# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR’S MESSAGE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMADAN MUBARAK</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR EXTENDS RAMADAN GREETINGS</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN DISCUSSES COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRUMP IN A TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US PLEDGES NEW FINANCIAL AID TO HELP PAKISTAN FIGHT VIRUS</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAKISTANI &amp; US RESEARCHERS COLLABORATE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMBASSY OUTREACH EFFORTS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTS A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL TO ADDRESS MEMBERS</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR JOINS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WITH PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR JOINS RECITAL HOSTED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR INTERACTS WITH RAND COOPERATION ADVISORY BOARD</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLICY (CAPP)</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR JOINS THE AMERICAN-PAKISTANI PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TELETHON FOR COVID-19 FUNDRAISING IN THE US</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMBASSADOR JOINS THE LAUNCH OF ‘FM DIRECT’ APP’</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR’S TWEETS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR EXTENDS EASTER GREETINGS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN’S EFFORTS AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN INTRODUCES EHSAAAS EMERGENCY CASH PROGRAM</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN CALLS FOR ‘GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DEBT RELIEF’</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN’S EFFORTS AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED IN US MEDIA</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNN HIGHLIGHTS PAKISTAN’S SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIME MINISTER’S APPEAL FOR DEBT RELIEF TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS – THE NEW YORK TIMES</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH OR WEALTH? NATIONS PRESSURED TO LOOSEN VIRUS RULES – THE WASHINGTON POST</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA OUTREACH</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR GIVES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO PTV WORLD</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR UPDATES SAMAA TV ABOUT EMBASSY EFFORTS DURING COVID-19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH VS. HUNGER: THE VIEW FROM AMBASSADOR’S INTERVIEW WITH AXIOS</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBASSADOR GIVES AN INTERVIEW TO THE WALL STREET JOURNAL</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KASHMIR DURING APRIL

Prime Minister Condemns India’s ‘Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020’  22
Pakistan Strongly Condemns Indian Government’s Continued Attempts to Illegally Change The Demographic Structure of IoJ&K  23
Organization of Islamic Cooperation Rejects India’s ‘Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020’  23
Organization of Islamic Cooperation Rejects Anti-Muslim Prejudice in India Over Coronavirus Spread  23
Congressman André Carson Condemns Draconian Restrictions in Kashmir  24
Pakistan Rejects Baseless Indian Allegations of ‘Infiltration Attempts’ Across the Line of Control  24
Indian Charge d’Affaires Summoned to Register Pakistan’s Strong Protest Over Ceasefire Violations by India  24

KASHMIR IN U.S. MEDIA

Slow Internet Is Speeding the Spread of the Coronavirus in Kashmir – Foreign Policy Magazine  25

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Director General Who Praises Pakistan’s Commitment to Establishing Temporary Isolations Units  27
IMF’s Approval for Emergency Funds Helps Boost Pakistan Stocks – Bloomberg  27
As a ‘Green Stimulus’ Pakistan Sets Virus-Idled to Work Planting Trees  27
Dear friends,

Let me once again extend my deepest condolences to all families who lost loved ones to the COVID-19 pandemic across the U.S., in particular, within the Pakistani American community. I pray for the early recovery of those who are sick as well as for everyone else’s safety from this deadly disease.

To express sympathy and solidarity over COVID-19 related deaths among U.S. based diaspora, the Foreign Minister held a first-ever “Virtual Town Hall” meeting with prominent members of the Pakistani American diaspora. He also shared the Government’s priorities and measures taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, my team in Washington, as well as our Consuls General across U.S., remain in close contact with over 1500 Pakistanis who remain stranded due to the closure of air traffic to Pakistan. I am grateful for their patience and want to assure them that we are working hard to ensure their safe return home. We have received U.S. government’s permission to operate PIA charter flights which are being planned during May.

I also want to salute our courageous healthcare professionals who are at the forefront of combating COVID-19, in hospitals and through resource mobilization. The Pakistani American community has also donated generously to food ration drives and for provision of protective medical equipment to local communities in the U.S. as well as through the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund and other charities in Pakistan.

On the U.S.- Pakistan front, Prime Minister Imran Khan’s telephone call with President Donald Trump was the highlight of the month. Both leaders exchanged views on dealing with COVID-19. Pakistan values U.S. support in combating COVID-19 (around US$ 10 million has been provided through USAID).

Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the Global Debt Relief Initiative, reaching out to world leaders and heads of the UN, World Bank, IMF and other agencies to seek debt relief for developing countries, including Pakistan. These nations face enormous economic challenges as a consequence of COVID-19.

At the World Bank-IMF Spring meetings, held in virtual format for the first time, the G-20 countries and governing boards of IMF and World Bank took decisions to provide temporary debt relief to developing countries that will enable them to divert vital resources towards healthcare and vulnerable populations.

In these exceptional times, the Embassy has maximized public outreach through technology by using videoconference, teleconference and other platforms. This month, I had the opportunity to address the RAND Corporation, interact with students from Harvard University and hold numerous interactive sessions with Pakistani American community organizations including APPNA, APPAC and others.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions on public gatherings, we could not hold our traditional Inter-faith Iftar this Ramadan, nor could we invite our Christian friends to celebrate Easter with us. These activities and other cultural programs will resume once the situation improves.

In the end, I wish to avail this opportunity to extend Ramadan greetings to all those who observe this holy month. May this month bring peace and spiritual blessing for humanity.

Dr. Asad Majeed Khan
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United States
AMBASSADOR EXTENDS RAMADAN GREETINGS

Wishing a spiritually blessed month of Ramadan to Muslims everywhere. May this be a month of peace, blessing & forgiveness! Lets pray for those who lost their lives to COVID-19 & for the quick recovery of those who are unwell.

تاريخ: 23 أبريل، 2020

أمين ممتعين باكستان كي سفير داكثر اسد مجيد خان كي رمضان المبارك كي بابكرت موقع بر

بمناسبةrim ممتعين باكستان كي سفير داكثر اسد مجيد خان كي رمضان المبارك كي آغاز بر إله

بمناسبةrim ممتعين باكستان كي سفير داكثر اسد مجيد خان كي رمضان المبارك كي مبارك بابريه بنيا بيه كي رمضان المبارك مبكر، مغرور اور نجات كا مهندسة كي داكثر اسد مجيد خان نه كيه كيجين جامبيه كي اس موقع بر مسب مل كر ان لوجون كي ليني بيه

داكثر اسد مجيد خان نه بيوه نير كيو كيو 19 كي وباء مين جان بحق بيوهن. داكثر اسد مجيد خان نه بيمار

كى جولد صحبتى كيه ليني دعا اور نيك تمتان كا اظبة بيه كيا.
Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation during which they discussed COVID-19 pandemic related challenges, its implications on global economy, and ways to mitigate its impact. They also exchanged views on regional issues and further strengthening of Pakistan-U.S. cooperation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed sympathies and condolences on the loss of so many precious lives in the U.S. due to coronavirus. He also highlighted Pakistan’s efforts to contain the spread of the virus. While thanking President Trump for the U.S. support in the IMF and other fora, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that it would provide necessary fiscal space to Pakistan and help in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more here.

The United States announced several new programs worth more than $8 million to assist Pakistan in stemming the spread of coronavirus nationwide and to care for afflicted people.

$9.4 million in new funding for Pakistan’s COVID-19 response includes $7 million in health assistance to help Pakistan strengthen monitoring and better prepare communities to identify potential outbreaks. In addition, $2.4 million in MRA humanitarian assistance will support COVID-19 response efforts for refugees in Pakistan. To bolster its national COVID-19 action plan, the United States has also redirected more than $1 million in existing funding for training of healthcare providers and other urgent needs.

Read more here.
Researchers in the U.S. and Pakistan are collaborating to stop the spread of #covid19. We applaud @NextStrain, @CIDIDteam in the U.S. & @Official_NUST in #Pakistan for their work using #opendata sharing to map the virus.

#Partners4Prosperity AGW

2:41 PM · 02/04/2020 · Twitter Web App
FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTS A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL TO ADDRESS MEMBERS OF PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN THE US

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a virtual town hall to address members of the Pakistani community in the US. Foreign Minister apprised the community regarding government efforts to repatriate Pakistanis stranded abroad during COVID-19 crisis. The session was also attended by Secretary Foreign Affairs Sohail Mahmood, Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan and embassy officers. The Foreign Minister thanked the community for supporting their homeland in any distressing moment and urged the members to extend all out assistance to the Pakistani students and other community members residing in the US.

Embassy of Pakistan and the four Consulates facilitated the video conference under directions of Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan in coordination with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Islamabad.
FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTS A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL TO ADDRESS MEMBERS OF PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN THE US (Continued)

FM reassured them that Govt. was fully aware of the hardship being faced by our overseas nationals and assured them of our utmost help.

Also paid tribute to the dedication of Pakistani doctors & health workers in Pakistan & abroad. 2/2

FM @SMQureshiPTI held virtual Town Hall meetings with Community in 🇺🇸 & 🇮🇳

He briefed community leaders on Pakistan's efforts to control the spread of #COVID—19 & assist our overseas nationals to return home safely. 1/2

@asadmk17 @ZakariaNafees
AMBASSADOR JOINS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS
EMBASSY OUTREACH EFFORTS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

AMBASSADOR JOINS RECITAL HOSTED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY PAKISTAN STUDENTS GROUP

AMBASSADOR INTERACTS WITH RAND COOPERATION ADVISORY BOARD OF CENTER FOR ASIA PACIFIC POLICY (CAPP)
AMBASSADOR JOINS THE AMERICAN-PAKISTANI PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TELETHON FOR COVID-19 FUNDRAISING IN THE US

AMBASSADOR JOINS THE LAUNCH OF ‘FM DIRECT’ APP

Delighted to join the launch of the digital communication App ‘FM Direct’ as part of Foreign Minister’s vision for digitization & enhanced e-governance at Foreign Office. This initiative will help ensure multi-stakeholder coordination particularly during the Covid-19 crisis.
AMBASSADOR’S TWEETS

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 13
Islamabad is sorting out the logistics with Qatar Airways. We will have clarity soon. Bottom line is that the decision to allow limited Qatar Airways flights is taken that would allow Pakistanis stranded in US to return. Modalities being worked out.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 30
The Ministry of Interior has further extended the validity of all types of visas issued to foreign nationals currently in Pakistan until June 30, 2020

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 9
In view of the current situation due to Covid-19, Govt of Pakistan has extended the validity until April 30, 2020 of all types of visas issued to foreign nationals currently in Pakistan that had expired since March 15, 2020.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 28
I warmly congratulate Syed Babar Ali @LIFEATLUMS for being elected as member of American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Recognized for his Business, Corporate, and Philanthropic Leadership, he is only 2nd Pakistani in Academy’s history after Prof Abdul Salam to receive this honor.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 21
Deeply saddened to hear about Dr Hafeez Malik’s demise. May Allah Bless his soul. A renowned academic & devoted researcher, he founded AIPS & Pakistan American Congress. We celebrated his enormous contributions to promoting Pak-US education cooperation last year at the Embassy.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 6
Information on flights will be shared through the covid.gov.pk. Embassy will also provide more details in due course to answer questions raised.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 11
Qatar Airways allowed two flights on 28th from Doha to Pakistan. Passengers from US can book flights with Qatar Airways. More flights in the works. For travel updates on flights to Pakistan pl go to covid.gov.pk (Click Air Travel).

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 12
The open Qatar Airways flights available from Doha for destinations in Pakistan on the new schedule @covid.gov.pk can be reserved with Qatar Airways along with connecting flights from US as commercial bookings. Embassy or Consulates have no role in reservations.

AMBASSADOR’S EXTENDS EASTER GREETINGS

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 12
This year we miss celebrating #Easter at the Embassy with our Christian compatriots because of #Covid19 related restrictions.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 6, 2019
Welcomed guests from all faiths to a ceremony at the Embassy celebrating Easter with our Christian compatriots, an All Neighbors International initiative supported by the Embassy to promote the spirit of interfaith harmony.

Asad M. Khan @asadmk17 - Apr 12
I warmly congratulate everyone celebrating #Easter. On this auspicious day, let’s join hands in prayers for those who lost their lives to #Covid-19. Let’s also salute the brave health care workers and others risking their lives to save ours. Stay safe and healthy.
Impressed by @APPNA_Central's response to the #coronavirus pandemic. These doctors from our Pakistani-American community are not just serving on the front lines in hospitals, they are also organizing food and PPE donations in communities across the US and Pakistan. AGW
RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Asad M. Khan • @asadmk17 • 13h
Pakistan American Business Association (PABA) distributed food rations in Pakistan including minority community members in Gujranwala and Sialkot.

APPAC running a Free 12 hour helpline every day to discuss Covid-19 symptoms and treatment with qualified physicians in multiple languages across US. Also supplying much needed medical supplies to the first responders. @appac_usa

Asad M. Khan • @asadmk17 • Apr 12
Another Pakistani American Doctor being recognized for his contributions in fighting Covid19.

Residents Surprise Doctor During Unsung Heroes ...
Residents in South Windsor surprised Connecticut State Senator Dr. Saud Anwar with a parade to sho... nbccconnecticut.com

State_SCA • @State_SCA • Apr 7
Great to see PakistaniAmericans eagerly serving communities in the US and Pakistan during the COVID19 crisis by providing food assistance in the US, supporting healthcare professionals in Pakistan, and raising awareness online. AGW

State_SCA • @State_SCA • Apr 7
Great to see PakistaniAmericans eagerly serving communities in the US and Pakistan during the COVID19 crisis by providing food assistance in the US, supporting healthcare professionals in Pakistan, and raising awareness online. AGW

State_SCA • @State_SCA • Apr 8
Welcome generous support from @PepsiColIndia & @PepsiPakistan in the fight against coronavirus by providing millions of meals in India & Pakistan for communities affected by the pandemic. We appreciate your leadership & compassion. AGW

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PAKISTAN INTRODUCES EHSAAES EMERGENCY CASH PROGRAM

Ehsaas Emergency Cash program has been planned in the context of the economic hardship being experienced by the vulnerable due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The currently stalled economic activity affects daily wage earners and piece-rate workers, the most. In addition, layoffs in the formal economy are pushing people below the poverty line. Within this context, the Ehsaas Emergency Cash initiative has been designed for simple and easy rollout, using the existing at- scale digital payment capacity of the Government of Pakistan, which has been developed within the Poverty Alleviation Division.

The program covers 12 million families; 12,000 per family, total budget Rs. 144 billion. An SMS campaign will be the entry point to identify these beneficiaries. For the ease of applicants, Emergency Cash application web-portal has also been developed to check eligibility.

Read more here.
PAKISTAN CALLS FOR A ‘GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DEBT RELIEF’

Prime Minister calls for a “Global Initiative on Debt Relief”

April 12, 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan, today, appealed for a “Global Initiative on Debt Relief”. While noting that COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented health and economic challenges, the Prime Minister underlined that a global recession was certain, one worse than the Great Depression. A global pandemic cannot be contained without strong, coordinated and well-crafted global response, he stressed.

The Global Initiative on Debt Relief will bring together stakeholders on a platform to promote coordinated health and economic response. During the past week, various announcements have been made by multilateral actors such as the UN, the IMF, and the World Bank. The announcements made include initial relief packages of US $ 1.4 billion by the IMF, and US $ 1 billion by the World Bank.

Prime Minister Imran Khan invited the Secretary General to work with him in advancing the objectives of a coordinated response.

Read more here.
Watch video here.

A very timely and much needed initiative. While we socially distance individually, nations need to come together like never before to help each other fight Covid19 and it’s horrendous implications.

My appeal to the international community, the UNSG & international financial institutions to respond positively to the dilemma confronting developing countries in the face of the COVID19 pandemic.

#Global_Initiative_Debt_Relief
PAKISTAN’S EFFORTS AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED IN US MEDIA

CNN HIGHLIGHTS PAKISTAN’S SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

7:26 a.m. ET, April 9, 2020

Pakistan rolls out largest social assistance program in nation's history to tackle Covid-19

From Sophia Saifi in Islamabad

Pakistan launched the largest social protection effort in the country's history Thursday with plans to pay close to $1 billion dollars to the country's poorest in an effort to counter the economic fallout of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Ehsaas Emergency Cash program is a financial assistance effort to assist parts of the population that have been worst hit by the ongoing lockdown in the country, according to Sania Nishtar, special assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety.

PRIME MINISTER’S APPEAL FOR DEBT RELIEF TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS PROJECTED IN U.S. MEDIA

Pakistan Prime Minister Appeals for Debt Relief to Combat Coronavirus Fallout

By Reuters

April 12, 2020

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has appealed to international stakeholders for urgent debt relief for developing countries so they can deal more effectively with the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, the government said on Sunday.
Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan, meanwhile, issued a global plea to the world’s richer countries and international financial institutions to provide debt-relief for poor countries, where forced lockdowns are crippling already wretched economies and causing widespread hunger for the poor.

His government has launched an ambitious $8 billion program to help the millions who barely rise to poverty level. Khan last week relaxed his country’s lockdown to allow the construction industry, which employs the vast majority of Pakistan’s daily wage earners, to re-open.

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan appealed to the international community Sunday to provide developing countries with an urgent debt relief to help them tackle the COVID-19 crisis facing them.

Prime Minister Khan said the developed world is focused on containing the deadly pandemic through lockdowns and dealing with its economic impacts at the same time.

Read more here.
AMBASSADOR GIVES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO PTV WORLD

In an exclusive interview with the PTV World on April 17, 2020, Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan briefed about measures taken by the Embassy of Pakistan and the Consulates to facilitate Pakistani-American community during COVID-19 crisis.

Read more here.

Watch video here.

AMBASSADOR UPDATES SAMAA TV ABOUT EMBASSY EFFORTS DURING COVID-19

Dr. Asad M. Khan updated Samaa TV about the steps being taken by the Embassy of Pakistan and the Consul Generals in facilitating stranded Pakistanis during COVID-19 crisis in the US.
HEALTH VS. HUNGER: THE VIEW FROM AMBASSADOR’S INTERVIEW WITH AXIOS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan gave a detailed interview to AXIOS and shared Pakistan government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commenting on the question of whether economic shutdowns could do more long-term damage than COVID-19 itself, Ambassador said, “That is the most difficult decision in poor countries, where unemployment rates are high, jobs are scarce and people don’t have savings to tap into when they are not able to go out and work”. Ambassador Khan said that Pakistan is improving its testing and contact tracing systems, and restrictions on travel will remain in place until they are fully developed.

Read more here.

AMBASSADOR GIVES AN INTERVIEW TO THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan gave an interview to the Wall Street Journal. Apprising the Journal about the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan, Ambassador said that Pakistan has seen fewer cases than its government expected. “The numbers we actually have are 30% of the original projections,” he said. “We are more confident than we were a month ago. We have better quarantine facilities, more protective equipment available, more ventilators.”

Read more here.
We stand with the Kashmiris in rejecting this latest Indian attempt to alter the demography of IOJK. Pakistan will continue to expose Indian state terrorism & it's denial of the Kashmiris right to self determination.

Timing of this latest illegal action is particularly reprehensible because it seeks to exploit the international focus on COVID19 pandemic to push forward BJP's Hindutva Supremacist agenda. The UN & int comm must stop India's continuing violations of UNSC Resolutions & Int law.
PAKISTAN STRONGLY CONDEMNS INDIAN GOVERNMENT’S CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO ILLEGALLY CHANGE THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF IOJ&K

Pakistan strongly condemns and rejects the latest Indian action aimed at illegally changing the demographic structure of the Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K). The so-called “Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020” is another illegal step by India to settle non-Kashmiris in IOJ&K by changing the domicile laws. This is a clear violation of international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention.

Read more here.

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION REJECTS INDIA’S ‘JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANIZATION ORDER 2020’


The OIC General Secretariat rejects any attempt towards illegally changing the demography of Jammu and Kashmir territory.

Read more here.

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATIONS REJECTS ANTI-MUSLIM PREJUDICE IN INDIA OVER THE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expresses deep concern following recent media accounts of rising anti-Muslim sentiments and Islamophobia within political and media circles and on mainstream and social media platforms, where Indian Muslim minority is blamed of spreading the coronavirus in the country.

Read more here.
CONGRESSMAN ANDRÉ CARSON CONDEMNS DRACONIAN RESTRICTIONS IN KASHMIR

Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia was summoned by Director General (South Asia & SAARC) Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, today, to register Pakistan’s strong protest over the ceasefire violations by Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Dhudnial, Rakhchikri, Chirikot and Baroh Sectors on 12th April 2020, resulting in the shahadat of a child and serious injuries to four innocent civilians.

Read more here.
KASHMIR UNDER SIEGE AND LOCKDOWN, FACES A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS – THE NEW YORK TIMES

Years of strife left a generation traumatized. India’s clampdown disrupted daily life. Now the battle against the coronavirus has further isolated and scarred a people with little access to help.

Eight months after India revoked Kashmir’s semi-autonomous status and brought the region fully under its authority, doctors here say a state of hopelessness has morphed into a severe psychological crisis. Mental health workers say Kashmir is witnessing an alarming increase in instances of depression, anxiety and psychotic events.

Read more here.

SLOW INTERNET IS SPEEDING THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN KASHMIR - FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE

The region is accustomed to lockdowns but New Delhi’s ban on high-speed internet is undermining the medical community's ability to fight the pandemic.

The Indian government will not restore the high-speed internet despite the pressing need for the population to stay informed about the coronavirus pandemic. On April 3, authorities ordered a continuation of the ban “in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India,” after a review of the situation in Kashmir, a territory whose sovereignty has been disputed with Pakistan for decades.

Like the rest of India, Kashmir is now under a 21-day government-mandated lockdown to contain the coronavirus. Inadequate internet access has compounded the challenges for health care workers in the isolated region, who face the looming pandemic with a severely deficient health infrastructure.

In recent days, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir has jumped to 224 with four deaths. The numbers are far less than across all of India, which has registered 242 deaths and more than 7,000 confirmed cases—a figure that is rising rapidly. But Kashmiri doctors fear that community transmission has already begun and that the real number of cases could be much higher.

Read more here.
Indian photographer Jayanta Roy recently traveled to Kashmir to document the day-to-day realities of life there. Roy told In Sight that when he was documenting life in Kashmir, the spread of the coronavirus was not a big issue. However, Kashmiris are no strangers to lockdown conditions because they have been facing strong restrictions since Aug. 5, 2019, when the Indian government moved to scrap Article 370 of its constitution, which gave Kashmir some autonomous powers including the right to make its own laws.

Roy’s bleak, yet poetic, black and white photographs of daily life in Kashmir remind us that even in the best of times, some people in our world are living under dire circumstances — not because of a pandemic but as the result of political forces beyond their control. As conditions around the world continue to evolve because of the coronavirus, Roy says, “now I want people to remember that a large population is suffering from the same pain we are facing now, but for longer than us, much before the covid-19 outbreak, and their suffering is like a never-ending nightmare.”

Studies show that a large number of Kashmiri people are suffering mental health issues after being separated from loved ones as they also grapple with the uncertainty of the future. (Jayanta Roy)

People ride in an overcrowded train between Srinagar and Banihal. They often make the trip to access a weak 2G Internet connection available in Banihal because Internet service has been cut in Srinagar since Aug. 5, 2019. (Jayanta Roy)

Kashmir’s infrastructure is crumbling because of decades of instability. (Jayanta Roy)

Schools in Indian-controlled Kashmir were closed Aug. 5, 2019, and they typically close for three months during the harsh winter. As a result, Kashmiri children have not seen a classroom for at least 200 days. (Jayanta Roy)

Read more here.
DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO PRAISES PAKISTAN'S COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY ISOLATION UNITS

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday that it was "impressed" by Pakistan's efforts to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

WHO’s Twitter account, in multiple tweets quoting its director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that it was "impressed by the progress being made" by certain countries, among which was Pakistan for its "commitment to establishing temporary isolation units".

IMF’S APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY FUNDS HELPS BOOST PAKISTAN STOCKS - BLOOMBERG

Pakistani stocks rose after the International Monetary Fund said it plans to disburse about $1.4 billion in emergency financing next week to help the nation shield its economy hit by the coronavirus outbreak.

“The IMF and the Pakistani authorities are working hard for a prompt approval and disbursement” in a single installment, Teresa Daban Sanchez, IMF’s chief in Pakistan, said in a response to questions on April 8. The emergency loan will be on top of the $6 billion financial package the south Asian nation secured from the global lender last year.

Read more here.

AS A 'GREEN STIMULUS' PAKISTAN SETS VIRUS-IDLED TO WORK PLANTING TREES

Since Pakistan locked down starting March 23 to try to stem the spread of COVID-19, unemployed day labourers have been given new jobs as “jungle workers”, planting saplings as part of the country’s 10 Billion Tree Tsunami programme.

Such “green stimulus” efforts are an example of how funds that aim to help families and keep the economy running during pandemic shutdowns could also help nations prepare for the next big threat: climate change.

Read more here.