached 1,765,500 with over 400,000 recoveries.



[April 12, 2020](#)

Hundreds of millions of Christians around the world spend the Easter holiday at home, as lockdown measures intensify to combat the coronavirus, with governments forcing businesses to close and limiting the movement of half the world's population, halting economic activity.

Bangladesh executed by hanging an ex-captain Abdul Majed accused of assassinating PM Hasina Wajed's father and country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rehman along with family in a military coup on August 15, 1975, less than a week after counter terrorism police arrested him driving a rickshaw in Dhaka on the run for 45 years. Abdul Majed was sentenced to death in absentia in 1998, along with a dozen other army officers over the murders, five of the killers were executed in 2009 after the Supreme Court upheld the verdict.

[April 13, 2020](#)

The National Coordination Committee (NCC) has decided extending the nationwide lockdown to another 14 days on the recommendation of Sindh Chief Syed Murad Ali Shah who had demanded Prime Minister Imran Khan to do that in view of incessant spread of coronavirus, saying the economy was revivable but not the dead humans. The government also decided to extend closure of all borders of the country to further two weeks.

April 14, 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan, on the recommendations of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), extended countrywide lockdown for two weeks, but allowed the opening of low risk economic activities under SoPs till 5 pm. The businesses allowed to open to minimize financial hardships of low income groups, included construction, fertiliser, agricultural goods, import industry, all industrial and commercial entities that are part of the supply chain of food items, medicines, pharmacy, agriculture, fuel, media, banks and philanthropic organisations. Shops of dry cleaners, electricians, plumbers, stationery and hair dressers etc will open under standard operating procedures (SoPs). The transport of all goods in the country shall also continue to take place without interruption. But shopping malls, markets, cinema houses, sports stadiums, educational institutions and public places will remain completely closed.

Top ulema and scholars of all schools of thought announced to reopen mosques for congregational prayers and taraweeh in coming Ramadan, rejecting the government's restrictions allowing only five worshipers in prayers three weeks back, but said mosques would observe all government SoPs and take precautionary measures. At a press conference, Mufti Taqi Usmani, Mufti Munibur Rehman and others said the government's ban on mosque prayers were unjustified as crowds violating SoPs were seen everywhere, especially in markets, ration distributions and political meetings. They urged people coming to mosques to observe precautions, including practicing social distancing, use sanitisers, wear masks and perform ablution at homes. They said mosques would remove carpets, clean floors, and ensure sanitizers and soaps available. They said by arresting prayer leaders and lodging FIRs against them, the government violated its agreement with the clerics, demanded immediate release and quashing of cases.

[April 15, 2020](#)

US President Donald Trump announced halting its share of \$400 m annual funding to the World Health Organization (to its \$4.8 billion budget), accusing the world body of severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus, bungling the response and failing to accurately assess and timely communicate the disease's threat in China which would have contained it "with very little deaths". Trumps' move was seen as an attempt to deflect scrutiny of his own administration's slow response to the outbreak. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, it was unwise and untimely since WHO's role was vital in the fight against the virus.

[April 17, 2020](#)

COVID-19 cases witnessed a sharp increase as 497 were reported in 24 hours, and rose to 7,404, while 11 died during the last 24 hours which took the death toll to 138. Out of total 7,404 cases, Sindh has 2,217, Punjab 3,391, KP 993, Balochistan 351, Islamabad 154, Gilgit-Baltistan 250 and AJK 48. Out of total 138 deaths, KP reported 45, Sindh 47, Balochistan 5, Gilgit-Baltistan 3, Punjab 37 and Islamabad one death.

Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al al-Sheikh warned that Taraweeh prayers during Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr should be performed at home if the coronavirus outbreak continues. Saudi Arabia in mid-March stopped people performing regular and Friday prayers inside mosques. The kingdom has 6,380 cases of COVID-19, and 83 deaths so far.

[April 18, 2020](#)

Government conditionally lifted a ban on congregation prayers in mosques, provided strict SoPs and social distancing observed in the coming Ramadan. A meeting of scholars from all schools of thought and government ministers chaired by president Arif Alvi at the President House agreed on a 20-point code of conduct for opening mosques and allowing Taraweeh prayers in Ramadan.

[April 19, 2020](#)

Coronavirus deaths in Pakistan rose to 169 with record 24 new deaths in a day, as the number of infections reached 8,411. Out of total cases, Punjab has 3,822, Sindh 2,537, KP 1,137, Balochistan 432, Islamabad 171, Gilgit-Baltistan 263 and Azad Kashmir 49. So far 56 people died in Sindh, 41 in Punjab, 60 in KP, 2 in Islamabad, 5 in Balochistan and 3 in GB.

Saudi Arabia's top council of religious clergy urged the Muslims worldwide to pray at home during Ramadan if their countries required social distancing to combat coronavirus. Saudi Grand Mufti Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Aal-e-Sheikh had appealed Muslims to offer Taraweeh and Eid prayers at home if the coronavirus situation continued.

[April 20, 2020](#)

Crude oil prices crashed below \$0 for the first time in history, amid a coronavirus-induced surplus supply, recording a stunning minus \$37.63 a barrel as desperate traders paid to get rid of oil after the world was left with practically no storage capacity. Refiners processing far below than normal, so hundreds of millions of barrels were stocked into storage facilities worldwide. Traders have hired vessels just to anchor them and fill them with the excess oil. A record 160 million barrels is sitting in tankers around the world.

[April 21, 2020](#)

Saudi religious authorities cut down Taraweeh prayers at Holy Kaaba and Masjid Nabawi Makkah to 10 Rakaat instead of regular 20 in the holy month of Ramadan performed by only the staff without public attendance, under persisting coronavirus fears. Head of the Two Holy Mosques, Sheikh Dr. Abdurrahman bin Abdulaziz Al Sudais, said Aitikaf had been cancelled at both the mosques, while Umrah pilgrimage will remain suspended until further notice.

COVID-19 cases in Pakistan approached 10,000, as they rose to 9,739 with the death toll reaching 209. Total cases in Sindh are 3,053, Punjab 4,328, KP 1,345, Balochistan 495, Islamabad 185, Gilgit-Baltistan 283 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 50. Death toll in KP is 80, Sindh 66, Balochistan 6, Gilgit-Baltistan 3, Punjab 51, and three in Islamabad.

[April 23, 2020](#)

Following attacks on 5G internet towers in European countries and China spurred by social media calls, Twitter announced removing comments calling to destroy 5G internet towers, backing a conspiracy theory that linked 5G to the coronavirus spread. Twitter said it broadened policy to remove unverified claims inciting harmful activity, to the destruction or damage of critical 5G infrastructure, or to widespread panic, social unrest, or large-scale disorder.

[April 24, 2020](#)

About 1.8 b Muslims across the world began a bleak month of Ramadan fasting under COVID-19 pandemic locked down, with cancelled iftar feasts, suspended mosque prayers and festive shopping and charities, dampening Ramazan spirit like never before in history. In majority of Muslim countries, particularly in Saudia Arabia, grand religious authorities had banned or drastically curtailed congregational taraweeh night prayers, urging believers to perform them at home, and warning that Eid congregation could also be cancelled if threat persisted.

As coronavirus cases rose to 11,700 with deaths rising to 248, government extended the lockdown to May 9, mid of Ramadan,

April 25, 2020

Saudi Kingdom abolished flogging as a form of punishment, to be replaced by prison sentences or fines, or a mixture of both. Country's top court, General Commission for the Supreme Court, announced the decision was "an extension of the human rights reforms introduced under the direction of King Salman and the direct supervision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman." Awwad Alwwad, president of the Kingdom's Human Rights Commission, said "This reform is a momentous step forward in Saudi Arabia's human rights agenda, and merely one of the many recent reforms in the Kingdom."

As the death toll from coronavirus crossed 200,000, infecting over 2.8 million, leaving half of humanity locked down, an effective cure is still far off despite the UN pushing the world to speed up vaccine development. The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that recovering from coronavirus may not protect people against re-infection. WHO also warned western governments starting to ease lockdown restrictions after the daily death toll seems to be falling, a sign hopeful epidemiologists had been looking for. WHO said it risked a second wave of infections. The United States is the hardest-hit country with 53,000 deaths and over 900,000 infections. Europe is the continent hardest hit with 1,249,334 cases and 119,621 deaths, more than three quarters of those deaths in Italy, France, Spain and Britain. Italy tops the death list with 26,334 followed by Spain 22,902, France 22,245 and Britain 20,319. In Asia Iran is the worst hit with 5,650 deaths.

April 26, 2020

After flogging, Saudi kingdom also abolished death punishment for accused under 18 years. It also applied to those who were minors (below 18 in Saudi law) when they committed crimes. Instead, the minor accused will receive a prison sentence of no longer than 10 years in a juvenile detention facility. Human Rights Commission president Awwad Alawwad, citing the royal decree said, the change helped the Kingdom in establishing a more modern penal code.

As the graph of daily coronavirus deaths slowed down or levelled in some hard-hit western countries like US, France, Italy, Spain, Saudi Arabia, governments began easing lockdown measures to slowly reopen economies after nearly two months to avoid a sudden rush back to normal life -- and the risk of a second wave of infections -- amid warnings from the World Health Organisation that recovered people might not be immune to reinfection. Spain let children out to play and ride bicycles in parks and streets, while Italy eased restrictions but said schools would reopen in September. Business in some European countries could be reopened next week with new SoPs, Saudi Arabia lifted a 24-hour curfew for a few hours in many cities except the holy city of Makkah.

The Pakistani government declared the persistence of coronavirus till June, after which it would be controlled. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr Zafar Mirza, said Europe and America are likely to control the pandemic till May as some stability at the global level was appearing.

April 28, 2020

After many Arabian countries raised concerns over Muslim persecution in India, including Oman, UAE and Kuwait, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has reentered India into the list of countries persecuting religious minorities and violating religious freedoms, recommending Washington to impose targeted sanctions by freezing those individuals' assets and barring their entry into the United States under human rights-related financial and visa authorities. The USCIRF annual report put India in the list of 13 countries of "particular concern" citing Modi government's policies and discriminatory laws against Muslim population. It said India has the worst and most alarming violations in religious freedoms, citing "The Citizenship (Amendment) Act in India that put millions of Muslims to detention, deportation, and statelessness when the government completes its planned nationwide National Register of Citizens." The USCIRF Commissioner appreciated Pakistan's efforts saying, Islamabad has been willing to engage in dialogue about how religious freedom concerns can be addressed."

China accused the US army again for planting coronavirus in Wuhan under cover of military games there weeks before the pandemic began. Western media cited Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian alleging that COVID-19 was created in US military lab, and a US Army reservist Maatje Benassi was the patient zero, who brought the virus registering as a cyclist in military world games in Wuhan and left after becoming wounded in a crash.

April 30, 2020

Tens of thousands of people rallied in major US cities protesting against the extended lockdown in the wake of coronavirus, calling it unjustified and unnecessary, demanding immediate reopening of businesses.

Prime Minister Imran Khan hinted his helplessness in the country's decision making by saying that the elite decided to impose lockdown after the coronavirus pandemic without thinking of the starvation of the poor. He said Indian PM Modi proved himself cowardly when he locked down entire India at once, forcing millions to starvation. His statement, while addressing a ceremony at Comstech to receive a consignment of ventilators and related medical equipment, came at a time when he had already taken several U-turns in favor of or opposing the lockdown in the country.

## EVENT OF MAY,2020

### May 2, 2020

As the US-Taliban peace deal is in doldrums with the continued violence and Kabul's refusal to release Taliban prisoners, the US military in Afghanistan warned both Taliban and Kabul regime to "return to the political path" or face a tough response. In a rare open letter addressed to Taliban, US Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Colonel Sonny Leggett demanded all sides must sit down now to evolve future political peace. In a short reply on Twitter, Taliban Zabihullah Mujahid scolded the US for making "provocative statements", saying "We are committed to our end, you honor your own obligations."

After the anti-lockdown protests spread to major cities, more US states eased coronavirus lockdowns despite another spike in deaths, as US president Trump approved an experimental drug for emergency use on coronavirus patients. The drug Remdesivir, an antiviral drug initially developed to treat Ebola, was approved after a major trial found that it boosted recovery in serious COVID-19 patients. It incorporates itself into the virus's genome, short-circuiting its replication process.

An emergency field hospital erected in New York's Central Park to treat COVID-19 patients has been closed, as the Samaritan's Purse, a US-based Christian global relief agency running it announced coronavirus cases continued to decline in the city.

### May 3, 2020

Tanzanian President John Magufuli suspected a "dirty game" in coronavirus testing, casting doubts over the figures shown on media, saying he had secretly tested a variety of animals, fruits and vehicle oil samples, including a papaya, a quail and a goat which proved "positive". A chemistry graduate himself, the president ordered authorities to investigate "sabotage" at the national laboratory after virus cases multiplied several times within days, saying the imported reagents could be programmed and technicians could have been bought to mislead, and the people tested positive may not be sick at all.

With 20 deaths in 24 hours, the death toll of coronavirus in Pakistan reached 462 and total cases rose to 20,134. Sindh reported 7,465 cases, Punjab 7,494, KP 3,129, Balochistan 1,218, Islamabad 393, Gilgit-Baltistan 364 and AJK 71. KP reported 180 deaths, Sindh 130, Balochistan 21, Gilgit-Baltistan 3, Punjab 121, and Islamabad 4.

As the coronavirus pandemic showed signs of slowing down, Europe prepared for a further cautious easing of lockdown restrictions, as hard-hit Italy with the second highest number of deaths made preparations to follow Spain in allowing people outside after a two-month lockdown, to stroll in parks and visit relatives.

May 4, 2020

The World Health Organisation (WHO) again denied the claims of US president Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that COVID-19 originated from a Chinese lab in Wuhan city, saying Washington had provided no evidence or data to support its "speculative" claims. WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said in the absence of evidence this claim remains speculative.

The Supreme Court questioned the lack of transparency and harmony in PTI government's measures for controlling the coronavirus, and directed the government to formulate a unified policy across the country. A full bench headed by chief justice Gulzar Ahmad hearing a suo motu notice said that the lack of coordinated policy was the reason the federal government failed to deliver.

May 5, 2020

The 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography was awarded to three Associated Press photographers based in Indian held Kashmir, Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand who opened a window into the iron-curtain valley showing the world everyday life under Indian occupation army, finding ways to sneak their pictures out of the unprecedented lockdown, suspension of internet and phone service under the longest sweeping curfew in history. They recalled risking their lives, snaking around roadblocks, sometimes taking cover in strangers' homes and hiding cameras in vegetable bags, capturing images of protests, police and army action and the daily life of captive people. They hang around at the airport to persuade travelers to carry the photo files out with them to the AP's office in New Delhi. "It was always cat-and-mouse," they recalled.



May 6, 2020

Hundreds of celebrities, stars, scientists and Nobel Laureates demanded radical changes in the world to reverse the unbridled pursuit of profits and consumerism killing the life and ecosystem, rather than "a return to normal" after the coronavirus lockdowns. In an open letter that was published in the French daily Le Monde, was signed by a variety of Hollywood stars, such as Madonna, Robert de Niro, Cate Blanchett, Jane Fonda, Marion Cotillard and Monica Bellucci, besides noted scientists and Nobel laureates including peace prize winner Muhammad Yunus. They warned that this tragic pandemic was a chance for humanity to "mend its ways". It said "the ongoing ecological catastrophe is a meta-crisis, demanding not mere adjustments but systemic changes, a profound overhaul of our goals, values, and radical transformation of economies to help save the planet. "Unlike a pandemic, a global ecological collapse will have immeasurable consequences," it said. "Blind obsession with consumerism and productivity have led the world to deny the value of life itself, causing pollution, climate change, and the destruction of the planet itself, it said.

May 7, 2020

Despite that death toll of coronavirus touching 600 and affecting nearing 25,000, the Pakistani government decided to substantially ease the lockdown from May 9 after consensus with the provinces. It was announced that the shopping malls, mega stores, restaurants, hotels, marriage halls, cinema halls, automobile manufacturers, inter-intra-city transport, trains will remain shut. Ban on concerts, public rallies, sport events will continue, while educational institutions will be closed till July 15 as all board exams of classes 9th to 12th were canceled.

May 8, 2020

With the addition of record 1,791 new cases in a day, Pakistan dropped two points in global ranking in respect to COVID-19, from 24th to 22nd after having 26,806 total cases and 622 deaths, as PTI government set to lift lockdown restrictions substantially to help restore businesses and industry. Sindh reported 9,691 cases 176 deaths, Punjab 10,033 cases 194 deaths, KP 4,327 cases 221 deaths, Balochistan 1,725 cases 24 deaths, Islamabad 558 cases 4 deaths, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) 394 cases 3 deaths and Azad Kashmir (AJK) 78 cases.

May 9, 2020

United States prevented the voting on a UN Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in various conflicts around the world to help troubled nations better fight the coronavirus pandemic, after agreeing to its text a day earlier. The State Department spokesperson said Washington was concerned that China would use this resolution to advance false narratives about its response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

May 10, 2020

Countries easing lockdowns complained of re-emergence of COVID-19 as many countries registered a sharp surge in infections. China too reported the first case in Wuhan after more than a month following lockdown lift. Asian countries registering rise in COVID-19 cases fear a re-emergence, while the European and US authorities struggled to control and calm down the anti-lockdown protests.

May 11, 2020

As the Pakistani government allowed partial reopening of markets after nearly six weeks of lockdown, desperate people thronged the markets in a near mad rush with no care for SOPs and masks protection, raising concerns for a faster spread of coronavirus.

Russia surpassed Italy to become the country with the third highest coronavirus cases (221,344), behind the US and Spain.

As the FBI formally accused Chinese hackers of trying to steal the research of developing coronavirus vaccine, both countries also engaged in a diplomatic war over restricting the visas and expelling each other's journalists. Following Washington's curtailing Chinese journalists visas to a maximum of 90 days, against the usual practice of according to the length of their deployment, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman warned of a similar move in coming days if the decision was not reversed.

May 12, 2020

With reopening of schools not in sight in the near future despite closure since two months, Sindh government announced promoting students of class I to VIII to next grades without exams, but allowing schools to take exams of key subjects afterwards. The decision to promote students of class IX and X will be taken by a special committee in consultation with the representatives of public and private examination boards, to be approved by the government.

The US Supreme Court took up the most politically charged case of the year — President Donald Trump's refusal to turn over his tax returns and financial records to Congress and a New York prosecutor, a case that may define the limits of presidential immunity. The judges confined at home by the novel coronavirus pandemic will question lawyers for both sides by telephone to be broadcast live.

May 13, 2020

After two days of frantic shopping without SOPs, Sindh government sealed several markets for not observing SOPs, and announced that a fine of maximum one million rupees could be imposed on violators. The traders protested against the administration, complaining they had been deprived of buyers with Eid just round the corner.

Dubai, the hub of UAE business and tourism, reopened public parks, private beaches with physical distancing SOPs, after nearly two months of coronavirus restrictions. Earlier, on April 24, Dubai eased a full curfew to eight hours at night, and allowed dine-in restaurants and shopping malls to reopen within a limited capacity. Mosques, cinemas, public beaches and nightclubs were kept closed.

May 14, 2020

Government announced promoting students of class 9 and 11 without exams, while results of students of classes 10 and 12 would be evaluated on the basis of marks obtained in classes 9 and 11, provided the students had cleared all the subjects, and these students would be awarded three per cent extra marks. Special exams would be held between September and November for students of four categories; (i) those students wishing to improve class 11 results in class 12, (ii) those students who were to appear for composite exams this year, (iii) those students who wish to improve their results in a few subjects, (iv) those students who fail in more than 40 per cent subjects in class 11. These students must inform their boards by July 1.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) cited a study that coronavirus may never go away and populations will have to learn to live with it just as they have with HIV. Besides, a US immunologist Dr Rick Bright who was dismissed from state service after he had warned Trump admin was not taking necessary measures to prevent coronavirus spread several months ago, again warned about the US having the darkest winter in modern history if the Trump administration didn't take preventive measures against rebound of the virus. The US Federal Reserve also made gloomy forecasts against the prolonged shutdowns to stem the virus spread, saying it could cause lasting economic damage to the country.

May 15, 2020

As the total coronavirus cases reached 38,741 and death toll 834, Prime Minister Imran Khan warned that worldwide health experts believed vaccine cure could take another year to be found and that the nation would have to learn to live with the virus until at least the year end. He requested the provinces to open public transport for providing relief and livelihood opportunities to the people.

As the UK struggled to gradually reopen after lockdown, London mayor Sadiq Khan announced banishing cars from streets in Central London, making it a car-free zone to encourage more walking and cycling and help public transport cope with social distancing restrictions.

May 16, 2020

While the public protests started fading away in Europe as the lockdown restrictions were eased, the protestors increased in Germany against tough lockdown measures or a purported vaccination of the world plan by Bill Gates and the likely cut in civil liberties. The growing wave of demonstrations saw tens of thousands in major cities, displaying anger against the policies of chancellor Angela Merkel.

May 17, 2020

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani signed a power-sharing deal with his arch political rival Dr Abdullah Abdullah to end a four month political crisis that had been allowing Taliban to gain more political ground following their peace deal with the US. Abdullah who had declared him a parallel president after a swearing in ceremony in March, the day Ghani was sworn in as president, will now lead the National Reconciliation High Commission and members of his team will be included in the cabinet.

May 18, 2020

The Supreme Court ordered reopening of shopping malls and markets for the whole week all-over the country, overruling the decision of the National Coordination Committee for maintaining complete lockdown on Saturday and Sunday except for essential services. Hearing a suo moto case regarding combating the coronavirus pandemic, a full bench termed it against the fundamental rights, warning that closure of markets for long would cause a human disaster as reviving industry would become difficult and millions of workers could starve.

May 19, 2020

After India annoyed Nepal last month, ignoring its protests against an 80-kilometre road Delhi built in Uttarakhand state leading up to Lipu Lekh pass disputed between the two countries, Nepal took a tougher stance and drew a new political map that included strategically important territories of Lipu Lekh pass and zones in Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, comprising over 300 square kilometres, and considered important because it is where the Nepalese and Indian borders touch China. Nepal claimed the Kalapani region adjoining Lipu Lekh pass, even though Indian troops had been deployed there since India and China fought a border war in 1962, and both India and Nepal had shown Kalapani and Lipu Lekh in their political maps.

May 20, 2020

Addressing an online session of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Prime Minister Imran Khan demanded the developed countries to provide debt relief to poorer nations struggling against the coronavirus crisis that had crushed their economies.

May 21, 2020

PM Imran Khan's government faced another political crisis after he allowed making public the forensic report on the sugar crisis that also held responsible the sugar mills of his close aide Jahangir Tareen and allied partner from PML-Q Moonis Elahi, Omar Sheharyar, Omni Group and Sharif Group of committing corporate frauds of billions of rupees. The forensic report uncovers the gross misconduct by the sugar industry in the form of under-reported sugar sales, sales to unnamed buyers, double booking, over-invoicing, under-invoiced sale of bagasse and molasses causing cost inflation and many other corporate frauds were detected in the transactions of sugar mills.

Saudi Arabia was hit by social media criticism after two Ramazan television drama series on Saudi-controlled network stirred controversy as they tested public perceptions of quietly normalizing relations with Zionist state of Israel. Riyadh had already been accused in the recent past of quietly pursuing furtively built relations on the basis of shared animosity towards Iran like some other Arab states, but the TV shows fuelled speculation that Riyadh was on the verge of openly normalising closer ties with Israel, as one of the Saudi characters in the shows justifies establishing trade ties with Israel, arguing that Palestinians are the real "enemy" for insulting the kingdom "day and night" despite decades of financial support.

May 22, 2020

In a major aviation disaster, a PIA airbus crashed over a densely populated area of Model Colony adjacent to Karachi airport, killing at least 97 on board and several residents. The plane coming from Lahore crashed on the houses a few seconds before touchdown in its second attempt to land after the landing gears could not open in the first. Two lucky passengers survived, including the president of Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masud.

The sons of noted journalist and tough critic of Saudi regime, Jamal Khashoggi, who was killed and had his body dismembered in Saudi consulate in Istanbul in Oct 2018, announced forgiving the killers of their father, a move that can potentially grant leniency to five convicted officials of Saudi intelligence facing death penalty. Khashoggi's murder tarnished the reputation of de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who was believed to have ordered the killing. .

The Pakistan Army sent a gift of a large number of N-95 masks and medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against the coronavirus to the US Army as a gesture of solidarity with the US. 100,000 masks and 25,000 PPEs were transported by a C-130 plane from Islamabad to Andrews Air Force Base Maryland.

May 23, 2020

Only two survived in PIA airbus that crashed the previous day on houses, killing 97 on board, while dozens of residents were wounded besides suffering loss of property, as search for more survivors ended. Initial inquiry put the blame on the pilot who failed to inform about the fault in landing gears.

May 25, 2020

WHO warned of a second wave hitting the countries where coronavirus infections were declining, and they could still face an "immediate second peak" if they let up preventive measures soon. WHO emergencies head, Dr Mike Ryan, told a briefing that the world was still in the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak, and cases are declining in many European countries but still increasing in Central and South America, South Asia and Africa, as the total cases went past 5.6 million and total deaths reached over 350,000.

May 26, 2020

Delhi's construction of new roads and air strips in the disputed border area with China in Galwan valley in Ladakh region, in an attempt to compete with Beijing's spreading Belt and Road Initiative, pushed both the countries on the verge of an armed clash after hundreds of soldiers positioned in tents and trenches on both sides of border accusing each other of trespassing the territory where they had fought a war in 1962.

May 27, 2020

Thousands of black Americans protested in Minneapolis after a video went viral showing four white policemen pinning a handcuffed black man kneeling on his neck for several minutes despite his pleading "I cant breath, I cant breath" and ultimately choking him to death by ignoring his pleas. The victim named George Floyd was suspected of giving a fake \$ 20 note to a shopkeeper, which was later found out to be a false alarm, was shown being arrested, handcuffed and laid on the road with a policeman kneeling on his neck. Minneapolis mayor, Jacob Frey, sacked the four officers, after protestors spread in city holding signs saying "Justice for George Floyd" and "Black Lives Matter", and he ignored the calls for them to be prosecuted for murder.

May 28, 2020

US Congress authorized sanctions against China for massive human rights violations of Uighur Muslims, accusing Beijing of "state-sponsored cultural genocide" by keeping one million of Uighurs and other Turkish Muslims in Xinjiang region incarcerated in concentration camps in a huge brainwashing campaign with few modern parallels.

Protests in the US city Minneapolis against the police killing of George Floyd grew larger on the second day as thousands of demonstrators clashed with police, looted stores and set fires while police fatally shot a man, fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the angry protestors. UN HR chief Michelle Bachelet voiced alarm, demanding the US authorities to take "serious action" to put an end to police killings of unarmed African Americans, saying the latest was in a long line of killings of unarmed African Americans by US police officers and white supremacists.

Former Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, was sacked from the Malay-centric party co-founded by him and led to victory in the 2018 general election. The 94-year-old leader immediately challenged the move, and along with four key allies in the Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) released a statement saying they refused the sacking. Making a countermove, they sacked the party's working secretary for sending out the termination letters. The drama occurred amid speculation that Mahathir had managed to garner enough support from MPs in the 222-seat legislature to make a dramatic return to the prime ministership for the third time, after his shock removal from power in February.



May 29, 2020

The Coronavirus epidemic surged rapidly in Pakistan as the death of 96 patients on a single day marked the deadliest day so far in the epidemic as 2,363 cases were reported. Four doctors were among the 96 new deaths, 29 of them were in Punjab, 31 in Sindh, 13 in KP, 4 in Islamabad and 19 in Balochistan.

Black Lives Matter protests starting from Minneapolis spread to many other US cities as thousands of protestors looted shops, set fire to police stations and vehicles, while police in Kentucky shot seven protestors, as riots spread beyond Minnesota, to Denver, Colorado and Phoenix. The Kentucky protests were held over the death of a black woman Breonna Taylor who was shot after police entered her home in March. President Trump added fuel to the fire with his tweet saying "These THUGS are dishonouring the memory of George Floyd and I won't let that happen."

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order, removing some of the legal protections given to social media platforms, just days after Twitter termed his two tweets as potentially misleading and violated the terms about glorifying violence, and subjected them to fact check. Trump has regularly accused platforms such as Twitter and Facebook of monopolising the opinions and stifling conservative voices, and having "unchecked power" to censure and edit the views of users. He accused Twitter of election interference after it added a warning label to the tweets about claims of widespread fraud in mail-in voting - also known as postal votes. Twitter and other social media platforms strongly condemned the executive order.

May 30, 2020

Rapidly spreading coronavirus began getting out of control in the country that saw over 90 patients dying for the last few days, jumping the death toll to 1,443, and total cases to 68,301. Of the total cases, Sindh has 27,360, Punjab 24,104, Balochistan 4,193, KP 9,540, Gilgit Baltistan 678, Islamabad 2,192 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 234. KP reported 453 deaths, Punjab 439, Sindh 427, Balochistan 46, Gilgit-Baltistan 11, Islamabad 23, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 6.

May 31, 2020

Curfews, hundreds of arrests and continuous patrolling by US National Guards failed to quell the rioting, arsoning and clashes with police, as thousands of protestors took to streets under Black Lives Matters. Violence spread to dozens of US cities, bringing the country to a civil war like situation. Police fired rubber bullets in many cities to control the mobs including New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Denver, Cincinnati, Portland, Oregon, Chicago, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Cleveland, and Dallas, Louisville, Kentucky.

## Events of June, 2020

### June 1, 2020

US authorities clamped night time curfew in many cities and deployed national guards on major installations as anti-racism protests and riots spread to over 40 main cities including Washington where police fired teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd outside White House and pushed president Trump to take shelter in an underground place. Trump ordered states to crack down on the protesters, crushing the goons' mobs vandalising and looting, and privately warned the governors if they did not dominate the domestic terrorists they would run over them. Protests against US police brutality and racist killings also spread around the world as people gathered in several cities in Europe, Africa, and New Zealand to express solidarity with Black Americans.

### June 2, 2020

Pakistan set a record number of 3,938 new coronavirus cases in a single day with 79 deaths including Sindh Minister for Human Settlement Ghulam Murtaza Baloch and MMA MNA Munir Khan Orakzai. Total cases reached to 78,290 and death toll to 1,653. Of the total 1,653 deaths, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 490, Punjab 540, Sindh 526, Balochistan 49, Gilgit-Baltistan 12, Islamabad 30 and AJK six.

While the violence against racist police attitudes spread across US cities, several Democrat Governors rejected President Trump's calls to deploy the military to control the rioting. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, Washington governor Jay Inslee, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, Oregon governor Kate Brown, California governor Gavin Newsom, etc have snubbed Trump for his remarks against the protesters calling them incendiary and provocative, and said Trump repeatedly proved his incapability of governing and showing nothing but false bravado throughout the chaos.

June 3, 2020

A curfew was imposed in several US cities including the financial capital New York and political capital Washington as Black Lives Matters (BLM) riots, protests and looting gained momentum and spread to over hundred cities, and dozens of world capitals in Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. Thousands of protesters across the United States defied curfews for rallies against police racism

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was left isolated after his continued refusal to take action or sanction many posts by US president Trump which were dubbed as inflammatory and provoking racial violence and bias. Several Facebook engineers and key officials resigned calling him supporters of racialism and his rivals including Twitter, Snapchat etc. gained valuable popularity in a highly charged environment by condemning president Trump's social media outbursts as radicalizing the US society in which he dubbed the protesters as terrorists and looters, and threatened them with use of state force including direct shooting.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper and Pentagon Joint Chiefs Chairman General Mark Milley came under strong criticism for ordering troops deployment and using excessive teargas, smoke bombs and pepper balls that release painful chemical irritants to disperse thousands of peaceful protesters outside Washington's St. John's Church to clear the way for President Donald Trump's visit so that he could pose with a Bible for photographs.

Pope Francis termed the systematic racism in the US society and police brutality against black people "intolerable" but he also condemned the violence in the US that followed George Floyd's killing by white policemen, calling it "self-destructive and self-defeating". Similar warning was issued by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, against "structural racism" in the United States, and voiced alarm at the "unprecedented assault"

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June 4, 2020

Facebook began labelling news publishers and media organizations either state-controlled or whose editorial policy might be influenced by governments and said ads from those outlets would be blocked later this year. Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, Nathaniel Gleicher, said people should know if the news they read is coming from a publication that may be under the influence of a government. Such news would be blocked before the US presidential election in November "to provide an extra layer of protection against various types of foreign influence in the public debate.

Veteran US military commanders continued to condemn President Trump over his use of the military for suppressing BLM protests, warning it could be ushering America into illiberalism and possible disunion of the country. Retired Marine General and former Nato commander, John Allen, criticized President Trump's use of the US military on tear gassing protesters outside the White House and church photo shoot "may well signal the beginning of the end of American experiment and slide into illiberalism. Remember the date June 1, 2020."

on journalists covering protests across the country. She demanded that police killings of unarmed black Americans must be stopped and their grievances be addressed if the country was to move forward.

President Donald Trump denied media reports that his security had to rush him to the White House bunker for safety when protests raged outside White House and in the streets of Washington. He called the report false but said he did go into the secure area only for a "tiny, little, short period" only during the day, and not in the night when protests were held.

Russia laid out its rules for resorting to nuclear weapons as part of its new military doctrine in the face of war of dangers posing existential threats, as she struggled to make the United States renew the longstanding limits on arsenals. President Vladimir Putin approved the document outlining four scenarios in which Moscow would order the use of nuclear weapons, ranging from direct attacks to terrorism, two of them new and involving potential instances of nuclear first-use. The established protocol permits use when an enemy uses nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction on Russia or its allies, and in situations when conventional weapons "threaten the very existence of the country."

Taking his ongoing feud with China over who made and caused coronavirus outbreak a step further, US President Trump ordered suspending all flights by Chinese airlines into and out of the country from June 16 after Beijing failed to allow American carriers to resume services to China suspended in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, calling it a violation of Air Transport Agreement.

June 5, 2020

China criticised Facebook for unfairly targeting its biggest media companies attaching disclaimers to pages run by the country's state-controlled news outlets. Pages managed by news agency Xinhua and the fiery nationalist tabloid Global Times were labelled as "China state-controlled media", after a policy change by Facebook, which said it will add similar labels to pages and advertisements run by media outlets subject to editorial influence and financial backing by governments, including Russian state broadcaster RT.

June 7, 2020

President Donald Trump requested the Defence Department to deploy 10,000 troops in Washington D.C. to halt civil unrest over the police killing of a black man, US media reported. Trump demanded deploying active duty troops during a heated Oval Office meeting, but Pentagon leadership including Defense Secretary Mark Esper, chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, and Attorney General William Barr advised him against it.

Angry anti-racism protesters in the US tore down the statue of Christopher Columbus, the 15th century voyager who discovered the American continent. In Britain, protesters tore down the statue of an 18 century slave trader Edward Colston in the city of Bristol and threw it in the harbour. The statue of former British PM Churchill in Central London was also defaced with color and ink, along with inscribing "racist" all over.

June 8, 2020

New Zealand was declared coronavirus free, hence lifting domestic restrictions after its last COVID-19 patient out of total 1154 (with 22 deaths over the last three months) was sent home. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she danced around her living room on the news, saying strict border controls will remain in place but social distancing and limits on public gatherings were no longer needed.

June 11, 2020

Following threats to leave the World Health Organization (WHO) over alleged failure to forewarn and prevent coronavirus pandemic, US President Donald Trump openly confronted another world body, the International Criminal Court (ICC), and issued an executive order authorizing US sanctions against ICC employees involved in an investigation into whether American forces and CIA personnel committed war crimes in Afghanistan over the last two decades. A senior Trump administration official criticized ICC for having dubious integrity and accused Russia of manipulating the issue, and said the assets of the ICC employees in the United States involved in the probe and their entry into the US would be blocked. The US which has never been a member of the ICC imposed travel restrictions and other sanctions against ICC employees last year.

June 13, 2020

Thousands of Black Lives Matter protesters swarmed across the UK, France, Germany and other European cities besides Australia, and clashed with the police which prevented them from clashing with the far right groups shouting racial slurs upon them. Mayor of London and other European cities took measures for preventing the felling of the centuries old statues of nationalist and colonial leaders which have been the target of anti-racism protests over the last few weeks.

June 14, 2020

Pakistan witnessed 242 percent increase in deaths due to coronavirus over the past 30 days, jumping the number from 770 to 2632, while the confirmed cases reached 150,000, said the Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar. He feared the total cases could rise to over 300,000 in the next 15 days and could reach 1.2 million after the next 45 days if strict action was not taken against the violators of SOPs.

The anti-racism protests in the US, which appeared to be losing steam, received a fresh stimulus across many cities in the US after a white policeman city of Atlanta shot down a black American, Rayshard Brooks, and the body of another black man found hanging from a tree outside a city hall in California. Atlanta's police chief resigned after the shooting down of Brooks.

June 15, 2020

The continuous protests against racism forced British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to announce a government commission to review into "all aspects of inequality", in employment, in health outcomes, in academic and all other walks of life," he wrote in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, but the opposition leaders accused him of using it to delay the real action on the matter.

June 16, 2020

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed by Chinese soldiers using batons and stones in a violent physical clash on the disputed border in Ladakh, the first casualty in 45 years at this disputed place. Indian officials said no shots were fired in the fight, while the casualties of Chinese side were not reported. Both the countries accused each other of violating the sanctity of border during the month long standoff.

Expectations from Saudi Arabia to cut down or cancel this year's Hajj pilgrimage for the first time in its modern history became prominent, as the kingdom was weighting the political and economic risks amidst the biggest coronavirus cases spike, while the time rather insufficient to organize logistics for the world's largest pilgrimage gathering featuring over 3 million people scheduled for the end of July. Muslim nations are pressing Riyadh to give its much-delayed decision. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, withdrew its citizens from Hajj, followed by Malaysia, Senegal and Singapore but Turkey and many countries with Muslim populations like Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon etc. are awaiting Riyadh's decision.

June 17, 2020

With its coronavirus death toll reaching 119,458, the US has seen more people die from the pandemic than killed in World War I (116,516) as the total cases soared up to 2,220,159, making it the hardest-hit country in the world, followed by Brazil with 45,585, Britain with 42,153, Italy with 34,448 and France with 29,547 fatalities. The pandemic has killed 448,103 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year.

June 18, 2020

Nepal's parliament approved the country's new map, including 372 square km (144 square miles) of disputed area controlled by the Indian army comprising the Limpiyadhura, Lipulkeh and Kalapani areas to the west of Nepal, strategically located at the tri-junction between Nepal, India and the Tibet region of China. India rejected the map saying it violated the historical facts. The Nepal-India dispute over the map began last month after India inaugurated an 80 km (50 mile) road from the northern state of Uttarakhand to Lipulekh on the border with the Tibet region, about 19 km of which passes through the area Nepal says belongs to it.

Pakistan became the 13th country with most coronavirus cases in the world, reporting over 163,189 infections and 3,165 deaths. The coronavirus pandemic has killed 453,586 people worldwide, as the United States on top with 120,290 followed by Brazil with 46,842, Britain with 42,288, Italy with 34,514 and France with 29,603 fatalities.

June 19, 2020

The UN's Human Rights Council, through a resolution, condemned systemic racism and discriminatory police brutality, demanding a report on "systemic racism", but removing the name of US which angered the rights groups who accused Washington and its allies in the council of wielding pressure to strip out any mention of the US. Council's 47 members approved by consensus a revised resolution, initially presented by African countries for an urgent council debate in the wake of George Floyd's killing in US police custody. The initial strongly-worded text last week had called for a high-level international investigation into police racism and violence against people of African descent in the US. Allies of the US, who had already withdrawn from the council in 2018, complained Washington to be singled out in the initial text, hailing the changes made to the text, stressing that racism was a global issue. Before the final revision was circulated, Human Rights Watch had said there was pressure to "strip all references to the United States from the resolution". Doing so, HRW Geneva chief John Fisher warned, "would transform it into an 'all lives matter' text, and risk making it so vague as to be meaningless".



June 22, 2020

Anti-racism protesters in the US and Europe continued to bring down the statues of those linked with colonialism and slavery as perturbed authorities find ways to save the historic monuments. A mob in Washington toppled and set aflame the only statue of a pro-slavery general, Albert Pike, an officer of the Confederate army, which opposed President Abraham Lincoln

*move → abolishslavery. Whi ≤ protesters ∈ Parissplashedredpa ∫ontwostatuesrelated → France*

s colonial era and slavery, one of Hubert Lyautey, France's minister of war during World War I, who served in Morocco, Algeria, Madagascar and Indochina when they were under French control, other was Voltaire, a leading thinker and writer of the French Enlightenment, who owed part of his fortune to colonial-era trade. Meanwhile, New York City announced it would remove a statue of former US President Theodore Roosevelt long criticized as a racist and colonialist symbol, to prevent any damage to it, but president Trump criticised the move. The bronze sculpture of Roosevelt, at the entrance of American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) for 80 years, depicts the former leader on horseback towering over a black man and a Native American man, both on foot.

Saudi Arabia announced that only the citizens and residents in the Kingdom will be allowed to perform this year's Haj, disallowing Muslims from outside to the pilgrimage, to ward off fears of spreading coronavirus. The Haj will be performed in a safe manner observing strict preventative measures and the necessary social distancing protocols.

June 23, 2020

The anti-racism protesters in the US initially focused on removing statues of Confederate generals, but the movement has begun to turn its focus to icons of US history, including the nation's founders, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, and President Theodore Roosevelt. Protesters attempted to pull down a statue of the seventh US president Andrew Jackson, the populist slaveholding soldier-president near the White House, spray-painting the word "killer" on the stone plinth and throwing ropes around it to pull down before police drove them away with pepper spray.

June 24, 2020

Aviation Minister, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, declared that the PIA plane crash in Karachi on May 22 was caused by the pilots' and Control Tower's error, as pilots were engaged in coronavirus discussion before crash while ATC did not inform them of the fire in the engines. The minister threw a bomb shell by announcing that over one third of PIA pilots had fake licences and a past inquiry found that out of 862 active pilots in the country, licences of 262 were fake and obtained through proxy exams, he said presenting preliminary inquiry report on plane crash in the parliament.

June 25, 2020

The shocking revelations of Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan that over one third PIA pilots having fake licences drew and global crisis and took the credibility of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the aviation licencing and regulatory which issues and renews pilots' licences every six months, and that of PIA crashing to the ground the world over. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) expressed serious concerns over CAA licencing and many countries are considering to ban PIA flights and to expel the former PIA pilots and aviation employees working abroad. PIA began suspending those pilots suspected of having fake licences despite that CAA has never formally notified such irregularity, and PIA chairman asked CAA to provide complete details and list of such pilots.

Greek Orthodox Church lost a battle in an Israeli court to overturn the controversial sale of some of its properties to Jewish settlers in annexed east Jerusalem in 2004 to three companies linked to the Ateret Cohanim settler organisation including two hotels near Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate and a residential building in the Old City's Muslim Quarter.

June 26, 2020

PTI Government received widespread criticism after it raised petrol price by a record 33 per cent, pushing it from Rs 75 to Rs 100.5 per liter, four days before the scheduled review of the prices at the start of the month, and against the advice of OGRA which had recommended a raise of 6-7 rupees. The controversial raise was followed by a month long scarcity of petrol as private oil marketing companies had stopped selling petrol when its price was reduced from Rs 82 to Rs 75 per liter, drawing serious public outcry as long queues of vehicles lined up at the state owned PSO petrol stations which was the only company selling the petrol.

June 27, 2020

As India began granting domicile certificates to non-residents in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the human rights groups and world leaders feared an imminent demographic change in the Muslim majority state that aimed at making it another Palestine. Pakistan strongly condemned the law under which Delhi has issued over 25,000 hindus Kashmir domiciles/citizenship certificates since May 18, the move followed scrapping of the semi-autonomous status of the region. The Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden said, "India should take all necessary steps to restore the rights of all the people of Kashmir." "Restrictions on dissent, such as peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the internet weakens democracy," in a policy statement.

June 28, 2020

Deaths of a christian father and son from alleged police torture in Indian state of Tamil Nadu sparked protests across India, with many drawing parallels with the police killing of black man George Floyd in the United States. The custodial deaths of J. Jayaraj, 58, and Bennicks Immanuel, 31, arrested on June 19 for keeping their store open past permitted hours of coronavirus lockdown puts Indian police brutality in limelight just weeks after the US and Europe witnessed violent protests following the killing of Floyd. Both died in hospital a few days later of multiple wounds and rectal bleeding sparking public protests and strikes by shopkeepers.

June 29, 2020

PIA and Pakistan became the cause of concern for the whole world as several countries grounded or dismissed Pakistani pilots and aircrew besides banning PIA flight operations for six months following the revelation they might have fake licences or degrees. Several Gulf states, most of the european and asian countries, the US and Australia ordered Pakistani pilots and engineers to be suspended till final decisions.

Four terrorists allegedly belonging to India-backed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) attacked Pakistan Stock Exchange (Karachi) but were killed within eight minutes by Sindh police personnels on duty, preventing a great economic disaster. One policeman and three guards of a private company were martyred while eight people including some passerby's received injuries.