

Reg: MC-945

New FLYER[®]

INTERNATIONAL
AVIATION & TOURISM

APRIL 2020



AIRSIAL to launch flight operations in Pakistan



Vice Chairman SIAL presents shield to Chief Editor Flyer International

PC Hotel, Mountain & Ski Resort Malam Jabba open



SEAGOLD (PRIVATE) LIMITED



PAKISTAN - BANGLADESH - DUBAI - MYANMAR - AFGHANISTAN

YOUR PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

- ▶ Ocean Freight
- ▶ Air Freight
- ▶ NVOCC
- ▶ Consolidation
- ▶ Ware Housing
- ▶ 3PL Services
- ▶ Shipping Agents
- ▶ PO Management
- ▶ Supply Chain Management
- ▶ Custom Brokerage
- ▶ Perishable Logistics
- ▶ Heavy Lifts
- ▶ Project Cargo Management
- ▶ Vessel Charters
- ▶ Packing & Moving
- ▶ Land Transportation
- ▶ Afghan Transportation
- ▶ ISO Cleaning Station

HEAD OFFICE:

Suite # 418-421, 4th Floor, The Plaza, G-7, Clifton Block 9, KDA Scheme 5, Karachi, Pakistan.
TEL: (+92-21) 35205013, (+92 21) 35308691 - 3, (+92 21) 35810181 - 3

Built on Tradition. Powered by Innovation.



With more than 25 years of Industry experience, over 80 offices around the world and a growing global network through exclusive membership in the WorldWide Alliance and AirCargoGroup, Shipco Transport is your global solution for worldwide shipping needs.



- LCL
- FCL
- Airfreight
- Trucking
- E-Commerce
- Warehousing
- Customs Clearance
- Consolidation / Deconsolidation

Weekly LCL Export Services from Pakistan

Aarhus, Antwerp, Barcelona, Durban, Felixstowe, Genoa, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Jebel Ali, Los Angeles, New York, Rotterdam and Singapore

Weekly LCL Import Services to Pakistan

Antwerp, Atlanta, Bangkok, Barcelona, Busan, Durban, Genoa, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Jabel Ali, New York, Nhava Sheva, Port Klang, Savannah, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Tianjin

Supplementing the diverse product offerings, our dynamic E-Commerce platform provides tools to get you through the shipping process from A-Z with 24/7 access. Shipco Web Apps also provide useful shipping resources in one convenient location. Visit www.shipco.com

- View, download or subscribe to Sailing Schedules
- Get a Quote
- Make a Booking
- Track a Shipment
- Set Notifications for Shipment Progress
- Generate Reports
- Explore Web Apps

Shipco Transport Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd. - Karachi Office

Suite #702 703 704, 7th Floor,
Progressive Plaza, Beaumont Road
Civil Line, Karachi-75530, Pakistan

UAN: 92 21 111 Shipco (111 744 726)
Main Tel: +92 21 35642400 9

www.shipco.com



New
behind FLYER
International Aviation

Chief Editor Abdul Sattar Azad
 Managing Editor Muhammad Faryal Azad
 Assistant Editor Musharraf Azad
 Associate Editor Shahida Hameed
 Resident Editor Waqas Masood
 Reporter Bazla Sardar
 Photographer S. Shahid Ikram
 Contributors Prof. Safdar Sandal
 Chief Correspondent Prof. Karamat Rajput.

Address B-65 Ablagh-e-Aamma
 (media) Cooperative
 Housing Society
 Block-8, Gulistan-e-Jauhar
 Karachi-75290
 Phone 34615924, 34661153
 Cell 0333-2194853
 Web. www.newflyerintl.com
 E-mail flyer_intl@hotmail.com
 facebook.com/flyerintl

Issue Monthly
 Price Rs. 500/=

Annual
 Subscription Pakistan Rs.5000/=
 Other Countries US\$100/=

Published from New Flyer International
 B-65 Ablagh-e-Aamma
 (media) Cooperative
 Housing Society
 Block-8, Gulistan-e-Jauhar
 Karachi-75290

By Abdul Sattar Azad
 Phone 34615924, 34661153
 Fax 34615924
 Printed by Sardar Sons

Lahore Waqas Masood
 123 HH Phase 4
 DHA, Lahore
 Cell: 0333-3872222

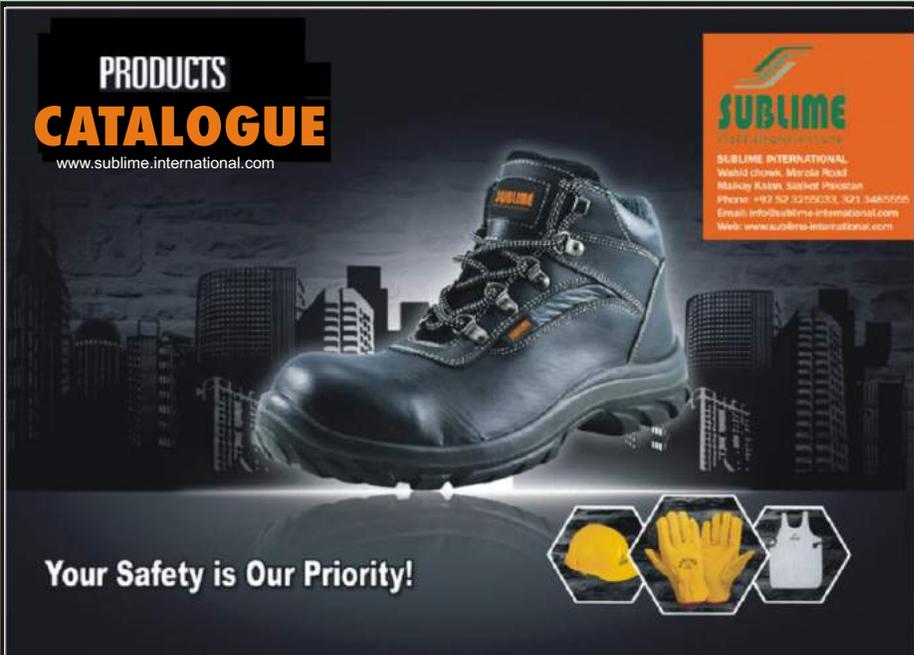
Islamabad 8-Huma Plaza Block-25
 Blue Area
 Tel: 2275946-7,
 Fax: 2279975

Peshawar 5-Biloor Plaza Saddar
 Tel: 284649-50
 Fax: 284614

Sialkot S. Shahid Ikram
 Pervaiz Plaza Near
 Railway Crossing
 Kutchary Road
 Ph: (052) 4268424
 Cell: 0321-6114505

Art Director & Design Decent Print Enterprises
 Ph: 32211978

PRODUCTS
CATALOGUE
www.sublime.international.com



Your Safety is Our Priority!

**For Sales and other details
 Please contact
 0300 8610303 - 0333 4230800**

New
FLYER
INTERNATIONAL
 AVIATION & TOURISM

Pakistan's Leading Tourism and Trade Journal

**For latest
 news and
 updates visit**

 www.newflyerintl.com

**For any suggestions
 e-mail**

 flyer_intl@hotmail.com

CONTENTS

New
FLYER

International

Monthly Magazine of Aviation and Tourism

Vol 27 APRIL 2020 No.07

Airlines fighting for their lives, says IATA	06
Karachi airport ready for limited flight operations	08
25 Million Airline Jobs at risk of disappearing	08
Among carriers at risk of going bankrupt	10
More walk-through gates could help prevent spread of coronavirus: experts	11
Construction of new runway at Quetta airport begins	12
GulfAir launches 'No Fees, unlimited changes' campaign	12
IATA postpones 2020 AGM	15
Wuhan, origin of coronavirus, resumes flights; we look at the numbers	17
S7 Airlines is confident it is strong enough to survive the crisis	17
Good Deed: Delta donates tonnes of unused food	18
Woman Sues Aer Lingus claiming member of cabin crew dragged her out of lavatory with pants still around her ankles	19
Victims names read out in somber start to MH17 trial	21
Oneworld, SkyTeam and Star Alliance call on governments for extraordinary support	23
AIRSIAL to launch flight operations in Pakistan	27
ADVENT OF CAPITALISM AND IT'S AFTERMATH	28
More PIA flights to bring back countrymen stranded abroad	30
Virus shutdown force buyers shipments 'claim textile exporters	34
GSP-Plus & media freedom	35
Pakistan included in G20 debt relief plan	36
TAAP demands to save Travel/Tourism Industry of Pakistan	39
Global tourism to suffer	41
Spring in the air	42
Moenjodaro civilisation teaches us to focus on education and health,says Dr. Adib	43
Waris Shah and Qadir Yar: on the sanctity of body	45
The Seaview effect	47
PHA-Chairman appeals to PM	48



17



26



27

WE MAKE SHIPPING SIMPLE

PACE
LOGISTICS
DELIVERING WITH PERSONAL CARE!
INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

- ★ Air Freight
- ★ Sea Freight
- ★ Road Freight
- ★ Custom Clearance



Al Khalil Center, 3rd Floor, Off#416, Kashmir Road, Sialkot 51310

Tel: +92 3550406,3550407 Fax:+92 3550408 Email: info@pacelogs.com Web: www.pacelogs.com

Airlines fighting for their lives, says IATA

AIRLINES could lose US\$61 billion of their cash reserves during the second quarter ending 30 June 2020, whilst posting a quarterly net loss of \$39 billion, if the Coronavirus global travel bans last for three months, forecasts the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

In IATA's scenario, full-year demand will plummet by 38 per cent and full-year passenger revenues will drop by \$252 billion in comparison with 2019.

The slump in demand would be the deepest in the second quarter, with a 71 per cent drop, the statement warns.

IATA calculates that the impact will be most severe as a result of the following factors:

- Revenues are expected to decline by 68 per cent – this is less than the expected 71 per cent fall in demand due to the continuation of emergency cargo operations, albeit at reduced levels of activity;
- Variable costs are expected to drop sharply – by some 70 per cent in the second quarter – largely in line with the reduction of an expected 65 per cent cut in second quarter capacity. Although the price of jet fuel has also fallen sharply, IATA estimates that fuel-hedging will limit the benefits to a 31 per cent decline;
- Since fixed and semi-fixed costs amount to nearly half of an airline's costs, the association expects semi-fixed costs, including crew costs, to be reduced by a third: "Airlines are cutting what they can, whilst trying to preserve their workforce and businesses for the future recovery."

These changes to revenues and costs will result in an estimated net loss of \$39 billion in the second quarter, the association says.

"On top of unavoidable costs, airlines are [also] faced with refunding sold but unused tickets as a result of massive cancellations resulting from government-imposed restrictions on travel," asserts the airline association.

"The second quarter liability for

these is a colossal \$35 billion. Cash burn will be severe. We estimate airlines could be burning through \$61 billion of their cash balances in the second quarter."

Alexandre de Juniac, director general and chief executive of IATA, argues that carriers "cannot cut costs fast enough" to stay ahead of the impact of this crisis.

"We are looking at a devastating net loss of \$39 billion in the second quarter. The impact of that on cash burn will be amplified by a \$35 billion liability for potential ticket refunds. Without relief, the industry's cash position could therefore deteriorate by \$61 billion in the second quarter," he warns.

The airline association has commended those governments which have answered the plea from carriers for financial or regulatory aid packages. They include: Colombia, the United States, Singapore, Australia, China, New Zealand

and Norway.

Most recently, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, and the Netherlands have relaxed their regulations to allow airlines to offer passengers travel vouchers in place of refunds.

De Juniac underscores: "Travel and tourism is essentially shut down in an extraordinary and unprecedented situation. Airlines need working capital to sustain their businesses through the extreme volatility. Canada, Colombia, and the Netherlands are giving a major boost to the sector's stability by enabling airlines to offer vouchers in place of cash refunds."

"This is a vital time buffer so that the sector can continue to function. In turn, that will help preserve the sector's ability to deliver the cargo shipments that are vital today and the long-term connectivity that travellers and economies will depend on in the recovery phase," he insists.

Maxim's GROUP

it's all about
CHAMPIONS
AL HAMDOLILLAH

Our Services
International & Domestic Ticketing
Corporate Travel
Leisure Holidays Packages
Online Worldwide Hotel Bookings.
Executive
Umrah & Hajj Packages

Universal Brothers (Pvt) Ltd.
Travel Agent & Tours Operator
Umrah & Hajj Organizer
THE LEADER & TREND SETTER

Maxim's Travel & Tours
For Your Complete Travel Needs.

Maxims House, A-9, 1st Floor, Hassan Homes, FL-3/8, Opposite Nehr-e-Khayyam, Block-5 Clifton, Karachi Pakistan, UAN No: (92-21) 111-106-786 Fax No: (92-21) 111-108 & 35865954
Email: infor@maximsgroup.com.pk GL No. 2014 HR No. 4143
www.maximsgroup.com.pk www.facebook.com/universalbrothers

NEW FLYER INTERNATIONAL

COMING SOON



 **AIRSIAL**
The Pride of Pakistan

Karachi airport ready for limited flight operations

The authorities are making preparations for resuming limited flight operation at Jinnah International Airport (JIAP), Karachi, as thermal scanners to detect flu and fever among passengers coming from abroad have been installed and other safety measures have been put in place there to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Civil Aviation Authority conducted a full scale mock emergency exercise to ensure safety of passengers arriving at the airport from different countries in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and that they go through proper scanning process.

As part of preparations to handle passengers arriving from abroad, eight thermal scanners to detect flu and fever have been installed at the airport two each at international arrival and departure lounges and two each at domestic arrival and departure lounges.

‘It would help the health authorities to detect affected passengers and prevent spread, of coronavirus,’ said a senior official of the CAA.

A spokesman for Aviation Division, senior joint secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar, said the purpose of conducting the mock exercise was to minimise the spread of coronavirus in Pakistan through air travellers coming from abroad. Similar safety measures will be put in place at other international airports across the country in near future.

Asked whether the CAA was starting international flights at JIAP as part of its plan to handle international special flights, he said: ‘We are planning limited flight operation at Karachi, may be one or two flights. There will be no full flight operation like Islamabad.’

Representatives of the Sindh government, National Disaster Management Authority, the federal Ministry of Health Services and Airport Security Force witnessed the mock exercise, expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and found the exercise informative and helpful.

Since the outbreak of coronavirus in China, many airports across the world have been taking measures to ensure safety of passengers and prevent spread of Covid-19.

25 Million Airline Jobs at risk of disappearing



Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO

At their latest media briefing, held on 7th April 2020, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General and CEO, Alexandre de Juniac, shared new analysis showing that 25 million jobs are at risk of disappearing, due to a steep decline in demand caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Air Travel Demand Down by 70%

Air travel demand dropped by 70% at the start of the second quarter, with airlines burning through an astonishing \$61 billion in cash.

Cash Refunds Could Take Airlines to The Brink

With these, never before seen, statistics it might come as no surprise that airline finances are now so fragile they can't afford to refund customers. De Juniac explained to reporters why customers should accept vouchers.

‘The key element for [airlines] is to avoid running out of cash, so refunding the cancelled ticket for us is almost unbearable financially speaking.’

For cash strapped customers this will not satisfy everyone and rules in many parts of the world, such as EU261 in the European Union, require airlines to pay refunds in cash.

\$35 Billion Due in Refunds

The IATA estimates that around \$35 billion worth of tickets were due for refund by the end of the second quarter. With airlines at a high risk of going bust, if they pay the refunds in cash, the IATA has approached governments to ask them not to force airlines to provide cash refunds.

US airlines have been told they must refund tickets for flights that they cancel. Following a rising number of consumer complaints and inquiries; including a passenger who filed a class-action lawsuit against United Airlines, for refusing to pay a refund after his family's flight was cancelled.

The fact remains that millions of jobs are on the line.

Air cargo volumes fell

Global cargo volumes fell by 23% in March versus the same four weeks of 2019 with the week ending 29 March showing volumes were just half of what was moved in the same seven days of last year, according to the latest air cargo market intelligence from CLIVE Data Services.

The 'dynamic load factor' for the four-week period of 68% based on both the volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available represented a decrease of 1.5% points versus 2019 but an increase of 3% points versus February.

‘Sadly, there is no getting away from the overall concerning developments we are seeing in the global air cargo market, but there is perhaps a little bit of hope to be found in Asia which was hit first by the outbreak of COVID-19. In previous data, we reported the step-by-step improvement on the Hong Kong to Europe market and this is continuing.’

The reported volumes for the last week of March 2020 were 26% higher than before the Chinese New Year started. If this is sustained, it will at least offer some hope for the rest of the industry of the speed with which air cargo traffic can recover after a very difficult time,’ said CLIVE's managing director, Niall van de Wouw.





29TH JANUARY 3 YEARS OF SERENITY

2.5
MILLION



**PASSENGERS
FLOWN**

16000+



**NUMBER OF
FLIGHTS OPERATED**

110+

WEEKLY FLIGHTS

FROM MAJOR PAKISTANI AIRPORTS



**DOMESTIC
DESTINATIONS**

6



ISLAMABAD | QUETTA | LAHORE
KARACHI | PESHAWAR | FAISALABAD



99.2%
UNRIVALLED
REGULARITY



98.2%
ON TIME
PERFORMANCE

Among carriers at risk of going bankrupt

As air travel comes to a standstill with countries locked down to fight the coronavirus pandemic, there are many airlines in the world which are at risk of going bankrupt in the near future.

Among the worst-hit carriers is the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

According to an article published by bloomberg.com, a spokesman for PIA says that losses and debt of PIA have become too great for the company to handle alone and that options suggested to the government include a debt-to-equity swap and issuance of long-term bond.

The global airline industry has never had it so bad, not even after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US.

Airlines could lose a quarter of a trillion dollars in revenue this year, according to the International Air Transport Association. Most carriers will go bankrupt by the end of May if they can't find support, Sydney-based CAPA Centre for Aviation said recently.

Which airlines are most at risk? Like the virus, the crisis is indiscriminate, affecting each one from budget operators to national flag carriers.

Aircraft manufacturers and their suppliers also are under immense pressure, with Boeing Co calling for billions of dollars in state support and Airbus SE extending credit lines and canceling its dividend.

Using the Z-score method developed by Edward Altman in the 1960s to predict bankruptcies, Bloomberg News filtered out listed commercial airlines to identify the ones most at risk of going bust, based on available data. The calculations don't take into account government bailouts or

other funding sources that could help keep operators alive. While the list focuses on Asia, mostly due to high debt levels, European carriers aren't immune, as the collapse of UK regional airline Flybe Group Plc proved. According to Altman, scores of 1.8 or below indicate a risk of bankruptcy and scores over 3 suggest sound footing.

Indebted low-cost carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA and Air France-KLM both landed below the threshold, as did American Airlines Group Inc. and SkyWest Inc.

Governments around the world are in talks with aviation companies about financial support, and those with deep-pocketed backers such as Delta Air Lines Inc. with billionaire investor Warren Buffett will have access to other avenues for cash.

Qatar Airways' Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker warned that many airlines would go bust, limiting the scope for takeovers.

'People who were bragging about not taking state aid and being independent are now them-selves all over the world asking for state aid,' he said on Bloomberg Television.

The Z-score involves five variables measuring liquidity, solvency, profitability, leverage and recent performance. The model initially had accuracy rates of over 95 per cent in predicting bankruptcies, but that has come down to between 80pc and 90pc based on a year before insolvency, Altman said in a 2018 interview.

A representative for AirAsia Group Bhd declined to comment, while PNG Air Ltd didn't respond to a request for

comments. The communications director for Kenya Airways Plc, which is now operating only a handful of local flights, couldn't immediately comment.

SpiceJet Ltd sees 'no possibility at all' of failing, has maintained adequate cash flows and expects a surge in demand as the virus is contained, a spokesman said. Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd, which has furloughed 80pc of its workforce and slashed flights to a bare minimum, said it is taking measures to rapidly reduce its cost base to preserve cash.

Asiana Airlines Inc said it secured a bridge loan and will receive \$1.3 billion from Korea Development Bank and other creditors. It also said financials would improve once HDC Hyundai Development Co and its partners complete their acquisition of Kumho Industrial Co's stake. Also, the Korean government is discussing the airline industry and taking measures to provide emergency funds to large companies, Yonhap News reported recently.

The Bogota-based company has offered its 21,000 employees unpaid leave and is negotiating payment terms with suppliers.

Norwegian Air is trying to secure a government lifeline worth up to \$270 million under certain conditions, and two Nordic banks were approved to provide a guarantee for the required 10pc for the first tranche. The airline declined to comment further.

PIACL board gets new chairman

The government recently appointed Aslam R. Khan as the new chairman of Pakistan International Airline Corporation Limited board.

The decision for the appointment of the new chairman was taken at a cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister House. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

According to notification, Aslam Khan had been appointed as the chairman of the PIA CL board with effect from March 9. It said the TRE (Trading Rights Entitlement) Certificate holders of the Exchange may be informed about the appointment of the new chairman of the PIA CL board.

Later the Supreme Court has allowed Air Marshal Arshad Malik to function as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) with full authority.

Risky Business

These are the airlines most at risk of going bankrupt within the next two years

Airline	Altman's Z-Score
Pakistan International Airlines	-6.83
AirAsia Indonesia	-1.41
Nok air	-0.64
PNG air	-0.63
Kenya Airways	-0.62
SpiceJet	-0.23
Virgin Australia	0.04
Asiana	-0.11
AirAsiaX	-0.12
Avianca	-0.17

Source Bloomberg

Note: A Score below 1.8 indicates danger of Bankruptcy within two years

More walk-through gates could help prevent spread of coronavirus: experts

Walk-through disinfection gates could play a vital role to combat the spread of the coronavirus, to the point that the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has urged the government to make it mandatory for public and private sector companies to install such gates at their points of entry and exit.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration are installing 20 walk-through gates in the city to disinfect people and limit the spread of the virus.

Two have been installed at the Sabzi Mandi, one outside the Utility Store in G-9, one at a homeless shelter in Tarlai and more are being installed in katchi abadis, homeless shelters, the Pak Secretariat and other places that see crowds.

A CDA official who asked not to be named said that the gates use chemicals mixed with water that is then sprayed on people as they walk through them.

‘Although we do not have scientific evidence about how effective they are against Covid-19, it is a fact that such sprays kill germs and can protect people from diseases, he said.

He added that not everyone can afford to use expensive hand sanitisers, so such gates would be effective in limiting the spread of the virus.

He said: ‘Chemicals are mixed in the water, which is sprayed through a sprinkler system to disinfect people. Tunnel walk-through gates that are 20ft long are worth Rs200,000, and smaller ones are for Rs100,000. They spray chemicals around the clock, but later we may go for high-tech gates that have sensors. The cost of the electricity and chemicals is nominal, as the gates use a small pump. I would suggest the health ministry declare them mandatory for all offices.

‘One walk-through gate installed at the Utility Store has a 750 litre tank that lasts two and a half hours if kept on continuously,’ he added.

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) CEO Dr Asim Rauf said it was a positive initiative for different departments to install the gates.

‘It has even been decided to install a walkthrough gate outside the Drap building, however there is currently no proposal to declare it mandatory,’ he said.

An official from the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS), who was not authorised to speak on the record,

said it was a good idea to make these gates mandatory.

‘I have seen videos from different countries where such gates are installed. In China, it was mandatory for car drivers to park their vehicles and then walk through the gate and go ahead,’ he said.

Tougeeruddin, project manager at there search organisation Emintechs, told media that walk-through gates have three components, the electronic hardware, mechanical hardware and container.

‘The mechanical hardware includes a compressor, water tank and air tank. Though gates can work without air tanks but in that case the compressor works more and can fall out of order. Some nozzles are included to spray water on people,’ he said.

‘The electronic hardware is the micro controller and sensors. The first sensor detects a person and starts spraying water and the second sensor disconnects the water sprinkler as soon as the person walks out. However it can be manual, in which case the gate will continue spraying water unless stopped by someone,’ he said.

‘We have researched walk-through gates and it was analysed that a prototype or as a pilot project a small walk-through gate, which can be used outside a house, can be made for Rs30,000. A bigger one, which can be used for more people, can be manufactured for Rs55,000. However, the cost can be reduced in the case of manufacturing on a commercial basis,’ he said.

He said that although the solution used in the gates is called a chlorine-based solution, it is usually bleach diluted with water.

‘Usually, 250 millilitres of bleach is included in 10 litres of water but there are many formulas available on the internet to use the amount of bleach for different surfaces and for different germs,’ he said.

PMA Secretary General Dr Qaisar Sajjad said the government should make it mandatory for public and private organisations to install walk-through disinfection gates. ‘The decision will help to stop the spread of the virus. Moreover



the government should increase spraying in different parts of cities as the situation is worsening with every passing day,’ he said.

PIA management files insurance claim for damaged ATR aircraft

Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) management has filed an insurance claim for the Aerreide Transporto Regionale (ATR) aircraft which was badly damaged after skidding off the runway while landing at Gilgit Airport on July 20, 2019 as aviation experts believe that the aircraft was 'beyond repair'.

A team of experts from ATR, the French-Italian aircraft manufacturer, had already visited Pakistan and examined the damaged ATR aircraft.

The ATR carrier's flight PK-605 from Islamabad to Gilgit with 53 people on board had skidded off the runway and came to a halt in a grassy area next to the tarmac.

All passengers and crew members remained safe during the accident.

The pilot and a co-pilot of the plane were grounded and investigation into the incident was launched by the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) safety investigation board (SIB). Preliminary investigation had suggested that the female pilot was unable to judge the runway which had caused the accident.

When contacted, PIA's spokesman Abdullah Hafeez told media that PIA had a fleet of 31 aircraft including ATR planes.

Chlorinated water sprayed at IIA: CAA

Taking measures against the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) disinfected various areas of Islamabad International Airport (IIA) with chlorine water spray recently.

Spokesman for the Aviation Division said in a press release that the process of disinfection was also carried out on Airport Road, pick and drop lanes, general car parking and concourse halls. The arrival and departure lounges and all areas of the passenger terminal building have also been disinfected.

The CAA fire department along with its medical and facilitation services staff participated in the disinfection process, carried out on April 4 and 5.

The spokesman stated that the disinfection process is being carried out at all airports across the country on a daily basis.

Due to suspension of full flight operation, airports are less crowded and therefore the CAA is fully concentrating on disinfection and cleanliness, he added.

The Aviation Division had advised people not to visit airports to receive international passengers, as a precautionary measure against spread of Covid-19.

According to standard operating procedure (SOP), after swab test, passengers are taken to a designated hotel where they are required to wait for several hours till the result is available.

During this time, it is not possible for friends or relatives to meet passengers, hence in their own interest, people are advised not to visit the airport.



Construction of new runway at Quetta airport begins

Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan, along with Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, on Wednesday March 4 performed the groundbreaking of a new runway at Quetta International Airport.

Speaking on the occasion, the aviation minister said the federal government believed in equal rights of all federating units and a new runway and an international lounge at Quetta airport would ensure quality facilities for passengers.

He said the Quetta airport handled half a million passengers annually with 38 flights every week, so the new runway would enhance flight operations and the airport would now be able to handle 1.6m passengers annually.

He said the construction of a new lounge was started in 2016 at a cost of Rs3 billion.

The minister said the terminal area had been increased from 73,000 square feet to 200,000 square feet, while the number of check-in counters had been enhanced from three to 12 and immigration counters from eight to 26.

The number of baggage belts for domestic and international flights had been doubled, while four escalators and four elevators had been installed at the airport, he added. Mr. Khan said after the completion of work on the new runway, flight operations with large aircraft Boeing 777 from Balochistan would become possible.

He said the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had started Haj flights from Quetta.

In his address, Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan said his government completed development

schemes which had been pending since 2001.

He said Balochistan offered investment vast opportunities in oil, gas, tourism, agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors. "Balochistan will become self-sufficient if we are able to utilise our own resources," he added.

The chief minister said the new runway would allow landing of Boeing 777 and other big aircraft in Quetta.

He said the importance of Quetta and Gwadar airports had increased following Chinese investment in the province.

Gulf Air launches 'No Fees, unlimited changes' campaign



Gulf Air - the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain has launched its latest campaign allowing passengers much more travel flexibility in reaction to the current Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 and its global impact on air transport. Passengers with issued bookings in 2020 and new bookings are eligible to unlimited changes to their travel dates without paying any change fees.

The airline has also taken into consideration its Falconflyer members, extending their current status and membership tier for the next three months' regardless of not completing the required number of trips or miles travelled.

Gulf Air would like to reassure its loyal passengers that it is applying strict International Air Transport Association (IATA) disinfectant procedures inside the aircraft cabin and it urges passengers to apply preventative measures recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The airline continuously coordinates with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and with airports throughout its network to take all precautionary and preventive measures in order to ensure the safety and security of our passengers and crew.



ECU
WORLDWIDE
Geography Simplified



300+ Offices

520+ Destinations

2300+ Direct Trade Lanes

Reaching Out In All Dimensions



ECU WORLDWIDE (PVT) LTD.

www.ecuworldwide.com.pk

AerCap leased, purchased and sold 53 aircraft in first-quarter 2020

AerCap has released its major business transactions during the first quarter 2020. The company signed lease agreements for 28 aircraft, including ten wide-body aircraft and 18 narrow-body aircraft and purchased seven aircraft, including five Airbus A320neo Family aircraft, one Boeing 787-9 and one Embraer E2 aircraft.

AerCap executed sale transactions for 18 aircraft, including five Airbus A320 Family aircraft, six Boeing 737NGs and one Boeing 747 aircraft from its owned portfolio and one Airbus A320 Family aircraft, two Airbus A330s, two Boeing B777-200ERs and one Boeing B777-300ER aircraft from its managed portfolio. AirCap is continuing to manage five aircraft that were sold from its owned portfolio during the quarter.

The company has signed financing transactions for approximately US\$350 million.

Aviation battles cash crunch

Boeing and other US aviation companies are seeking billions of dollars in aid as they battle to survive a plunge in demand caused by the coronavirus pandemic, while Airbus is pausing production at two sites to bolster health and safety measures.

The rapid spread of the virus across the world has battered airlines as governments have introduced travel restrictions and consumers have stopped making bookings, calling into question the survival of several companies.

To preserve cash, airlines are cutting flights, laying off staff, suspending dividends, selling planes and flying cargo on empty passenger jets.

"It's now fair to call this the single biggest shock that global aviation has ever experienced," Qantas Airways Ltd CEO Alan Joyce said in a memo to the airline's 30,000 staff.

Boeing Co recently said it was in talks with senior White House officials and congressional leaders about short-term assistance for the entire US aviation sector.

US airlines and cargo carriers have said they are seeking at least \$58 billion in loans and grants along with additional tax changes, while airports are seeking \$10bn.

European airlines have also stepped up calls for emergency government aid. Passenger traffic across the region slumped by more than half on average, and the situation will worsen as borders closed, trade body Airports Council International Europe said.

Industry consultancy Tourism Economics forecast international travel will slump at least 10.5 per cent this year, the biggest year-on-year drop.

EU suspended aviation slots rule as coronavirus hammers airlines



American Airline planes are seen at Miami international airport.. Major US Airlines announced recently spending as the industry tighten in belt in the wake of slumping demand from coronavirus.

The European Union will suspend a rule requiring airlines to run most of their scheduled services or else forfeit landing slots, to give carriers some breathing space as the coronavirus crisis deepens, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said recently.

The decision came as the world's airlines scrambled to deal with the worsening virus epidemic and Italy's lockdown, which have hammered passenger numbers and forced the cancellation of thousands of flights.

Von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said the suspension of the rule would do away with

"ghost flights" where airlines fly almost empty planes simply to keep their slots.

"The Commission will put forward, very rapidly, legislation," she said. "We want to make it easier for airlines to keep their airport slot even if they do not operate flights in those slots because of the declining traffic.

"This temporary measure helps our industry but it also helps our environment. It will relieve the pressure on aviation industry and in particular on smaller airline companies." The EU chief did not say how long the suspension of the rule would last.

Germany had joined calls for Brussels to relax the rules, saying that it would be harmful both environmentally and financially to persist.

"In order not to lose their slots, airlines have to fly with almost empty aircraft through the crisis," a spokesman for the economy ministry said in a statement.

British Airways to suspend 36,000 employees: reports

British Airways, is set to suspend about 36,000 of its employees due to the global effects of the coronavirus outbreak.

The International Airlines Group (IAG)-owned company already parked 140 out of its 277 aircraft, according to planespotter.net data. It is looking to further reduce costs and it is expected that British Airways would announce the suspension of 36,000 staff, reported the BBC on April 2, 2020.

The announcement would follow week-long discussions with Unite, a British Airways employee union. Up to 80% of flight attendants, ground handlers, engineers and office staff are expected to be affected by the suspension. London Gatwick Airport (LGW) and London City Airport (LCY)-based employees would certainly be affected, indicated the report, as British Airways suspended its operations in LGW, while LCY suspended operations as an airport from March 25, 2020.

The affected employees would be covered by the British government's coronavirus job retention scheme and would retain 80% of their wages, up to \$3,000 (£2,500) per month.

Airworthiness aspects for transport of cargo in the passenger cabin of large aeroplanes

In the context of the emergency situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, EASA has committed to treating projects supporting the collective effort to transport medical supplies and other important goods as efficiently as possible. The following message is intended specifically for Design Organisations and Operators, and offers updated information on airworthiness and certification aspects.

We have developed further guidance on the design change classifications, certification aspects as well as use of Exemptions in accordance with Art. 71.1 of the Basic Regulation 2018/1139 for limited time periods.

In order to enable an early availability of a transport solution in the frame of the current COVID-19 situation, EASA supports the use of the provisioning of Article 71.1, also for ongoing projects, through additional support to National Competent Authorities and operators as required.

For a permanent use, a design change approval is required.

Transport of medical supplies under a design change approval

Approved Design Organizations may reclassify such modification as “Minor Change” and approve these under their DOA-privileges, allowing for the use of cabin seats when related to the transportation of medical supplies (e.g. masks, gloves, clothing, etc.) provided they are not classified as dangerous goods. This has to be indicated in the approval documents and AFM Supplement.

Since this kind of installation is a change in the scope of operation of the aeroplane, and in the absence of dedicated operational requirements covering this kind of operation, the installation and the procedures for operation have to be addressed taking into account the specific configuration of each aeroplane model affected.

Transport of other cargo under a design change approval

For transport of cargo other than medical supplies as well as in case removal of seats are necessary to allow fixation of cargo onto the aircraft structure for cargo operation, a Major Change or STC application is required and will be processed by EASA with priority.

While preparing your documentation, please consider the following information:

- For the installation of Cargo Seat Bags the CM-CS-003
- The published Special Condition, can be used as appropriate guidance, also in the frame of Minor Changes.
- Already approved STC
- Guidelines published by the aircraft manufacturers Airbus (ref.: FOT-999-0028-20-00) and Boeing (ref.: MOM-MOM-20-0239) have been issued.

Boeing proposes layoffs on voluntary basis



Boeing is launching a compensation program in view of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was announced by Boeing CEO David Calhoun on Thursday, April 2, in a statement to the workforce.

Employees should be encouraged to leave the company voluntarily by means of the severance package. This was to avoid the need of other measures to reduce the number of employees. Further details would be announced in three to four weeks.

“One thing is already clear, it will take time for the aerospace industry to recover from the crisis. When the world emerges from the pandemic, the size of the commercial market and the types of products and services our customers want and need will likely be different. We will need to balance the supply and demand accordingly as the industry goes through the recovery process for years to come, it’s important we start adjusting to our new reality now,” Calhoun said in his letter.

IATA postpones 2020 AGM



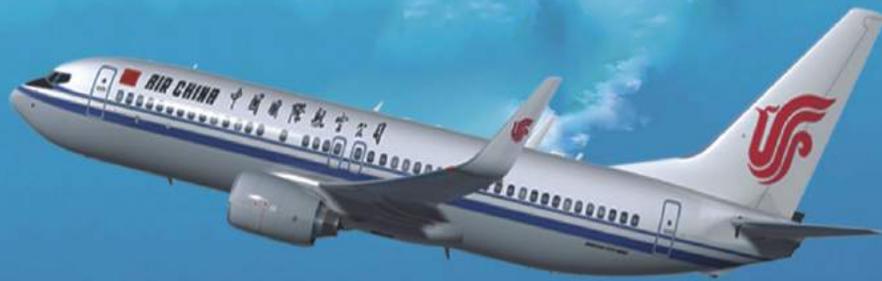
The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has postponed the 76th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit. The event had been scheduled to take place on 22-23 June in Amsterdam.

The 76th IATA AGM and World Air Transport Summit will be held when it is both safe and practicable to do so. IATA anticipates that will be in the late third or early fourth quarter of 2020. An announcement will be made when a date is confirmed.

“Our members are in the deepest crisis the air transport industry has ever faced. With much of the passenger business grounded as part of the global fight to contain the virus, many airlines are in a struggle to remain viable. On the cargo side, airlines are doing whatever they can to keep global supply chains moving with vital shipments, including those for critical medical supplies. We will come together as an industry when the freedom to travel has been restored and we can focus on air transport’s critical role in driving the economic and social recovery from this unprecedented crisis,” said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA’s director general and CEO.



Higher than the himalayas, Deeper than the sea, Sweeter than honey,
Across cloud, **Pakistan-China friendship**
Goes closer with Air China daily flight



航班号 Flight number	出发地-目的地 Origin-Destination	起飞时间-到达时间 Departure time-Arrival time	班期 Frequency	机型 Aircraft
CA945	北京-伊斯兰堡-卡拉奇 Beijing-Islamabad-Karachi	15:30-18:40-22:25	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	A330-200
CA946	伊斯兰堡-卡拉奇-北京 Islamabad-Karachi-Beijing	20:30-00:05-09:10	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	A330-200



CSSA GUL AVIATION

Head Office Karachi

M-41 & M-41(b) Mezzanine Floor
1,CF 1-5, Shahrah-e-Firdausi
Park Tower, Clifton Karachi-75600
Tel: +92-21 35370271-4
Fax: +92-21 35370276

Regional Office Lahore

14 commercial building, Cavalry Ground
Cantt,Lahore
Tel: +92-42-3666 9608,3665 1301-2
Fax: +92-42-3666-8077

Branches: Faisalabad, Sialkot, Islamabad, Peshawar

Wuhan, origin of coronavirus, resumes Flights we Look at the numbers

Wuhan the starting point of the coronavirus outbreak reopened Tianhe International Airport on 8 April to scheduled operations as the city enters the post-coronavirus phase. Its reopening comes after the facility's 76-day or nearly 11-week lockdown. The airport had 225 arrivals and departures on 8 April, with the first arrival XiamenAir flight MF8095, which landed from Hangzhou at 0719 local after a 1h 10m service. Wuhan's first departure, meanwhile, was China Eastern flight MU2527 to Sanya, Hainan, with 42 passengers. Such is the temporary and inevitable hardship.

Wuhan is crucially important in central China and country's 9th by GDP...

Wuhan, in China's central province of Hubei, has a population of 11 million and 19 million at metro level. The city is central China's largest and it is the region's key commercial, industrial, financial, education, and transport hub. Wuhan's GDP growth was 7.8% in 2019, 1.7% higher than the national average, and more than 300 of the world's top-500 companies have a presence in the city. This all accounts for Wuhan having China's ninth-largest GDP in 2019.

... yet the airport is 'only' 19th in the country

Despite this, Wuhan Airport was 'only' the country's 19th largest by seats last year, with 36.2 million, sandwiched between Changsha (36.8 million) and Dalian (36 million) albeit with very little difference. This is, of course, 'old' data, with the coronavirus making it far less meaningful than usual. But it does show what it will inevitably return to and exceed. Across China's top-25 airports by seat capacity in 2019, Wuhan grew the most on a percentage basis, up 10.2% YOY, more than twice as strong as the average. On a volume basis, it added 3.4 million, which was the highest of all airports ranked from 11 to 25.

S7 Airlines is confident it is strong enough to survive the crisis

Nevertheless, Russia's second largest carrier slashes its summer programme by 50 per cent

Posted on March 31st, 2020 by Russian Aviation Insider in Air Transport, Russia



S7 does not expect to be able to offset the losses from curtailed international services by increasing the number of domestic flights

S7 Airlines, Russia's second largest passenger carrier, is confident it has enough stamina to survive the on-going crisis facing the air travel market.

The private airline, which is listed as one of the country's enterprises of strategic importance, has curtailed its summer operations by 50 per cent and is currently engaged in completing the repatriation programme for evacuating Russian citizens and has no plans to ground its fleet, Grigory Davydov, S7 Group's deputy general director for strategy, has revealed to TASS newswire. "Irrespective of how the situation develops, S7 Airlines has sufficient stamina to overcome the crisis in the air travel industry," he states.

Even before the Covid-19 outbreak, Russia's largest private airline's attention was focused on developing its operations within the country, with domestic available seat kilometres representing 70 per cent of its total. S7 is also one of the



A flight attendant wearing a face mask and goggles serves passengers aboard a flight at the Tianhe International Airport. Wuhan lifted outbound travel restrictions, April 8, after almost 11 weeks of lockdown to stem the spread of Covid-19.

most financially disciplined companies in the home air transport sector.

According to Davydov, the airline's summer flight programme, which has only recently lifted off, has nevertheless been slashed by 50 per cent compared to the originally planned volumes. The airline is currently registering a predictable shrinkage of demand for both domestic and international flights, where sales are still open for remote dates for when the pandemic blows over and international travel resumes.

"Demand for international travel is extremely low at the moment, including for the most distant dates," Davydov confirms. "People have substantially restricted their mobility within Russia as well. In the domestic segment sales have plunged by 50 or 60 per cent compared to last year. Most of the bookings are for flights within three days from the purchase date, which reflects the high degree of uncertainty."

Even so, the airline is not planning to ground its fleet, as such a decision could only be commercially justified if aircraft were to be stored for a long period, the manager believes.

"We are not talking about parking some of our fleet. Some revival of air travel may occur in the summer, and there's no sense in grounding the fleet for less than several months," he explains. However, the airline does not expect to be able to offset the losses from curtailed international services by simply increasing the number of domestic flights.

From March 27, Russia has stopped all international air connections except for the evacuation flights. According to Davydov, S7 is still involved in returning Russian citizen customers from abroad, including Turkey, Japan and Vietnam. During February and March, the airline has evacuated 30,000 passengers, and about 6,500 are waiting for their turn. "We are counting on completing the repatriation process by mid-April," Davydov says.

S7 Airlines, along with flag carrier Aeroflot, Ural Airlines and Utair is among Russia's strategically important companies which may potentially count on state support.

Good Deed: Delta donates tonnes of unused food

Delta Air Lines is donating over 200,000 pounds or just over 90 metric tons of food so far in 2020. This donation of unused food is a result of surplus quantities leftover after Delta streamlined onboard service, significantly reduced the number of flights with meal service, and scaled-back Sky Club food options.



Delta is donating unused food.

Donation of unused food

In the announcement, Delta indicated that over 200,000 pounds of food went out to hospitals, food banks, and other organizations worldwide to support the front-line workers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation includes both perishable and non-perishable goods.



Over 200,000 pounds of food left Delta's storage facilities for donation to communities in need.

Thus far, over 200,000 pounds of perishable food items alone went to Feeding America and other charities including the Georgia Food & Resource Center and the Carthage Crisis Center in Missouri. Feeding America is a nationwide network of agencies and food banks that increase food access to those in need. The Georgia Food & Resource Center is a similar initiative, however, it operates locally in Georgia. The Carthage Crisis Center in Missouri is a homeless mission. Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles, Sky Clubs

are working to donate food to local food banks, first responders, churches, and charities.

The Truth Behind Hi Fly's Airbus A380

And, at the crown jewel of Delta's operations, the airline has partnered with a chef, Linton Hopkins, to provide trays and packaging supplies to organizations that deliver meals to hospitality workers in the Atlanta-area. In addition, some of these supplies will aid Hopkins' program delivering over 5,000 meals a week to locals in need and first responders at the Emory University Hospital.



Delta's donations are running across its network of destinations.

In Nice, France, Delta partnered with a caterer from the region Newrest to donate pre-packaged snacks. These items were distributed to hospitals and healthcare workers. Additional coffee and food went to an organization called MIR that distributes free meals and provides shelter to homeless people and survivors of human trafficking.

Where is Delta getting all this food?

In the past month, Delta has slashed the number of its international long-haul and domestic flights. Not only did this leave the carrier with excess planes, but also excess food due to fewer meals being served onboard aircraft.



The reduction in international long-haul routes contributed to the surplus of food.

In addition, Delta streamlined service onboard domestic and international flights

further contributing to the excess supply. Lastly, in Sky Clubs, Delta has moved away from buffet service to packaged snacks with beverages.

Emirates to start resuming passenger flights



The UAE authorities gave a green light for Emirates to start reinstating passenger flights starting from April 6, 2020. However, the resumption of flights in the airline's full capacity will still have to wait.

Emirates were granted approval by the country's authorities to resume a "limited number" of passenger flights, mostly out of the UAE, announced Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority president and Emirates Airline and Group chairman via social media on April 2, 2020.

"Over time, Emirates looks forward to the gradual resumption of passenger services in line with lifting of travel & operational restrictions, including assurance of health measures to safeguard our people & customers," added Al Maktoum.

Amidst the global coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Emirates was forced to cease passenger flights from March 25, 2020. At the time, the airline found itself in a situation where they could not viably operate passenger services until countries re-opened their borders and travel confidence returned, Al Maktoum was cited in the company's statement explaining.

As of April 2, 2020, 228 aircraft in the carrier's 269-strong fleet remain parked. Still in service are 11 Boeing 777 freighters, 29 777-300s and an Airbus A319, planespotter.net data indicated. All 115 company's A380 remain grounded.

Woman Sues Aer Lingus claiming member of cabin crew dragged her out of lavatory with pants still around her ankles

A woman claims she was pulled from a lavatory onboard an Aer Lingus flight by two flight attendants and dragged down the aisle with her pants around her ankles and her buttocks and genitalia exposed to all the passengers around her. Details of the bizarre incident were revealed in the last few days after Mary Oshana filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois seeking compensation from Aer Lingus for the April 2018 incident.

Oshana was a passenger on Aer Lingus flight EI122 from Chicago to Dublin, Ireland on April 26, 2018 when the plane taxied from the gate and parked up on the taxiway to wait out a short ground delay. Around 30 minutes after waiting in line and not going anywhere, Oshana says she got up from her seat because she had to use the lavatory.

Within 20 seconds of entering the lavatory, Oshana claims an Aer Lingus flight attendant started banging on the door, instructing her to immediately return to her seat. But by this point, Oshana had already sat on the toilet with her pants around her ankles.

She claims she told the flight attendant she would return to her seat "in a minute" but accuses the crew of breaking into the lavatory just 20 seconds later and with no prior warning.

"In the process of being dragged from the lavatory to her seat with her pants below her knees, the buttocks and genitalia of the plaintiff, Mary Oshana, were exposed to other passengers aboard flight EIO122."

The lawsuit claims two flight attendants grabbed her "under her arms, dragged her to her seat while her pants were below her knees, and threw her with

great force into the armrest and seat."

She says that along with suffering pain and bruising from being thrown into the armrest, she also faced the emotional distress of seeing and hearing male passengers behind her laughing and

China to give 50 drones pesticides to fight locusts

China has agreed to assist Pakistan to combat the menace of locust in various parts of the country with \$5 million technical support besides providing 50 drones and 300,000 litres of pesticides to carry out spray in affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab.

Secretary of National Food Security and Research Muhammad Hashim Popalzai told media that the Chinese government had decided to send drones urgently.

The use of fixed and rotary wing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), commonly called drones, are potential means of improving desert locust monitoring, early warning and rapid control, and reducing costs of survey and control operations.

The Chinese authorities would also send technical staff to carry out operation and train staff of the Plant Protection Department and concerned provincial departments, he said.

The government is negotiating with a mission of the Chinese aviation industry for the supply of aircraft to carry out aerial

spray in the locust-affected areas. Mr Popalzai said that the government would acquire six aircraft on lease for three to four months to completely eliminate locusts from agricultural fields of the country.

The team visited the locust-

pointing at her.

As a result of hitting the armrest, Oshana now claims to have suffered "severe and permanent injuries to her nervous system." She's asking for undisclosed damages that would "fully and fairly compensate her for the damages and injuries she has sustained."

Aer Lingus has been contacted for comment but has not yet responded. The airline recently boasted it had been named the world's fifth-most family-friendly airline in research conducted by Lastminute.com.

affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab and had final wrap-up meetings at the ministry of national food security and the national disaster management authority.

The Chinese assistance is part of strengthening the national action plan to combat the locust attack that has caused serious damage to agro-pastoral resources of the country. Desert locust is an international trans-boundary concern with major economic, social and environmental implications.

According to preliminary assessment carried out by the agriculture department in Sindh and Balochistan, the locust attack has damaged crops cultivated on 80,000 hectares of land besides causing serious damage to grazing fields and forest areas. The most time-critical action now is to effectively eliminate adult locust and hopper bands in already identified breeding zones in a bid to protect crops and livelihoods of at-risk poor farming households, according to an assessment report submitted to FAO.

By doing so, the desert locust will be prevented from spreading to other areas where the ecological conditions are suitable for breeding. In the winter and spring breeding zone of Balochistan, the environment is conducive for locust multiplication because of the recent rains. The breeding zones are Gwadar, Uthal, Khuzdar, Nushki, Kharan, Panjgarh and Turbat divisions.

Similarly, the summer and monsoon breeding zones of locusts are Sukkur, Mirpurkhas divisions in Sindh and Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalpur divisions in Punjab, where the locust swarms may start breeding following the monsoon rains in June-July.



Shipping & Logistics

Commerce Times



International Cargo Management

Int'l Invoc/Freight Forwarder/Consolidator

AOG SPECIALIST



**ANY WHERE
ANY TIME
YOUR DESTINY
IS OUR SUCCESS**

**NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE
TO ACHIEVE !!!!!**



Room # 802,
8th Floor, Business
Plaza Mumtaz Hassan
Road, of I.I Chundrigar Road, Karachi
Tel: 0092-21-32417863-5,
Fax: 0092-21-32417743,
Email: info@icmpk.com
www.icmpk.com

BRANCH OFFICES
Lahore - Sialkot
Islamabad - Dubai

Victims names read out in somber start to MH17 trial



Chairman of the MH17 trial chamber Hendrick Steenhuis (center) and magistrate arrive at the shipcol court house recently for the opening of the trial of the four men accused of murder over the drawing Malaysia Airline flight MH17 in 2014.

Bereaved family members listened silently with bowed heads as the names of all 298 victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 were read out recently at the start of the trial of four men accused of downing the plane.

The suspects three Russians and one Ukrainian were not present in court but judges decided to continue the hearing, the fruit of a long fight for justice by relatives and investigators since the crash on July 17, 2014.

The shooting down of the Boeing 777 over Ukraine by a Russian-made missile was an "atrocious disaster", head judge Hendrik Steenhuis said as he declared the trial open at a court near Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

"The court realises the impact of the loss of so many lives and the manner in which they so abruptly ended is barely conceivable," added Steenhuis.

Planes taking off from Schiphol roared overhead during the hearing, taking the same route as MH17 did on its way to Kuala Lumpur before it was ripped apart by a surface-to-air missile over part of Ukraine held by pro-Moscow rebels.

But inside the high-security courtroom it was silent during the solemn moment when prosecutor Dedy Woei-a-Tsoi intoned the names of the victims, while relatives listened with their eyes closed.

"I think today is of the highest importance," said Piet Ploeg, the head of a foundation for MH17 victims who lost his brother, sister-in-law and nephew on the doomed flight.

This is the first day that we will know what happened, who was responsible, why the plane was shot down, and to questions like what was Russia's role."

Dutch prosecutors last year charged Russian nationals Igor Girkin, Sergei

Dubinsky, Oleg Pulatov and Ukrainian citizen Leonid Kharchenko with murder and causing the flight to crash.

Prosecutors say all four were linked to pro-Russian separatists on whose territory the plane's wreckage fell near the start of Ukraine's bitter civil war.

They argue the men were instrumental in bringing the BUK missile system to Ukraine from its original base in Russia even if they did not pull the trigger.

"We have a duty to honour the truth, not just out of duty to the families, but also to do justice to international law," Ward Ferdinandusse, another prosecutor, told the court.

Judges ruled that proceedings could go ahead "in absentia" against Girkin, Dubinsky and Kharchenko as Dutch, Russian and Ukrainian authorities had tried to contact them by post and by electronic media.

Girkin and Dubinsky had also been quoted by media as saying they did not recognise the Dutch court, the judges said.

"We assume they have waived their right to be present since they do not value the right to be present," Steenhuis said.

The fourth suspect, Pulatov, is being represented by lawyers but was also not present.

"He says he has nothing to do with the destruction of flight MH17," his defence lawyer Sabine ten Doeschate told the court.

Russia has long denied any involvement in the downing of MH17, and has offered a series of alternative explanations for the plane's downing.

Moscow again accused the Netherlands of a "crude attempt to put pressure on the court" and said it was trying to "fill the gaps in the evidence". But Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said that the trial was being held in "full independence" and was a "very important step to get to the truth and to find justice for the victims and their relatives". More than two-thirds of the victims 196 in total were Dutch.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lent his support on the eve of the trial, saying he had confidence in the Dutch justice system and those responsible "must be held accountable".

Girkin, 49, also known by his pseudonym "Strelkov", is the most high-profile suspect -- a former Russian spy

and historical re-enactment fan who helped kickstart the war in Ukraine.

Dubinsky, 57, who has also been tied to Russian intelligence, allegedly served as the separatists' military intelligence chief while Pulatov, 53, was an ex-Russian special forces soldier and one of Dubinsky's deputies. Kharchenko, 48, allegedly led a separatist unit in eastern Ukraine. If found guilty, the four suspects could be given life sentences.

"For me, the most important thing is will there be enough evidence that the judge can make a conclusion -- guilty. If that's the case, then I will be satisfied," said Anton Kotte, another family member attending the hearing.

The trial which is expected to last more than a year was adjourned.

Shall passenger airliners run as freighters during the COVID-19 crisis?

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the passenger traffic has ground to a halt in many countries. The airliners are parked and their crews sit idle.

At the same time, the air freight market booms. From a decline in demand in the first months of the year, there isn't enough freighter capacity right now. The freight that traveled in the bellies of the passenger jets had to find new ways and as this was almost half the world's air cargo, the dedicated freighters can't absorb the volumes.

Is it time to fly passenger airliners as substitute freighters? Some airlines are doing this on a spot basis. Apart from injecting capacity for needed medical supply freight, does it make economic sense? We run a series of articles on the subject.

Figure 1. Delta flies an A350-900 as a belly freighter between Shanghai and Chicago three times a week from March 30. Source: Delta.

Summary:

Freight prices soar as capacity collapses when airlines ground passenger jets.

For the airlines, the cost equation changes with an abundance of free capacity at remaining fixed costs.

Does it make economic sense to run passenger airliners as freighters in this situation?

Falcon Gold

Experience our genuine
Arabian hospitality



طيران الخليج
GULF AIR

Oneworld, SkyTeam and Star Alliance call on governments for extraordinary support

On behalf of their member airlines, the three global airline alliances oneworld®, SkyTeam and Star Alliance are jointly calling on governments and stakeholders to take action to alleviate the unprecedented challenges faced by the global airline industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three global alliances, which represent almost 60 airlines around the world that contribute more than half of global airline capacity, are strongly supporting a request by the International Air Transport Association for regulators to suspend slot usage rules for the northern summer 2020 season as the airline industry suffers from extraordinary reductions in passenger demand.

The alliances welcome the moves in recent days by some regulators who have suspended slot regulations temporarily and urge others to follow suit promptly. They also request that regulators consider extending the suspensions for the entire operating season.

The impact of COVID-19 on the airline industry is significant, with IATA estimating up to US\$ 113 billion in revenue losses for global passenger airlines. The impact is expected to have a ripple effect through the value chain that supports the airline industry. The forecasted revenue loss scenario does not include travel restrictions recently imposed by the US and other governments. US restrictions on passengers from the Schengen Area will place pressure on the US-Schengen market, valued at over US\$ 20 billion in 2019.

To alleviate the immense pressures faced by airlines in the current operating environment, and in support of IATA's statement on 12 March, the three alliances urge governments worldwide to prepare for the broad economic effects from actions taken by states to contain the spread of COVID-19, and to evaluate all possible means to assist the airline industry during this unprecedented period.

The alliances also call on other stakeholders to provide support. For example, airport operators are urged to evaluate landing charges and fees to mitigate the financial pressure faced by airlines due to a severe decline in passenger demand.

oneworld CEO Rob Gurney said:

"During such times of difficulty and uncertainty, it is important that the airline industry works even closer with stakeholders to mitigate adverse impacts from the virus and collaborate in areas within our control. Governments must implement the measures they consider necessary oneworld, SkyTeam and Star Alliance member airlines call on governments and stakeholders for extraordinary support 2

to contain the spread of COVID-19, and must be prepared for the widescale economic implications that will result from those measures."

SkyTeam CEO and Managing Director Kristin Colville said: "The human and financial impact that the COVID-19 outbreak is having on the aviation industry is unprecedented. SkyTeam, with its alliance partners, and on behalf of member airlines, is urging all involved institutions and industry stakeholders to face these extraordinary times with exceptional measures. This includes action such as slot relief, airport and overflight fees reduction.

Star Alliance CEO Jeffrey Goh said: "The unprecedented circumstances triggered by the coronavirus outbreak pose an existential threat not only to the airline industry but more generally to global trade and commerce, and social connectivity. As airlines stretch their limits to manage the crisis, it is equally critical for governments and stakeholders to avoid further burdens and step up with measures, as some have, that will ensure the future of the travel industry."

Member airlines of the three global alliances have implemented urgent measures to address the impact of COVID-19, such as very significant capacity reductions, cost-saving initiatives, enhanced cleaning procedures and customer support outreach.

About oneworld

oneworld brings together 13 world-class airlines - American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, Finnair, Iberia, Japan Airlines, LATAM, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas, Qatar Airways, Royal Jordanian, S7 Airlines and SriLankan Airlines, and around 30 of their affiliates.

Airways is a oneworld connect partner. Collectively, these airlines serve 1,100 airports in 180 territories, with 14,000 daily departures and carry almost 550 million passengers a year on a combined fleet of 3,500 aircraft.

THAI appoints Mr. Chakkrit Parapuntakul to be acting for President

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited

Board of Directors Meeting no. 3/2020 on 18 March 2020. The Board of Directors passed a resolution to appoint Mr. Chakkrit Parapuntakul,



THAI Second Vice Chairman to be acting for THAI President effective from 23 March 2020 onwards.

Mr. Chakkrit Parapuntakul holds a Bachelor Degree in Accounting, Thammasat University and a Master Degree in Business Administration, Angelo State University, Texas, USA. He completed some important training courses such as the National Defence Course (Class 52), National Defence College and the Executive Program in Energy Literacy for a Sustainable Future (Class 9), Thailand Energy Academy. He previously held the position of Director of Krungthai Bank PCL., Director of PTT Exploration and Production PCL., Director-General of Treasury Department, Chairman of Dhanarak Asset Development Co., Ltd. and Director of Tris Corporation Co., Ltd. He currently holds the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and THAI Second Vice Chairman.

Mr. Chakkrit Parapuntakul accept the position of acting for THAI President without receiving any remuneration beginning and will be supervising the implementation of the company's reform plans as well as setting measures to tackle the COVID-19 situation. However, the Company is now strictly in the process of implementing reform plans. In addition, there was an evaluation of COVID-19 impact from the least to the most impact in order to prepare and deal with the situation accordingly. THAI requests passengers, alliances, business partners, shareholders and staff have confidence in the Company and be ensured that the company will overcome the crisis.

Old memories



Photo was taken on the occasion of 'Basic Cargo Course' conducted by PIA at its Training Centre, Karachi in 80's shows Mr. Sohail Yasin (1st-L) Mr. M. Yousaf (5th -L) Mian Nasir Mahmood (Ext. R), Mr. Ghayur Zahidi (5th - R) Mr. Noor Muhammad (sitting 3rd-R - MD Lahore Cargo) and other participants.

Election results of PALPA Executive Committee 2020- 2022

Election of PALPA Executive Committee 2020-2022 were held in Jan. this year.

As per details, out of 366 total active pilots. 314 voters casted their votes out of which 160 were from Karachi, 99 from Islamabad and 55 from Lahore. For retired pilots, out of 566 total votes, 112 were casted.

The following members declared elected:

President: Capt. Ch. Salman Riaz, Vice President: Capt. Bijarani, General Secretary Capt. Narejo, Joint Secretary,(1) Capt. Qassim Qadir (2) Capt. Humayun Malik, (3) FO. Mudassar Mushtaq and Treasurer: Capt. Haseeb Ali Khan.

EC members: are as follows:

(1) Capt. Waqas Hussan, Capt. Omar Rashid, FO Tariq M. Yahya , FO Jehanzeb Khanzada, Capt. Ahmed Ala, Capt Majid Akhter, Capt. Fayyaz.

Retd. EC member are Capt. (Retd) Zubair Subhani, Capt. (Retd) Anwar Adil.

The newly elected Executive Committee of Pakistan Airlines Pilots

24 APRIL 2020

Association (PALPA) has vowed to work with govt. to revive the national flag carrier and further improve flight safety with international safety standards. "Serving the nation to the best of abilities is top on priority." said president of PALPA -"PIAC working agreement 2020-2022 is on top of their agenda which has been due for renewal since 2013", said newly elected General Secretary.

"We are committed to flight safety

enhancement, health of our pilots and we are willing to propose amendments in flight patterns according to international safety elected" said, newly elected president, PALPA.

It is pertinent to mention that PALPA is a professional body of commercial pilots which has been at the forefront to guard the safer skies for the aviation industry in Pakistan.



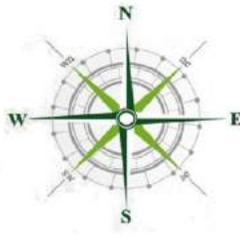
General Secretary, PALPA:
Capt. Imran Narejo



President, PALPA:
Capt. Ch. Salman Riaz



Vice President, PALPA:
Capt. Maqsood Ahmed Bijarani



IJ CARGO SERVICES (PVT) LTD.

International Freight Forwarding



Your Reliable Partner & Powered By



Pakistan International
Freight Forwarders
Association



International
Federation
of Freight
Forwarders



Karachi
Chamber of
Commerce
& Industry



Sialkot
Chamber of
Commerce
& Industry



Leading the World
in Logistics Partnership

Address

Head Office

Office # 603, 6th Floor, Park Avenue, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan.

Branch Office

Al-Maaman, Paris road, Sialkot, Pakistan.

CALL

KHI: [+92-21-34326985-86]
SKT: [+92-52-4295253-54]

EMAIL

[info@ijcargo.com]

[www.ijcargo.com]

SIAL news in pictures



Mr. M. Afzal Shaheen Vice Chairman SIAL (Sialkot International Airport Mr. Abdul Sattar Azad Editor Flyer International in a meeting with Mr. Nadeem Anwar Qureshi Chairman SIAL during his visit to Sialkot International Airport International to recognize his services (giving regular and effective coverage) to recently. Also seen in the picture are Mian Nadeem Javed Chairman Business SIAL since its inception, also seen in the picture are Pilot Waqas Masood and Promotion Committee and Mirza Abdul Shakoor Manager Media SIAL. Mirza A. Shakoor Manager Media SIAL.



Vice Chairman SIAL Mr. M. Afzal Shaheen, Chief Security Officer Airport M. Tariq Butt, Airport Manager Nisar Ahmed and others, are being presented a briefing by IT Manager Saleem Akhtar on a latest Thermo Scanner installed at Sialkot International Airport.



Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan and Mr. Daud Sair, Ch. Zulfiqar, Jamshed Ghiyas, Saqib Bhatti, Mian Faisal, Mudasar Munir, and Javed Malik offer condolence on the death of wife of founder Chairman SIAL, Mian Muhammad Riaz.



Founding Chairman SIAL Mian Muhammad Riaz addressing a special ceremony held at SIAL. Mr. Nadeem Anwar Qureshi Chairman, Mr. M. Afzal Shaheen Vice Chairman and Maj Gen. (R) Muhammad Abid Nazir CEO also share the occasion.



Commissioner Gujranwala Mr. Gulzar Hussain Shah, DC Nasir Mahmood Bashir, Mr. Nadeem Anwar Qureshi Chairman, Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Abid Nazir CEO, Mr. M. Afzal Shaheen Vice Chairman SIAL addressing in a meeting at Sialkot International Airport in connection with Precautionary measures for Coronavirus.



Convener SIAL CSR Committee Ch. Ghulam Mustafa presiding over a session of CSR Committee at Sialkot International Airport. Mr. Nadeem Anwar Qureshi Chairman, Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Abid Nazir CEO Mr. M. Afzal Shaheen Vice Chairman, Khawar Anwar Khawaja, Mr. Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub,, former Chairman Mr. Hanif Khan and others are also present on the occasion.

AIRSIAL to launch flight operations in Pakistan



AirSial has announced to launch its flight operations in Pakistan very soon. The airline plans to operate its inaugural flight from Sialkot to Karachi. Initially it will operate three flights a day from Karachi to Lahore, three flights from Karachi to Islamabad and almost daily flight from Karachi to Sialkot and Peshawar. After some time AirSial will start flights to other cities within the country and then to international destinations, this was stated by Mr. Fazal Jilani, Chairman AirSial in a brief interview with Flyer International.

Mr. Fazal Jilani told Flyer International that AirSial had signed contract with AerCap to acquire three A320s aircrafts on lease in August last year. The seat configuration of the aircrafts is 180 seats, all economy. He told that all the formalities have been completed and its ready to fly. The airline also has signed the contract with SAPS, RAS and SIAL for ground handling services in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Sialkot respectively.



Mr. Fazal Jilani Chairman AirSial.

Mr. Jilani also told that, AirSial will gradually increase its fleet to get small jet aircrafts from Embraer to fly on feeder stations and roundtrip flights between Lahore and Multan etc.,. After operating domestic flights successfully AirSial will gradually operate international flights starting first with flights to Jeddah and then to other destinations. He told that AirSial is another mega project of SCCI (Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry) after SIAL which is operational since 2007 and successfully hosting a

large number of domestic and international flights.

Mr. Jilani told that AirSial will not take any undue advantage to increase the air fares on the occasions like Eids and other peak seasons. AirSial will facilitate the people of Pakistan to give them a choice of better airline with better facilities. He further said, they will not compromise on safety, comfort and food. The airline has plan to take food for in-flight entertainment from the 'Kitchen Cuisine'.



Sheikh Dr. Abdul Rehman Al-Shaibi the Inheritor & Keeper of the Keys of Kaaba Sharif photographed with Mr. Ameen Ahsan CEO, Mr. Fazal Jilani Chairman, Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Sr. Vice Chairman and Mr. Umar Mir Vice Chairman AirSial at the inaugural ceremony of the airline Head Office Sialkot.

AirSial Corporate Head Office at Kashmir Road, Sialkot was formally inaugurated on 29th, Feb 2020 by Shaikh Dr. Abdul Rehman Al-Shaibi son of Shaikh Saleh Zain Al-Abedin Al-Shaibi, the inheritor and keeper of the keys of Kaaba Sharif, during his visit to Sialkot. The ceremony was attended by a large number of directors of the airline, leading businessmen and other dignitaries of the city.

ADVENT OF CAPITALISM AND IT'S AFTERMATH

(Prof. Safdar Sandal)

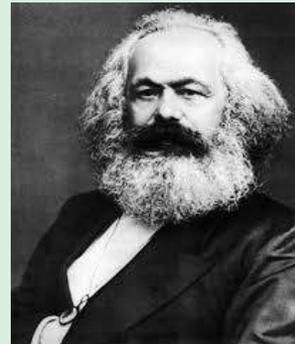
In history the businessmen have played a pivotal role in the life of men. To begin with the early stages of history, the traders used their prowess to undertake hazardous journeys for marketing and selling their merchandise of daily use in territories other than their own. This was a time when means of communication were scanty and the traders faced great hardships in their journeys by going through the looming dangers of loot by dacoits and savage tribes who were always in the lurk. All these difficulties were endured for the obvious reason of getting profits that accrued from their business activity. The profession has always been regarded as a respectable one. An explicit desire on the part of businessmen that existed in the past was that the profits gained should be received by them in the form of gold as gold was considered to be a safest currency which would protect their wealth. The traders and nations by means of collecting gold increased their riches and power. Christopher Columbus used to say that 'gold is so precious that through it one could buy even the paradise'.

Accumulation of wealth and using the power of it could safely be given the name of 'Capitalism'. In the 'Medieval Ages' this system was called 'Mercantile



Capitalism'. In this process, the traders bought merchandise at cheaper rates from one place and sold them at higher price in other places, after determining an 'Exchange Value' (price) that was available under the circumstances.

In the 'Middle Ages', when the European trades came to India and other parts of Asia, they had in fact nothing special to bring with them from Europe and what they did was that they bought cloth, spices and indigo, paid in the form of silver and carried these items to European markets making huge amounts of profit. The merchants of Venice (Italy) called the 'Princes' because of their fabulous wealth were famous in this trade.



Hegel, Karl Marx (German thinkers) & Lenin (The Russian revolutionary)

They carried also warships with them to ward off pirates in the Mediterranean seas. But when there emerged an 'Industrial Revolution' in the nineteenth-century Europe, the trend of trade also got changed. Now the industrialists produced

goods in their factories and sold them at higher prices in other countries of the world. The 'Industrial Revolution' in Europe, at one side brought about prosperity among the industrialist class making them opulent and haughty and at the other created a poor and an obsessed working class whose labour was abused i.e., paid much less than what they deserved. The system now came to be known as 'Industrial Capitalism', which produced a new strata in society namely the industrialists or capitalists, an upper and a lower middle class and workers termed as 'bourgeois', 'petit-bourgeois' and the 'proletariat' according to their grades of work. The 'proletariat' (working class) was



Venice Italy



- * AIR FREIGHT
- * OCEAN FREIGHT
- * ROAD FREIGHT
- * WAREHOUSING
- * CUSTOMS BROKERAGE
- * AFGHAN TRANSIT



SFI House , Shahabpura Ugoki Road , Sialkot - Pakistan .

Tel:- 0092 52 3242104-6 , Email:- info@sfi.com.pk , Web:- www.sfi.com.pk

OFFICES:- SIALKOT / LAHORE / ISLAMABAD / PESHAWAR / KARACHI / DUBAI-UAE

air, no channels of clean water and no exists of dirty water. All were dumped in one living place which made the life miserable for them. Excess of work, malnutrition and pollution in their environment told upon their health, made them sick and weak. Fatal tuberculosis became the common disease. One could not think of imparting education to their children. Span of their lives squeezed and they fought a battle of survival and as said, 'horses cannot be fattened in the thick battle; same plight was theirs. The battle of 'haves and have nots' was on. The situation presented two opposite features, figuring industrialists who lived a prosperous life and workers who lived an abject life.

A severe repulsion against this system came in the form of recurrence of ideologies of Socialism and Communism which had first originated in history with Plato and Aristotle, the Greek philosophers. The works in modern times of 'Hegel' advocating an 'Absolutist State', of 'Karl Marx' and Friedrich Engel, (German thinkers), who propounded communism and a classless society, eliminating bourgeois oppression under industrial capitalism. The theories created a social and an economic chaos and left an indelible impact for emergence of countries based on communism like the 'Soviet Union' and a largely allied communist-world, ruled by iron hands of men like "Lenin" and 'Stalin' consecutively, later by Nikita Khrushchev and lastly by 'Mikhail Gorbachev, who ultimately succumbed to a 'free market economy' and lived to bring 'Soviet Union' out of the quagmire of communism. The 'Soviet Union', one of the two world powers lived for seventy years before it disappeared from the map of the world. The gloom did not end here, however. The fall of communism saw Russia's most prized assets sold off to a small circle of business tycoons later known as oligarchs and their control of the state power as 'oligarchy'. A staggering 35 per cent of wealth in Russia is owned by just 110 people. It has the highest level of inequality of wealth in the world. Vladimir Putin and Mikhail Friedman, who made their fortunes in the 90s, are still high on the list of Russia's richest men.

The Western European countries on the other hand made a stride and achieved a diametrical transformation in the shape of creation of 'Welfare states', providing

100% free education, free medical facilitation, a high standard of living for their citizens without discrimination. In fact every conceivable amenity of life was made available to people. The conditions of work in factories improved dramatically and an 'International Labour Organisation' (ILO) was formed under the 'United Nations Organisation' charter, which monitored the working conditions of labourers the world over, including prohibition of child labour and a guaranteed provision of all kinds of 'social welfare' services to the workers which continued even after they had completed term of their jobs.

The system of a Welfare State as often referred to, had been introduced by Caliph Umar in The Islamic State of the early seventh century AD and has proudly been acclaimed, possessed and practiced by the Scandinavian States of the modern day, too.

Once in Gothenburg (Sweden), I was invited by a business friend at his home for a dinner. On the way to his home, he pointed to a house which belonged to the manager of his own company. The house looked equally good as was his own, but the interesting part that he told me, was that the net-income of his manager was more than his own income as he had to pay many 'social welfare taxes' to his government from which the manager enjoyed a holiday. In the end the manager led a more comfortable life than the owner of the company, also because that he had a fixed and high salary with no fear of losses that usually entail a business. Later in the evening, I was introduced with the said gentleman too and I realised that the manager really looked happier and financially more sound than my business friend. In case a woman employee in the company began in a family way during her service; she was paid full salary by the employer even when her doctor advised her to stay home with an addition of some allowances also paid for the unborn babe.

In the modern 'Welfare States' of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and some others, the social and economic gap among the people has gone down to a minimal level and it is further shrinking. It is undoubtedly an ideal form of any economic system that has so far filtered through the ages and it must be the envy of any country of the modern world to follow and develop accordingly.

More PIA flights to bring back countrymen stranded abroad

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which has partially resumed its international flight operations, decided recently to operate more flights to repatriate hundreds of Pakistanis stranded in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and France.

A PIA spokesman said that the national flag carrier had decided to extend its international relief flight operations to bring back Pakistanis stranded in different countries. A special flight will be operated to Denmark from Islamabad on April 10.

Likewise, another PIA flight will be operated for Baku city of Azerbaijan to repatriate 125 stranded Pakistanis. On April 11, a PIA flight will be operated to Kuala Lumpur to bring back 175 Pakistanis, who have been stranded there for 16 days.

The PIA flight scheduled for Kuala Lumpur will take diplomatic staff of Singapore and citizens from Islamabad and will bring back the 175 Pakistanis to Islamabad. On April 11, a special flight of PIA will be operated for France from Islamabad and French citizens stranded in Pakistan will be repatriated to their home country on this flight.

On April 12, another PIA relief flight will be operated from Islamabad to Japan's capital city Tokyo with Japanese citizens and essential goods on board.

As many as 200 Pakistanis stranded in Thailand will be brought back to Islamabad by a special flight of PIA, which will be operated on April 13. The spokesman said the people who wanted to travel by special flights and had not contacted their respective embassies were requested to contact the PIA offices or call centres for reservation.

Meanwhile, a PIA flight PK-792, carrying 137 passengers and 15 crew members, arrived in Islamabad from Birmingham.

All the passengers and crew members of the flight PK-792 were shifted to different hotels in Islamabad for swab tests.

The PIA spokesman said the crew members were shifted to hotels for swab tests for 24 hours. They will be allowed to go home after their test reports are negative. In case of positive reports, they will be shifted to hospital.

PRIME CARGO INTERNATIONAL

'Providing Comprehensive & Complete logistical solution'



UAN : (92-52) 111-531-531

Fax : (92-52) 3552620

Email: info@primecargo.biz

Web : www.primercargo.biz



BRANCHES: KARACHI - LAHORE - FAISALABAD - ISLAMABAD - PESHAWAR

Gilgit, Skardu exempted from suspension of flight operations

The government has decided to exempt flights from Islamabad International Airport to Gilgit and Skardu from suspension of domestic flight operation which will come into force from March 26.

The government has suspended domestic flight operation from March 26 at 6am till further order.

The flights include scheduled, non-scheduled, chartered and private aircraft passengers.

The move came as a precaution against coronavirus which had already forced the government to suspend international flight operation till April 4.

On the other hand, Pakistan International Airlines has decided to operate four international flights for the passengers who had been stranded in Pakistan due to closure of flight operation.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez said in a press release that of the four flights, three will be operated for the UK and the remaining one for Canada.

He said PIA flight PK-781 will take off from Lahore for Toronto on March 27, PK-709 from Islamabad to Manchester on March 28, PK-757 from Islamabad to London on March 28 while PK9791 will depart from Islamabad to Birmingham on March 28.

He said all the four passenger planes will be back empty.

PIA is booking seats in the two special flights on first come first served basis, he said.

The spokesman said following prime minister's directives the domestic flights for Gilgit and Skardu was started only to facilitate people of northern areas and to provide them basic needs in the emergency situation.

He said all the PIA planes were disinfected properly and passengers boarding on flights were scanned at the airports.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Aviation Division Ghulam Sarwar Khan said the aviation industry around the world was facing immense losses due to the spread of coronavirus as Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has also incurred a loss of Rs4 billion till March 25.

In a statement issued recently he said that the entire expected loss of PIA for the March could reach Rs6 Billion.

Civil Aviation Authority has incurred a loss of Rs600 million from March 1 to

March 15, which is expected to grow.

Aviation Minister said that PIA had arranged 27 special ferry flights in order to bring back 8,824 Pakistanis stranded in Saudi Arabia.

He said 40 Pakistanis from Doha and 100 Pakistanis from Dubai were also

Sabre appoints Otto Gergye to lead its airline operations in North Asia

Sabre Corporation (NASDAQ: SABR), the leading software and technology company that powers the global travel industry, recently announced Otto Gergye as Vice President, Regional General Manager, North Asia, Travel Solutions Airline Sales. Gergye will be responsible for Sabre's airline operations in North Asia, a key growth region for the company. His role will involve identifying business opportunities and further expanding Sabre's already strong presence in this fast-growing region. He will also seek to strengthen successful and trusted relationships with existing airline customers.



Gergye brings over 20 years of experience across the aviation and travel industry to Sabre, having held multiple senior executive roles with various airlines and technology providers across the globe. He joins Sabre from Qantas Airways where he was General Manager Commercial Sales Performance Asia. Previous notable roles for Gergye include Executive General Manager Sales, Marketing & Distribution at Fiji Airways, Senior Vice President at Air Berlin and Chief Commercial Officer with Malev Hungarian Airlines. Gergye has also worked in a variety of commercial leadership positions at airlines, telecommunications and software companies, including at British Airways and KLM.

"Otto Gergye is a highly experienced travel, technology and business leader with a proven record for leading global teams, opening up new markets and driving growth for airline and technology companies within APAC and beyond, said Darren Rickey, SVP, Travel Solutions Regional Sales and Accounts, Sabre. "Having worked at a number of airlines himself, he is well-placed to strengthen existing relationships and grow new ones

brought back who were stuck there because of the Pakistan government's condition to provide coronavirus test report.

Meanwhile, Federal Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan has appealed to all segments of the society including media to support the present government in its fight against the virus.

He said the reduction in petroleum prices would directly reduce inflation and provide immediate relief to the common man.

to further cement Sabre's position as APAC's preferred airline technology partner."

Gergye will be based out of Sabre's APAC headquarters in Singapore. He holds an MBA from the Open University Business School.

"I'm delighted to be joining a company with such a deserved reputation for providing robust end-to-end solutions to its airline partners and the wider travel industry to power reach and revenue," said Otto Gergye, Sabre's new Regional General Manager, Airline Solutions, North Asia. "Sabre also has clear and ambitious plans for future growth and innovation and I look forward to being a key part of that journey."

Domestic flight operations suspended

The government has suspended the operation of all types of domestic scheduled and nonscheduled chartered and private aircraft passenger flights till further order.

The move came about as a precautionary measure to limit the spread of coronavirus which had already forced the government to suspend international flight operation.

A spokesman for the Aviation Division said in a statement that the government after due consultation with all airline operators had decided to suspend all types of domestic scheduled / nonscheduled chartered and private aircraft passenger flights. He said the suspension of domestic flights will not apply on cargo and special flights subjected to necessary clearance.



TAQ continues to move forward



For over 45 years The TAQ Organization has served the exporters and importers of the country with world-class transportation and logistics services. TAQ continues to move forward to give greater value to customers. Let us be your service provider and form a winning team to tap the opportunities that lie ahead in this region.

International Freight Forwarding • Wholesale Freight Management
 Supply Chain Logistics • Contract Logistics
 Industrial Projects Handling • Custom Brokerage Management
 Transit Trade Services • Packing & Moving
 Door to Door Service

We are a different organization in Pakistan

E-mail: info@tlpk.com URL: www.taq.com.pk

Karachi: (021) 34541301~7, Lahore: (042) 36363300~7, Sialkot: (052) 3554301~4, Rawalpindi / Islamabad: (051) 5766153~4,
 Faisalabad: (041) 8548718, Peshawar: (091) 5606473, Multan: (061) 4510465

Virus shutdown force buyers shipments 'claim textile exporters



A woman walks by a luxury shop in a near-empty Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in Milan.

European buyers are reaching out to Pakistani textile exporters and urging them to delay shipments owing to growing uncertainty in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

Europe is now the epicentre of the global coronavirus outbreak, declared the World Health Organisation recently.

The Europe Union (EU) is the second biggest trading partner of Pakistan where around 20 per cent of Pakistani exports have duty-free access while 70pc avails preferential treatment.

However, since the coronavirus outbreak, things looking testy. According to a news report, Zara's parent Inditex would temporarily close all its stores in Spain due to coronavirus. Other major brands are likely to follow suit.

Talking to media, Chief Coordinator Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) and Chairman Pakistan Apparel Forum, Muhammad Jawed Bilwani said two major developments have taken place since coronavirus cases emerged in European countries. "Some EU importers of textile have started asking Pakistani suppliers to slowdown their production while others are seeking late deliveries by one to one and a half months," he explained.

When asked whether exporters have followed the request of production slowdown, he said, export units continue to produce goods in a bid to meet the now delayed shipments.

Chairman Council of Textile Association (CTA), Zubair Motiwala also said European buyers are insisting to delay shipments by one to three weeks on old orders, adding, "Fortunately, we have not received any cancellation of old orders from Europe."

Motiwala feared the situation may

turn ugly as coronavirus is spreading fast in Europe. He said "amid looming uncertainty, we have continued our production."

President Site Association of Industry, Suleman Chawla said European and American textile importers have asked Pakistani exporters to continue making textile products but delay their shipments by a week. According to Chawla, exports to European countries reach in 15-21 days time.

"Importers have informed local exporters about closure of ports in European countries. The situation will clear in next one to two weeks," he added.

Chairman Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PLGMEA), Fawad Ejaz Khan said coronavirus in Europe has caused uneasiness among exporters as some of them have faced 50 per cent decline in fresh orders. "Some European buyers are also asking Pakistan exporters to send shipments only on the requests made by them. Many renowned stores are being closed down in Europe," he said.

President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Mian Anjum Nisar urged the government to take preventive measures and develop a strategy to protect the pace of economic and trade progress of Pakistan from likely impacts of world economic slowdown apprehended by leading think tanks due to the recent global spread of the novel coronavirus.

To save the economy from the impacts of slowdown of world economy, he urged the government to announce economic relief package to protect trade and industry.

US Congress has voted for a \$50 billion emergency funding package to fight the coronavirus. Several central banks around the world, including the US Federal Reserve, have lowered interest rates to make borrowing costs cheaper and could encourage business to take loans and spend which would in turn stimulate the economy. Anjum said declining trend in inflation suggests cut in interest rates by the State Bank of Pakistan.

He further said the IMF is making available \$50 billion in emergency funding to help poor and middle-income countries.

SC restores Arshad Malik as PIA chief

By The Supreme Court allowed Air Marshal Arshad Malik to function as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation with full authority.

He was restrained from functioning as CEO of the national flag carrier by the Sindh High Court on Dec 23 last year.

A three-judge SC bench headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed recently asked the PIA management to furnish a thorough business plan and different business contracts the airline had entered into with international organisations as well as the liabilities it was burdened with.

The apex court asked the Pakistan Airline Pilots Association (PALPA) and the Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA) Union to appear before it at the next hearing on April 20.

The SC bench was seized with an appeal moved by PIA CEO Arshad Malik against the SHC order.

The petitioner had before the high court argued that Arshad Malik was a senior serving officer of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and his appointment as the PIA chief was made in utter disregard of the law laid down by the apex court in its Aug 3, 2018 judgement against the appointment of the then CEO.

Arshad Malik was allowed to continue performing as the head of the national flag carrier when Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan assured the apex court that he was ready to submit in writing regarding the continuity of the present CEO, adding that he would not be recalled by the PAF any time soon.

The AG said he was extending the desire on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan that Arshad Malik should be allowed to continue since the organisation virtually was on the ventilator and he represented the best possible team that could turn around the financial health from the current dismal situation of PIA an airline once a pride of the nation.

He said this was the last arrangement since the financial situation in the national carrier was like a bottomless pit and, if not arrested, it would soon turn into the Pakistan Steel Mills and the one to suffer the most would only be the people of this country.

Continue on 35

GSP-Plus & media freedom

WHEN journalists questioned Prime Minister Imran Khan about restrictions on the media last month, he gave them a challenge: they should show him any other country where the media enjoyed greater freedom than in Pakistan.

The prime minister's assertion is at odds with nearly every assessment of media freedom in the country, which includes the recent report prepared by the European Commission on Pakistan's compliance with the EU's Generalised System of Preferences-Plus conditions. The GSP-Plus trading status is an instrument of the EU's trade policy that aims to encourage developing countries to comply with core international standards in return for trade incentives.

Conditions to get and retain the special status include ratification and implementation of seven core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

While the European Parliament extended Pakistan's GSP-Plus status for two years after reviewing the report, the European Commission's assessment raises some serious concerns about the human rights situation in the country particularly related to the freedom of expression and the media which, if unaddressed, could be a major hindrance in Pakistan retaining the GSP-Plus trade benefits in the coming years.

The report noted that there had been a 'serious deterioration of media freedom in Pakistan, a trend that began in the lead-up to the general election in 2018', with national security widely used as a 'pretext for cracking down on freedom of expression'.

It highlighted the 'increasing pressure by security forces, with the tacit approval of the government, on those with dissenting views, including media representatives and human rights defenders'. It detailed the intimidation tactics used against the media, and expressed concern that they often lead to self-censorship by journalists and publishers, which hampers their capacity

to continue to function. The report also pointed out how cable operators were prohibited from broadcasting certain networks, and how the distribution of certain newspapers was severely curtailed in the country.

Some of these concerns had also been raised by the UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations on Pakistan's implementation of the ICCPR in 2017. The committee recommended Pakistan ensure that 'criminal laws are not improperly used against journalists and dissenting voices' and review legal provisions relating to freedom of expression, including the laws related to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority.

Significantly, the European Commission's report stated that for Pakistan to comply with the conditions of GSP-Plus, it 'must demonstrate that it will concretely increase its efforts and take more proactive and sustained actions to... address problematic areas' identified in the review.

It is unfortunate, however, that instead of resolving to address the concerns raised by the European Commission, the government has further increased its clampdown on the media and dissenting voices since the renewal of the GSP-Plus.

Take, for example, the arrest of Mir Shakilur Rehman, the editor-in-chief of the Jang group, who was arrested on March 12 by the National Accountability Bureau on charges relating to a 34-year-old property transaction. According to Jang Group, over the past 18 months, NAB sent more than a dozen threatening letters to its staff for critical reporting of the authority.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan have all called the arrest yet another example of harassment of journalists and an attempt to stifle freedom of expression and dissent.

In its review, the European Commission too noted the partisan conduct of NAB, and called on the government to give the Bureau more autonomy to perform its functions independently.

Notably, the NAB Ordinance allows for up to 90 days physical remand, which is at odds with a number of human rights guarantees, including the right to liberty.

Defining the right to liberty in the ICCPR, the UN Human Rights Committee has said, 'detention pending trial must be based on an individualised determination that it is reasonable and necessary taking into account all the circumstances...'

The European Commission will take these developments into account as it prepares its next review and recommends whether or not to renew Pakistan's trade incentives under the GSP-Plus.

Pakistani authorities should take note that Sri Lanka's GSP status was suspended for a number of years after 2010, when the European Commission found 'significant shortcomings in respect of Sri Lanka's implementation of three UN human rights conventions relevant for benefits under the scheme'.

It is therefore crucial for Pakistan to take seriously the findings of the European Commission's report, as well as observations of the UN Human Rights Committee, and be in a position to demonstrate concrete and significant progress in practice.

Failure to do so would hurt the Pakistani people twice over. Not only will they continue to be deprived of protection of human rights guaranteed by Pakistan's constitution, as well as international treaty obligations, they also risk losing the potential economic benefits that result from the EU's trade incentives under the GSP-Plus.

Continue from 34

The AG assured the court that the present CEO would soon deliver given the experience he possessed and emphasised that the biggest malaise the airline was suffering from was overstaffing since the ratio of employees per aircraft was the highest and highly disproportionate compared to other airlines of the world.

Regarding justification for appointing an officer in uniform as the PIA CEO, the AG explained that it was not for the love of any individual but the federal government was not happy with the state of affairs in the airline as during the last nine years, 12 CEOs had been appointed and one of them was even locked by the union members in a washroom. "But there are many hardworking employees in the airline who are carrying out their responsibilities honestly and justly," AG said.

Pakistan included in G20 debt relief plan

Pakistan has been included in the group of countries eligible for debt relief on all principal and interest payments to official bilateral creditors announced by the G20 countries in their Riyadh meeting on Wednesday April 15.

The G20 grouping had been urged by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to extend debt relief to the poorest countries to free up their resources for the Covid-19 related challenge instead.

The G20 made the decision to include all countries grouped under the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) to be eligible for debt relief under the proposed plan. The IDA group contains 76 countries of which Pakistan is one. The G20 worked with a grouping of African countries as well as the multilateral lenders IMF and WB to decide on the terms of the debt relief.

The suspension period for debt relief will start from May 1 and continue till Dec 1, 2020. All debt service falling due in this period will be packaged into a new loan on which the payments will not start until June 2022. Then it will be paid over the subsequent three years. A standardized term sheet has been made for all the payments clubbed under the relief plan.

In the meantime, the G20 countries will consult with the IMF and WB on whether the suspension period should be extended to June 2021 or not, depending on how the Covid related challenges are shaping up by then.

The full definition of what is included in the definition of "official bilateral" creditors is yet to be decided. The IMF will be responsible for drafting the rules of how this definition is to be applied. Authorities in Pakistan are confident, but not yet certain, that the definition will be broadly applicable on all categories of debt on which the country has servicing obligations this year, including bilateral reserve extension facilities extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia chairs the group currently, and hosted the meeting from Riyadh. "All bilateral official creditors will participate in this initiative" a communique issued after the meeting said. Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed

Al-Jadaan, who currently chairs the group, said this means "poor countries don't need to worry about repaying over the course of the next 12 months."

An IMF report shows Pakistan has \$12.731 billion of external debt repayment obligations in FY2021 that could be subject to treatment under the debt relief plan. Although the plan targets official bilateral creditors, it is understood by authorities around the world that

Textile exporters say order cancellations growing

By Some textile exporters may have to lay off employees mainly daily-wage workers after most of the orders were delayed for an indefinite period due to lockdown in various European countries.

"More than 50 per cent of our ready-to-shipment export orders have been delayed by importers in several countries especially in Europe, where most of the cities are facing lockdowns due to Covid-19 outbreak," the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Secretary General Aziz Ullah Goheer said while talking to media.

The PTEA represents 254 registered member mills involved in manufacturing and export of home textile, fabrics, spinning, garments employing over 500,000 daily-wage workers.

Cognisant of the trouble, authorities moved recently to create a package of support polices to help mitigate the danger faced by the industry. A team from textile exporter community spent the day in Islamabad in hectic consultations with government following which PM Imran Khan announced that a package will be unveiled, while the central bank announced relaxations of some schemes for exporters.

In Karachi, Sohail Tabba of Lucky Textiles also said that close to half of his company's customers had already asked for indefinite postponement of delivery, and they were expecting more in the days to come. When asked how the company's operation has been impacted by this development, he said the denim unit was down to four days a week and other lines were also cutting output. "More decisions will be made next week," he said without elaborating.

Bashir Ali Mohammad of Gul Ahmad Textiles also painted a bleak picture. "In a way, a postponement of delivery means the order is cancelled" he said. "In fashion,

commercial creditors will also be asked to follow the same template. Pakistan has \$2.545bn of debt service payments owed to commercial creditors next fiscal year, of which \$2.3bn is to China.

After this, \$6.744bn is owed to non Paris Club bilateral creditors, of which \$3.48bn is to China, \$2.245 to Saudi Arabia and \$1bn to the UAE. After this the country has \$1.627bn payments to multilateral creditors, of which half is to the Asian Development Bank and the rest to the World Bank. Paris Club creditors, who are also to be included in the terms of the debt relief plan, are owed \$787 million next year, with Japan and France accounting for the bulk of the amount.

things change after three months."

He said the company was still in discussions with those clients seeking postponements trying to see if they could be persuaded to lift at least some of the stock that was ready for delivery. "But we have to manage our relations with them while managing the losses at our end," he said.

One bright spot, according to him, was the measures being announced by the government, including those by the State Bank of Pakistan which he said will help mitigate the impact.

On the other hand, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) urged government to announce an instant relief package to help retain millions of workers.

"As the industry is considering laying off workers following the cancellation of export orders, we ask the government to announce a relief package with immediate effect for the workers," said PHMA Vice Chairman Shafiq Butt.

He said in the current situation, industry is unable to pay workers due to liquidity crunch amidst non-payment of sales tax refunds. "The industry has also started giving notices to employees, even those working on regular basis for layoffs."



Hafeez Sheikh and Abdul Razak Dawood hold a meeting with exporters recently.



Pakistan Cargo Service

'...PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF CARGO HANDLING SERVICES TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY SERVICE TO BUSINESS INDUSTRY.'

CONTACT US

CORPORATE HEAD OFFICE

ANWAR CLUB ROAD, 51310 SIALKOT -PAKISTAN

TEL #: +92 52 111 727 747 / 426 9232

FAX #: +92 52 429 6884 / 429 6801

URL: WWW.PAKISTANCARGO.COM

EMAIL: PCSSKT@PAKISTANCARGO.COM



Britain could lose \$32 bn in EU exports without trade deal

Britain could lose up to \$32 billion annually in exports to the European Union if it fails to strike a trade deal with the bloc, UN economists said recently.

The UN Conference on Trade, Investment and Development (UNCTAD) said the losses would be the equivalent of 14 percent of Britain's exports to the EU.

UNCTAD said half of the losses would come from tariffs that could be imposed by both sides and half from non-tariff measures impacting trade such as health and environmental regulations or packaging standards.

"The losses would deal a major blow to the UK's economy, as the EU market accounts for 46 per cent of the UK's exports," said the study by the Geneva-based agency.

It also found a negative impact for some EU countries.

The most affected would be Ireland, which could see a 10pc cut in its exports under the no-deal scenario.

Britain left the European Union last month and has vowed to strike a deal on new trading relations with the bloc by the end of the year, saying that it will adopt much looser economic ties if there is no agreement by then.

But the UNCTAD study found that even a "standard" trade deal, such as one modelled on the EU-Canada deal advocated by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, would still see Britain's exports to the EU fall by 9pc.

This is because standard trade deals normally concentrate more on reducing or eliminating tariffs rather than non-tariff measures and Britain has already indicated it will diverge from the EU in terms of regulation.

UNCTAD said this divergence means British producers would incur costs to meet standards when selling to the EU and there would be further costs because of customs checks. A no-deal scenario could, however, create "some opportunities" for developing countries exporting to Britain and, to a lesser extent, to the EU, the study said.

"Trade barriers between the UK and the EU would benefit suppliers from third countries. By contrast, a deal between them would preclude the incentive to turn to third countries," it said.

It found that exports from developing countries to Britain could rise by up to 4pc, with the strongest positive impact predicted for the agriculture, food and beverages and wood and paper sector.

Rs56bn refunded to exporters

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) recently said that it has released refunds worth Rs56 billion through the Fully Automated Sales Tax e-Refund (FASTER) system to help exporters combat the impact of coronavirus on their businesses and liquidity issues.

During the month of March, the FBR sanctioned refunds worth Rs25bn to exporters.

Since July 2019 to date, refund claims involving an amount of Rs59bn have been filed through the FAST ER system. Of these, the FBR has sanctioned Rs56bn, which comes to around 95pc of the total claimed amount.

The FASTER system was developed for quick processing of refunds due to exporters since July 2019 after zero rating status was taken away from the five export-oriented sectors.

In its last meeting, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved Rs75bn for the FBR to release sales and income tax refunds, duty drawbacks and customs duties which have been pending since for the last 10 years. The amount will help approximately 676,055 beneficiaries by improving their liquidity position.

The ECC also approved a

supplementary grant of Rs30bn for the Ministry of Commerce allowing it to payback duty drawbacks to textile exporters in the current financial year to improve their liquidity position as businesses are experiencing a slow down amid coronavirus-led lockdown.

As per data, refund claims in July were Rs4.09bn, August Rs6.584bn, September Rs8.09bn, October Rs9.95bn, November Rs10.6bn, December Rs10.8bn and January Rs7.67bn. The FBR did not release a monthly breakup for claims made during February and March.

The total refund claims cases stood at 7,965 until January involving an amount of Rs57.86bn. Of these, an amount of Rs51.22bn was released through the FASTER system while an amount worth Rs5.68bn was deferred.

Between July-March FY20, the FBR has released refunds to the tune of Rs98.238bn. The breakup showed that the FBR paid an amount of Rs10.495bn during the July-March period on import taxes this year as against Rs12.825bn over the same period last year, showing a decline of 18.2pc.

But contrary to this, refunds payment on domestic taxes posted a growth of 87.66pc as it reached to Rs87.743bn

Update WeBOC profiles

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has asked exporters to update their profiles on the web-based computerised system of customs for electronic transfer of duty drawback payments.

The FBR said the information needs to be updated as soon as possible to avail electronic transfer facility.

Between July-February, the FBR released customs duty drawbacks worth Rs10.048 billion to exporters and Rs586 million in March.



Islamabad Highway presents a deserted look after the administrations tightened lockdown in the capital recently. Police have set up check-points to divert traffic.

TAAP demands to save Travel/Tourism Industry of Pakistan

Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP) demands to save the Travel/Tourism Industry of Pakistan as due to the ongoing crisis of COVID19, travel Industry in the world was the first business victim of the virus as abrupt travel restrictions caused closure of almost all Airports and cancellation of millions air tickets, umrah pilgrimage, tours, corporate and other traveling across the globe.

Travel/ Tourism sector facing colossal financial losses and are at much higher risk of closure/ bankruptcy where hundreds of thousands of jobs are in danger because of predatory, unilateral and unfair policies adopted by IATA and Airlines, wherein the travel agencies on one hand are under acute pressure from passengers/clients demanding cash refunds whereas on other hand airlines are denying to give refunds of un-used tickets to travel agents. Moreover airlines are trying to issue travel vouchers to passenger for future travel, which is not acceptable as payment to IATA made by travel agents and not by passengers.

IATA airlines have unlawfully suspended the option of claiming refund from Airlines through the system, which means travel agencies cannot claim the amount rightfully owed to them by the airlines.

TAAP demands the following action from IATA & Airlines operating in Pakistan immediately.

- To open their auto refund system thru GDS and release full amounts of their refunds of all un-utilized air tickets booked without deducting any penalties/cancellation/charges/fees/local & other taxes, without further delay as the flight cancellation was by Airlines under force majeure and not by passengers. This is the right of the agency in view of the Airlines unlawfully and abruptly cancelling the GDS refund.
- Airlines must account for all pending refunds in the payment date due on 17th April 2020 (considered Lockdown is not extended).
- Re-issuance of tickets/vouchers is not acceptable, as passengers are demanding cash refunds only.
- Government of Pakistan is requested to put immediate restriction on any remittances (outflow) by the airlines from Pakistan to their parent countries until the refund is adjusted

as requested above as this money actually belongs to Pakistani

CRUX OF COVID-19

Lot has been written & much the viewers have known about Covid-19. Following is the crux of this Pandemic attack on human beings.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic.

Common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include muscle pain, sputum production, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of smell, and abdominal pain. While the majority of cases result in mild symptoms, some develop pneumonia and multi-organ failure.

As of March 28, 2020, the overall rate of deaths per number of diagnosed cases is 4.6 percent; ranging from 0.2 percent to 15 percent according to age group and other health problems.

Vaccine

So far, no vaccine is available, but research into developing a vaccine has been undertaken by various agencies. Previous work on SARS-CoV is being utilised because SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV both use the ACE2 receptor to enter human cells. There are three vaccination strategies being worked out.

In the first place, researchers are aiming at building a whole virus vaccine. The use of such a vaccine, aims to elicit a prompt immune response of the human body to a new infection with COVID-19. The second strategy, (subunit vaccines,) aims at creating a vaccine that sensitises the immune system to certain subunits of the virus. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, such research focuses on the S-spike protein that helps the virus intrude the ACE2 enzyme receptor.

The third strategy is that of the nucleic acid vaccines (DNA or RNA vaccines, a novel technique for creating a vaccination). Experimental vaccines from any of these strategies would have to be tested for safety and efficacy. **On 16 March 2020, the first clinical trial of a vaccine started with four volunteers in Seattle.** The vaccine contains a harmless genetic code copied from the virus that causes the disease.

Businesses (Travel Agencies etc) and Passengers.

Print & Electronic media is requested to raise the Voice to save Pakistan travel industry from collapse.

Pro-viral

The virus is mainly spread during close contact or through respiratory globule produced when people cough or sneeze. Respiratory droplets may be produced during breathing but the virus is not generally airborne. People may also contract COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface and then their face. It is most contagious when people are symptomatic. Substantial transmission occurs from asymptomatic individuals.

The virus can survive on surfaces up to 72 hours; 24 hours on cardboard; 72 hours on steel and plastic. Time from exposure to onset of symptoms is generally between two and fourteen days, with an average of five days. The standard method of diagnosis is by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) from a nasopharyngeal swab. The infection can also be diagnosed from a combination of symptoms, risk factors and a chest CT scan showing features of pneumonia.

Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, social distancing (maintaining physical distance from others, especially from those with symptoms), covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inner elbow, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. The use of masks is recommended by some national health authorities for those who suspect they have the virus and their caregivers, but not for the general public, although simple cloth masks may be used by those who desire them.

So far, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. Management involves treatment of symptoms, supportive care, isolation, and experimental measures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the 201920 coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020 and a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Local transmission of the disease has been recorded in many countries across all six WHO regions.

It's my firm belief that like wise previous threats, this threat of Covid-9 would also go past in couple of days or else how would this doctrine go true that Allah has created human beings in the best way. Man is the best of Allah's all creatures.



VISION LOGISTICS (Pvt) Ltd., is one of the Leading International Freight Forwarders in Pakistan. Our valued customers has proven our ability to accomplish every project with consistent quality services, total logistics solutions, at lowest possible cost within time delivery.

Our Core Values are:

- Integrity
- Team Work
- Customer's Satisfaction
- innovation
- Social Responsibility

We Take Care:

- Airfreight & Ocean Freight Services
- Consolidation
- Train Freight Services
- Project Handling
- Overseas projects
- Door to Door Cargo Delivery
- Customs Brokerage

Improve Your Revenues:

- Our Comprehensive Cargo Services reduce your Import, Export shipment's cost and increase your revenues.

Contact us at



VISION LOGISTICS (PVT) LTD

International Freight Forwarders & Shipping Consultant

HEAD OFFICE: Suite #.14, 2nd Floor, Central Plaza, 3 Civic Centre, New Garden Town Lahore – Pakistan.
Ph: 0092 42 35851475, 35851476, 35841511, **email:** info@visionlogistics.net, **web :** www.visionlogistics.net



Global tourism to suffer

International tourist arrivals will be down by 20-30 per cent in 2020 when compared with 2019 figures, the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) of the United Nations said recently.

In an updated assessment of the likely impact of the Covid19 on international tourism, the UN agency for tourism said that the expected fall of this percentage could translate into a decline in international tourism receipts of between \$300-450 billion, almost one third of the \$1.5 trillion generated in 2019.

Taking into account past market trends, this would mean that between five and seven years' worth of growth will be lost to Covid-19.

Putting this into context, UNWTO notes that in 2019, on the back of the global economic crisis, international tourist arrivals declined by 4pc, while the SARS outbreak led to a decline of just 0.4pc in 2003.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "Tourism is among the hardest hit of all economic sectors.

However, tourism is also united in helping to address this immense health emergency our first and utmost priority while working together to mitigate the impact of the crisis, particularly on employment, and to support the wider recovery efforts through providing jobs and driving economic welfare worldwide.

Pololikashvili noted that while it is too early to make a full assessment of the likely impact of Covid-19 on tourism, it is clear that millions of jobs within the sector are at risk of being lost. Around 80pc of all tourism businesses are smalland-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the sector has been leading the way in providing employment and other opportunities for women, youth and rural communities.

Alongside this new assessment, UNWTO underlines tourism's historic resilience and capacity to create jobs after crisis situations, while also emphasising the importance of international cooperation and of ensuring the sector is made a central part of recovery efforts.

Tourism is currently one of the most affected sectors and UNWTO has revised its 2020 forecast for international arrivals and receipts, though emphasises that such any predictions are likely to be further revised.

Egypt reopens oldest pyramid after 14-year restoration



A tourist jumps in front of the step pyramid of Djoser, in Egypt's Saqqara necropolis.

EGYPT recently reopened Djoser's Step Pyramid, the first pyramid ever built, after a 14-year restoration costing nearly \$6.6 million. The pyramid, a Unesco world heritage site, was constructed 4,700 years ago during the era of Pharaoh Djoser, one of Ancient Egypt's Third Dynasty kings. After decades of neglect and the risk of collapse, the Egyptian government started an ambitious project to restore it to splendour in 2006.

"Today we celebrate the completion of the project of warding off the danger and maintaining and restoring the first and oldest remaining pyramid in Egypt," said tourism and antiquities minister Khaled al-Anani. The structure was designed by Imhotep, described by some as the world's first architect. "We are in awe as to how he was able to create this structure, which has remained standing for 4,700 years," said Anani.

Restoration work stopped in 2011 after Egypt's popular uprising that toppled longtime President Hosni Mubarak, but resumed at the end of 2013. Djoser's Step Pyramid, the first large-scale stone construction in history and the largest pyramidal funerary complex, is located at Saqqara archaeological site, west of Cairo. The 60-metre-high pyramid consists of six stacked steps over a burial shaft tomb which is 28 metres deep and seven metres wide.

The project saw efforts to prevent the pyramid from collapsing, and external and internal restoration work, including of the paths leading to the pyramid and the internal corridors leading to the burial chamber. Experts also restored the sarcophagus of King Djoser within the pyramid and the walls of the burial shaft tomb.

KP set to get control of PTDC properties

The federal government is set to transfer the properties of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the provincial government.

The information was shared with participants of a meeting here, said a statement.

The meeting was chaired by KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and attended by special assistant to the premier Zulfi Bukhari.

The officials told the meeting that the provincial government had approved Rs360 million for the human resource liabilities of the PTDC and Rs250 million for its contribution to endowment fund.

They said the Integrated Tourism Management Plan 2020 had been developed to attract local and foreign tourists to the newly-identified tourist sites across the province in the upcoming season.

The officials said a 'tourist facilitation hub' had been set up at the provincial level to monitor the completion of the tasks given to the departments and receive complaints from tourists, while a mobile application and web portal had been developed to provide all required information to tourists.

Mr Mahmood expressed satisfaction with the arrangements of the tourism department and called for the development of a uniform and coordinated strategy on part of both provincial and federal governments to promote tourism in line with the vision of the prime minister.

The chief minister termed the Integrated Management Tourism Plan a milestone for the promotion of tourism in the province and directed the relevant quarters to ensure the completion of the tasks given under the plan within the stipulated time.

He also ordered the launch of a comprehensive communication campaign to project the province's tourism potential both at national and international levels.

Mr Bukhari said the federal government was working on the branding of the entire country to project it as a tourist destination internationally and that initiative was expected to be launched by the prime minister in the middle of the next month.

Spring in the air



The flower show attracts visitors of all ages every year.

This is the season for literature festivals in the metropolis. However, an equally engaging event, especially for nature lovers, is the annual flower show organised by the Horticulture Society of Pakistan. This year the event was held from Feb 20 to 23, and featured plants and vegetation of various descriptions.

There were exotic species and more everyday plants, as well as seeds for flowers, fruits and vegetables. There were things for the garden, as well as essential tools for the amateur gardener, along with the pro. As for fruit and vegetable seeds, considering the skyrocketing prices of fruits and veggies, a kitchen garden may be a great idea.

It was heartening to see visitors of all ages, from senior citizens to little kids, enjoying themselves amongst the foliage and colourful plants.

One particularly encouraging activity saw a local organisation teach kids how to plant trees; in fact they were handing out moringa seedlings along with soil and natural compost in cups to the little ones to encourage them to plant more trees in their homes and neighbourhoods.

God only knows that in the concrete jungle Karachi has become such activities that bring people closer to nature are welcome. Perhaps more such flower shows can be held in other parts of the city around this time of the year to encourage the citizenry to love nature, and plant more trees to help transform the metropolis into a greener space.



An aesthetically made exhibit of fresh flowers at the show.



Blooming cacti.



Exotic species *Adenium* sp. *Nova Tanzania*.

Quiet Navroze celebrations observed in city

“Yes, we are celebrating Navroze, but quietly in our homes, no functions, no gatherings,” said well-known rally driver Tushna Patel, who also happens to be a proud member of Karachi's Parsi community.

The country's first female rally driver, besides racing in big trucks over uneven hilly and dusty tracks, is also a caring homemaker. Early on Friday 20 March morning, at exactly 8.49.37am, she had her Navroze table all set and ready to usher in spring and the new Parsi year of the rat.

“Jamshedi Navroze is basically the Iranian new year. Therefore it is traditionally celebrated, with the setting of the Navroze table, usually by Parsis of Iranian descent,” Tushna explained.

“My family have been celebrating it ever since I opened my eyes. Then when I got married to Ronnie some 20 years ago, I

started the tradition in my home,” she said, adding that Navroze is also celebrated by many other people such as Shia and Ismaili communities who would be celebrating the festival along with other Parsis who are not of Iranian descent.

There is a second Navroze celebration in August as well but I enjoy this one as it falls at the time of the spring equinox and is really a cheerful time to celebrate fresh new beginnings,” she said.

The Parsis set the Navroze table with a lot of care. There is fruit, sweetmeats, vegetables, lentils, dried fruit, boiled eggs (usually decorated by the family's children) and little bottles of sherbet, vinegar, fragrant candles, rose water, sprouted wheat in a little planter, flowers, fish, a mirror, etc.

Traditionally, guests are welcomed to a Parsi home during Navroze with the sprinkling of rose water, which signifies good fragrance throughout the year. This is followed by their seeing their reflection in the mirror on the table to signify a happy reflection after which they are offered the sweets which signify sweetness. Tushna explained that the table is left like this, laden with all these things for 13 days.

“We, and our guests, who keep coming to the house on our lunch or dinner invitations during this time, are supposed to finish almost everything by the 13th day after which the things that we could not eat like the sprouted wheat, we take to a river or any other flowing water body to dispose of. Here in Karachi we take it to the Native Jetty bridge,” she said.

“Of course, due to the current coronavirus threat, we couldn't celebrate Navroze the way we used to this time around but I am quite positive that 2020 will be a good year,” she said. “We are being socially responsible by staying inside our homes and restricting interaction. But it is also fine when you look at it this way that the earth and its people, too, need to take a break to heal as we use this time to reflect, regret and then get up again and face the world afresh,” she concluded.



TUSHNA and husband Ronnie patels tend to their Navroze table son Mehervan

Moenjodaro civilisation teaches us to focus on education and health, says Dr. Adib

Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) founder Prof Dr Adibul Hassan Rizvi has said that health and education are peoples' birthrights and it is in fact tantamount to reviving history to establish a library near Moenjodaro.

He said at a gathering at Essa Hulio village, 20 kilometers from here on Sunday 22 March, where he inaugurated a library for schoolchildren that it was quite encouraging effort to help readers peep into history by establishing a library near Moenjodaro which taught the world the art of a civilised living. How to live, how to write, how to construct drainage, how to cultivate land and how to bath but its language was yet to be deciphered, he said.

When Indus Civilisation was growing, the Europe was crawling, he said. "Therefore, we being custodians of Moenjodaro should focus on education and health," he said.

He said that many mysteries could be resolved and come to the surface if further excavations were made at the site, as certain other underlying layers could contain more information about the people and their civilisation. He was not happy at the way the site was looked as compared to other heritage sites that had been preserved and conserved.

He said that merely educating a child was not education but it would only be education when every child was owned and his education was ensured without discrimination of caste, creed and colour. "I am proud of the young volunteers who have contributed individually to establishing libraries in remote and underdeveloped areas," he said.

He said that it was not education that children travelled abroad after acquiring desired education, lived there and remembered their parents by just sending them gifts

He said: "We should prioritize education in a way that children should get education here and serve here for which collective thinking, approach and efforts are required."

He said: "Sindh has given us a lot while in return we have not given it anything. It is the land that has the quality to welcome all with open arms and absorb them, therefore, it is the land of love and accommodation."

He said that he was there and would die there and his body and bones would be



Dr. Adibul Hasan Rizvi visits the laboratory in Larkana on Sunday 22 March.

buried there.

These libraries would flourish and serve 'our children when we will no more be in this world', he said. "I am honoured to be invited to this village for the purpose and I appreciate the spirit of the youth that have made it possible," he said.

Dr Rizvi later inaugurated the library named 'Dr Adibul Hassan Rizvi Children Library' set up adjacent to government primary school Essa Hulio. This library would now be part of the school where presently over 1,000 books covering different subjects have been kept in shelves. A separate section for children has also been added to the library with audio-visual aids.

It was collective wisdom and concept of around 200 volunteers, most of them graduated from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, that had made it possible to put in efforts in the right and constructive fashion, said Agha Shakeel and Nadeem Bhutto, members of an organisation named 'Coin the Education' (CTE).

"We plan to establish 99 more such libraries in far flung areas of all provinces," they said and disclosed that opening of the library in Essa Hulio village could only be possible with humble contribution of over 200 members.

Primary school headmaster Ayaz Hulio and Aftab Hulio also spoke on the occasion and thanked Prof Dr Adibul Hassan Rizvi, his team members and volunteers of the organisation.

Later, Dr Adib along with his team members visited the under-construction SIUT Larkana. He inquired Mayor Khair Mohammed Shaikh about the drainage pipeline being laid by the Larkana Municipal Corporation.

The mayor claimed that it would be completed within a couple of days. But Dr Adib did not agree though he was briefed by the engineering wing of the LMC.

He asked the SIUT engineer to personally look into the issue, directing

that the drain sewage should not fall into Rice Canal. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nauman Siddiqui assured that it would not fall into the canal.

About gas connection, Dr Rizvi said that he had been hearing the same story for a year that the matter would be resolved in Hyderabad Officials briefed him about the current status of utilities for the centre.

All equipment and machinery had already arrived and installed while doctors and managerial staff had been posted and the institute would start functioning.

Japan's cherry blossom viewing parties wither away



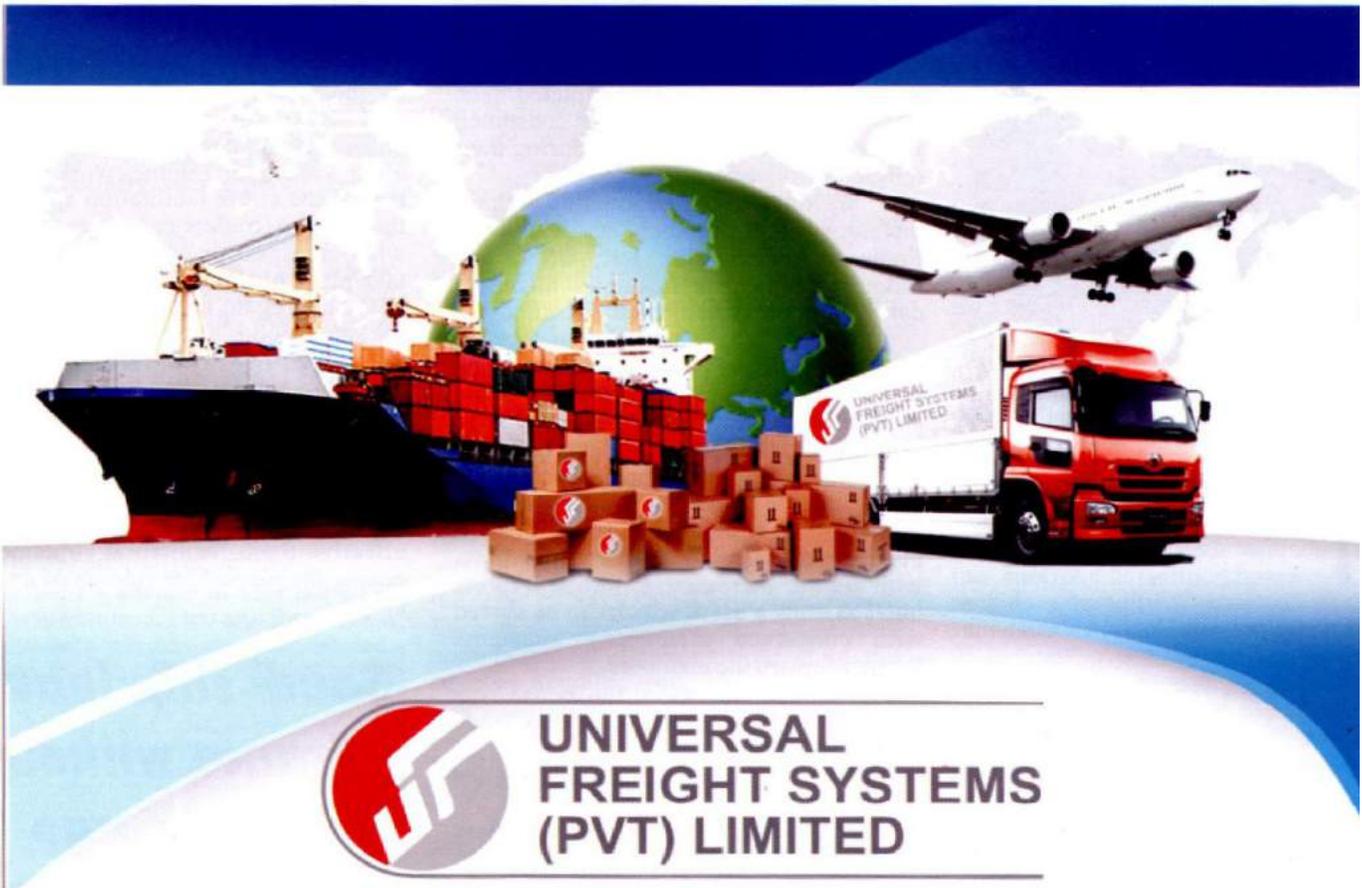
A woman takes pictures of cherry blossoms with her smartphone at Ueno park recently.

JAPAN'S famed cherry blossom season is in full bloom but parks in Tokyo are empty of traditional "viewing parties" this year, part of efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Cherry blossom viewing known "hanami" is a beloved part of the Japanese social calendar, with friends, family and work colleagues gathering for picnics, often with copious amounts of alcohol, beneath the picturesque pink flowers.

Japan's Meteorological Agency declared the start of Tokyo's cherry blossom season on March 14, the earliest ever for the capital and 12 days earlier than an average year due to rising temperatures.

But the Tokyo government has urged citizens to refrain from hanami parties given the crisis. Major cherry blossom festivals have been cancelled, ropes have been set up around the trees and signs reading "no parties allowed" have been posted.



**UNIVERSAL
FREIGHT SYSTEMS
(PVT) LIMITED**

Logistics, Aviation, E-commerce, Technology

aramex
delivery unlimited

blue 
Powered by

Domestic Consolidators

Pakistan International


SereneAir

KARACHI | LAHORE | ISLAMABAD | RAWALPINDI | PESHAWAR | SIALKOT | FAISALABAD | MULTAN



Head Office:

FREIGHT HOUSE, 50-H, Block 6, PECHS, Off. Sharah-e-Faisal, Karachi-75400, Pakistan

Tel: 34538080-83, UAN: 111-125-125, Website: www.ufs.com.pk

Waris Shah and Qadir Yar: on the sanctity of body

Is human body inviolable? Does anyone have the right over it other than who owns it? The question has always been contentious as body is conceived a source of unease because of its needs and functions that have social implications.

Sexuality, one of the essential functions of body intrinsically linked with procreation and pleasure, has simultaneously been most sought after and despised phenomenon in human history.

Let's have a brief look at how the Punjab's classical literary tradition has tried to tackle such a loaded question. In Waris Shah's narrative of Heer male protagonist Ranjha, who has been deprived of his legitimate share in inheritance, leaves his ancestral town on a path that zigzags to an unknown world. Penniless, he crosses the mighty river Chenab and finds a riverside resort with a beautiful bed in it. Being beat he needs rest. Luddan, the boatman and caretaker of the resort, taking pity on the hapless young man with flute allows him to lie down in the bed of the mistress of the house called Heer. When the news of this unusual happening is relayed to indomitable Heer, she in a fit of fury comes rushing to the scene accompanied by a large bevy of girls and shouts in anger: "...Where did you spend an insomniac's night, a flood of sleep has run you down? / Saw my bed desolate and husbandless or just sloth has done you down? / some fever, demon, genii possessed you, or a gobbling has spun you down?"

Heer wonders how a man could have dared to violate a young woman's bed. No sensible man or man in his senses could have transgressed the limits. Only a sluggish bozo or man possessed and haunted by demons suffering from some mental illness could do such an unthinkable thing. Heer has ample reason to be shocked; her bed is her private space. The reality is that her riverside bed is more than a private space; it's a symbolic receptacle for her body, an outer shell that protects and comforts her body. Her anger stems from the feeling that her right over her body has been challenged by an intruder. The bed being a cradle of her comfort and pleasure is a part of her body. No one without her consent can be



allowed to touch her body. Her anguish is that her inalienable right has been taken away from her. At another point in the story after being forcibly married to Khera against her will, Heer sends a letter to Ranjha urging her to come to her in the guise of a Yogi. In her letter what she stresses is this: "...Khera doesn't touch my bed, touching, into the grave would be put by me".

Defiant Heer in her forced marriage protects what is her most valuable human asset; her body. Her body is not meant for unsolicited attention including that of her husband who has been thrust upon her. Her choice takes precedence over her quasi-legal husband's conjugal right. She can offer her body only to the man she loves. Charade of legality has no effect on her. In the unmarried and married phases of her life she categorically establishes that no one but she has the control of her body.

Neither stranger nor family nor unwanted husband has right to trifle with her body. Sounds contemporary? Remember Heer was a woman from 13th or 14th century's Punjab. Sounds incredible? Isn't it?

The question of owning one's body is not exclusively linked with the politics of feminism. Male body has equal sanctity if seen from the perspective of moral consciousness. In one of the ancient legends of the Punjab known as the tale of Puran Bhagat, the question of body assumes central significance. And it's male body. Dazzlingly handsome young prince

Puran, the son of iconic Raja Sallhwan of Sialkot, after his training in isolation, enters the palace to salute his mother and step-mother. This is what happens in the words of poet Qadir Yar when he presents himself to his young step-mother: "The quality of beauty is libidinous, seeing Puran the queen was enamoured instantly / seeing his face the king forgotten. Fire blazed from top to toe violently / made the son into her heart's beloved, from within broke her shame's integrity". In response to the pleas of young prince step-mother Loona says: "What shame in this she says openly, O prince mummy mummy don't call me/ didn't bear, keep you in the womb, with which relation you call me mummy .../ She knows no concern, fear, dangers, Loona got up his shirt clutching / once come and sit on the bed, I beseech you O fool, listen to my petitioning / Qadir Yar unabashed in speaking Loona, enjoy my bed, my life, my darling". Resisting her seductive charms Puran says: "Listen truthfully mother, on your bed not a foot I'll posit / turning my eyes I won't see you differently, I'll accept mounting the gibbet...". Here again we come across the scene of bed and body though it's male body in the present context.

Prince Puran emphatically rejects the queen's advances declaring that no one can claim his body without his consent.

Human body regardless of whether it's of a female or male is sacred in the sense of being inviolable. Anyone who violates it commits violence. No violence against human body can be justified in the name of faith, customs, traditions, cultural practices and social harmony. Any practice that has to be sustained with a dose of violence loses its rational justification and moral ground. All the sanctimonious talk about the respect of female body would be a hollow noise in our tradition-ridden patriarchal society if violence against female body in the form of child marriage, honour killing, forced marriage, wife beating, unwanted pregnancies, lack of health facilities, denial of education, sexual harassment and molestation at workplaces is not recognised and dealt with firmly.

Poet/saint Sultan Bahu says: "This body is the Lord's chamber, peep inside O, fakir [Eh tunnrabbsachay dahujra, paafakirajhaatihuj]". Respect human body. It holds the key to life's secrets.

a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics



Karachi Cargo Services (Pvt.) Ltd.



Softlines 0321-247724



HEAD OFFICE
Fabeha Castle, 168, Block-B, S.M.C.H.S., Karachi, Pakistan.
Tel: +92-21-34393051-54, 34534411-12
Fax: +92-21-34554350
E-mail: headoffice@karachicargo.com

Lahore Office: +92 423 631 3191-2
Sialkot Office: +92 52 325 7310-2
Islamabad Office: +92 51 595 2326-7
Faisalabad Office: +92 41 8739584-6
Canada Office: +1 (604) 523 1001

www.karachicargo.com

The Seaview effect



Alone policeman stands guard at deserted seaview beach

The Karachi-wide lockdown will hopefully bear fruit in more ways than one. First and foremost, it will, as the phrase is now frequently used, 'flatten the curve' of the spread of Covid-19. Karachi has been getting cases of 'local transmission' at an alarming pace. But there may be other benefits. The awareness of keeping our city clean is one of them. That being said, every picture, like every coin, has two sides.

The city's Seaview area is, arguably, the most visited recreational spot (in normal circumstances) in the provincial capital. Anyone who either lives near the beach or has been to it for fun will find it hard to disagree that people visit it in the thousands seldom giving a thought to: how not to make the seaside dirty.

The fun and frolic goes on till pretty late in the night, and if you happen to get up early in the morning to go for a walk on the beach you will notice all kinds of garbage and trash lying on the sandy shores of Seaview. The authorities can't do much about it, and their hard-working janitorial staff does its best to clean the sand as diligently as possible. Still, the unpalatable effects of pollution are difficult to ignore.

The post-lockdown situation cuts an entirely different picture, and one is not sure how to describe it because it has two distinctly opposite features.

First, although the law enforcement agencies strictly patrol the area and barriers have been erected at some important entry and exit points, if you happen to pass by Seaview (or better still, live there) you will immediately notice that it is clean as a whistle.

The calm waters of the Arabian Sea can be seen with shimmering, spotless sand in the foreground from a fair distance, and its poetic vastness is

nothing less than an awe-inspiring sight. It makes you wonder: why can't the sea look like this all the time? Cleanliness is a virtue. It's a synonym for beauty.

The second feature of how Seaview looks in a sans-human environment is tougher to describe. The silence is discomfiting. The visuals are eerie. It seems as if the sea is missing someone, like a child that has no friends to share its

stories with. Every now and then, a car whizzes by and disappears into the adjoining streets. Everybody is in a hurry to get to a safe place which is the right approach to present-day life.

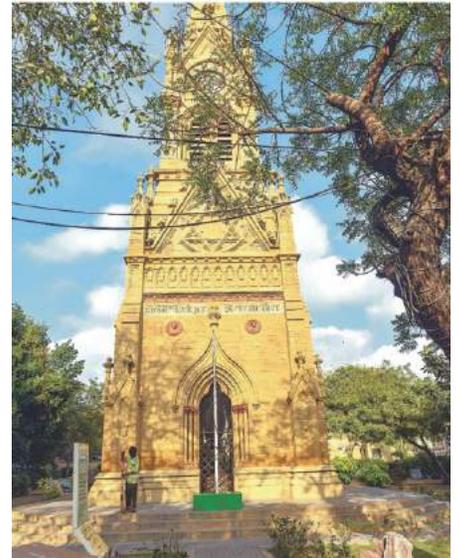
Yes, the air is much purer to breathe. But who to enjoy this experience with? Apart from 'flattening the curve', the word 'dystopia' is these days being banded about a lot. What is nature without humans and other species that are its integral parts? The dystopian situation that has arisen out of the coronavirus outbreak is a double-edged sword. Let's hope we pass this test with flying colours; and when the dust has settled, both the sea and humans come out as unscathed as possible.

Time-teller and timekeeper

Physical distancing is a phrase that has entered the general lexicon like never before. And we must, no matter where we are, respect that. But spare a thought for Karachi's pre-independence buildings and those who keep them in great shape which, in their own distinctive ways, have been letting us know about the efficacy of time, literally and metaphorically.

Merewether Tower is one of the 19th century works of architecture that immediately springs to mind.

Before we meet Sajan, a young sweeper whose duty it is to keep the structure and its surroundings neat and clean, it's essential to know about the building's background. It's a clock tower, designed by J. Stratchen, constructed in 1884 as a memorial to a commissioner in Sindh, General William Merewether. A lot of people talk about the Star of David, the



The Merewether tower

chief decorative feature of the structure, but its real purpose is, and has always been, to keep citizens aware of 'time'. The positioning of the building, when it was made and up until today, is significant: it exists in the heart of the economic hub of the city where two of the most important roads of Karachi converge: M.A. Jinnah Road (formerly Bunder Road) and I.I. Chundrigar Road (formerly McLeod Road).

Merewether Tower was opened to the public in 1892. This was the period when Karachi was hit by a lethal bubonic plague. So the importance of this clock tower cannot be stressed more given what we are faced with in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Time, they say, is of the essence.

Prior to the lockdown that the entire Sindh province is now under, a visit to the tower enabled this writer to run into Sajan, a young twenty-something lad, dressed in uniform, cleaning the grassy ground in the middle of which the tower stands. He came across as a taciturn, somewhat shy person to give detailed answers to the questions put to him. He said he was hired by a bank to keep Merewether Tower spick and span. He comes here on a daily basis either in the first or second half of the day with his broomstick and dustpan.

These days, when people are asked to stay in their homes, sweepers and cleaners are some of those essential workers that come out of their houses, putting their lives in danger, to keep the city looking green and clean. Let's pray for their safety and well-being as well.

PHA-Chairman appeals to PM



Pakistan Hotels Association stands firmly behind the government authorities and the people of Pakistan in their fight against the menace of Corona Virus. In order to stand strong in the current situation. Hotels are in dire need of relief due to the heavy and direct impact of Coronavirus outbreak on the Hospitality Industry reducing its overall occupancy to only 10%. We request the Government to provide the following relief package to the Hotel Industry- of Pakistan to help it survive these difficult times:

1) Payment of Hotels' Utility Bills: Due to cash shortfall; the possibility of a payment in installments, initially for three months or till the situation prevails and removal of late payment surcharges on Utilities, social security, EOB1, Property Tax, and other Local taxes. Some concessions may be given charges from PEMRA, Water & Sewerage Board and other charges imposed on the Hotels.

2) Abolish or reduce the Sales Tax or defer the Sales Tax.

3) Almost all hotels are in a loss situation, therefore, levy minimum Income Tax and withholding of Income Tax should be withdrawn.

4) Since Government has not declared an emergency and since other more viable options are available with the government, it is not feasible to convert hotel properties into Quarantine Centres. More importantly, this act will have long-term repercussions for the country as it will alienate the potential guests, who will be afraid to stay at a hotel which has been used as a quarantine because of fear of catching the disease. Resultant!), the hotel industry will collapse leading to a further hit on the country's economy and reputation. Unemployment will also rise because if only one hotel is closed, at least 600 direct employees and 2400 indirect employees are being affected besides workers on daily wages, who find it

difficult to earn their bread and butter.

5) Relaxation in hotel financing and working capital Loans with reduced rates of interest on loans and deferral in loan installments.

6) Hotel management is facing difficulty in paying salaries to their staff due to the cash flow shortage. So, some relief packages may kindly be given to the industry.

7) We request the government to offer unemployment support for employees both of direct jobs and of contractor's jobs laid off due to closure/restriction of/ on Hotels. These benefits can be covered under the Social Security Scheme.

8) Hotels are allowed to keep open at least one Restaurant in their premises ensuring all required measures for health and safety and make sitting arrangements as per directions. This act would encourage hotel guests to have their meals in a healthy and open atmosphere and feeling better rather than confined themselves in a close bedroom.

As Chairman, on behalf of all the member hotels of Pakistan Hotels Association, I appeal to the Prime Minister of Pakistan through Governor Sindh, who very kindly provided us an opportunity to listen and understand the gravity of the situation and give serious thought to the above suggestions to save one of the most important employment and revenue-generating industries of this country at this crucial moment.

Pearl-Continental Hotel, Mountain & Ski Resort Malam Jabba is now open

Pakistan's first ever five-star mountain & ski resort welcomes guests and travelers.

Introducing adventure sports with five-star facilities at one of the highest altitudes in Pakistan, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Mountain & Ski Resort Malam Jabba has opened its doors to welcome guests and is now open for bookings.

Overlooking the majestic Hindu Kush Mountains, the Hotel is a complete tourist destination for families, corporates, nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts.

Malam Jabba is the first and only private ski resort in Pakistan and is recognised as one of the most scenic tourist destinations in the country. Just 30 km from Mingora Swat, the newly opened Hotel sits atop the Malam Jabba Hill Station, 2,650 metres above sea level, with eye-catching views of the scenic Swat Valley.

From skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing in the winter to hiking, horse-back riding and zip-line in the summer, Pearl-Continental Hotel Malam Jabba offers guests a host of activities to enjoy their stay with their friends or families at the most exciting destination of Pakistan.

Hotel Taj Palace Sialkot



Hotel Taj Palace is one of the leading hotels in Sialkot. It is famous for hosting cricket teams since its inception. It has a big banquet Halls to meet the requirements of all types of functions and meetings. The hotel has refurbished guest rooms equipped with all modern amenities and is also famous for its delicious local and continental cuisines, Photo shows S. Shahid Hussain Kazmi Finance Controller (he also looks after other departments of the hotel) with front office staff, who welcome the guests with open heart.

For all of your travel needs Special Umrah Packages



Usman Air Travel (Pvt) Ltd.



M-1, Mehran Residency, Dr. Dawood Pota Road, Cantt. Karachi. Licence No. 1384,
Phones: 35650500-10 Lines-Direct : 35652222- 35650333, Fax:(92-21)35689058

info@usmantravels.com / usmanumrah@hotmail.com



USMAN & BROTHERS

Overseas Employment Promoters

Licence No. 1088/ Karachi.

E-mail: info@ubpak.com / info@usmanbrother.com



ARBAZ ENTERPRISES

Overseas Employment Promoters

Licence No. 2330 / Karachi

E-mail: info@arbazenterprises.com



SPEEDY ACTIVE FREIGHT

"your business is our priority"

MULTI MODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES

Speedy Active Freight is providing Air Freight and Ocean Freight services for various business organizations all over the world. Our 27 years of proven experience help us understand our customer's needs, and we're always in the process of updating our operational structure & managing operations to serve our customers in a better way.



Branches:

Lahore

Islamabad

Karachi

Dubai U.A.E

WE WILL STRIVE FOR PROVIDING THE EXCELLENT SERVICE IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT.



SPEEDY ACTIVE FREIGHT

"your business is our priority"

Al-Khalil Centre, Suite No. 12,-14, 3rd Floor, Kashmir Road, Sialkot = Pakistan.

Tel No. 0092 52 3240608, 0092 52 3242110, 0092 52 3242109, 0092 52 3252110

Web: www.saf.com.pk Email: info@saf.com.pk

METRO CAB

URGENT SERVICE

Pick & Drop

24 HOURS CALL CENTER

Islamabad - 051-111-222-787 Lahore - 042-111-222-787

Faisalabad - 041-111-222-787 Hyderabad - 022-111-222-787

Karachi - 021-111-222-787

Reliable & Trustworthy



U A N # 111 - 222 - 787

Very Attractive terms for corporat Clients:

Contact Cell # 0314-2377771

E-mail: director@metrocab.com.pk

Dynamic[®]

WORLD WIDE LOGISTICS GROUP



Ocean Consolidation



Ocean Freight Services



Air Freight Services



**Road & Rail
Transportation**



**Sea / Air Combined
Transport**



Afghan Transit Trade



**Ship Handling, Charter
& Liner Agency**



Exhibition Cargo



**Warehousing
& Distribution**



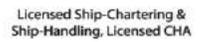
Project Handling



**Custom Clearance
(CHB)**



DG Cargo Handling



Dynamic[®]
SHIPPING



Dynamic[®]
GLOBAL LOGISTICS

THINK LOGISTICS

THINK DYNAMIC

Head Office : Suite # 1201-1202, 12th Floor, Emerald Tower, Plot # G-19, Block-5, Main Clifton Road, Opposite 2 Talwar, Karachi-74000, Pakistan. **UAN : 111-372-111**

Branches : Lahore | Faisalabad | Islamabad | Sialkot | Multan

Website : www.dwwlg.com



**Sialkot
International
Airport**

Partnership for Quality Services



Destinations

Dubai

Sharjah

Bahrain

Doha

Muscat

Jeddah

Dammam

Riyadh

London

Paris

Barcelona

Kuwait

Milan

SIALKOT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED (SIAL)



📍 Sambrial Sialkot-Pakistan

☎ 92-52-6633001-4 / 92-52-6633023-4 ✉ info@sial.com.pk

🌐 www.sial.com.pk