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روزے کی حقیقت
 محمد امین بٹ

آپ ﷺ کے زمانے کے مطابق روزہ چھ ماہ کا تھا۔ لیکن اس سے پہلے کہ یہ عبادت شروع ہوئی تھی، یہ عبادت ایک سال سے دو سال تک ہوتی رہی تھی۔ اس کی وجہ سے لوگوں میں اس کی حقیقت کا پتہ نہ تھا۔ آپ ﷺ نے اس کی حقیقت کو لوگوں کو بتانے کے لیے ایک حدیث بیان کی ہے: "روزہ ایک ایسی چیز ہے جس سے اللہ تعالیٰ تمہاری بات کو قبول فرماتا ہے اور تمہاری گناہوں کو بخش دیتا ہے۔" (صحیح بخاری)

اس حدیث سے ہمیں پتہ چلتا ہے کہ روزہ صرف ایک عبادت نہیں ہے بلکہ یہ ایک ایسی چیز ہے جس سے اللہ تعالیٰ ہماری بات کو قبول فرماتا ہے۔ اس لیے روزہ کو ہماری زندگی کا ایک لازمی جزو سمجھنا چاہیے۔

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ماہنامہ
تقدیر
برائے
انصاف
۱۳۷۰ھ

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07th May to 13th May 2020
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Bank of Canada's independence key to aiding post-COVID recovery, Wilkins says

OTTAWA — The Bank of Canada will need to maintain its independence to aid the economy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as the country's debt levels rise, says the bank's second-in-command.

In a speech on Monday, senior deputy governor Carolyn Wilkins detailed how the bank's actions during the pandemic have been aimed at ensuring businesses and individuals can access lines of credit and short-term loans, and spur demand during an expected recovery through low interest rates.

The bank's balance sheet has more than tripled from around \$120 billion in early March before the shutdown, to around \$385 billion as of last week as it purchases more federal and provincial bonds, effectively providing low-cost loans to finance government stimulus that federally stands at roughly \$146 billion.

Wilkins said the financial risk to taxpayers is low because of restrictions around the bond purchase programs.

The country will be left with more public and private debt than before the pandemic forced a freeze on economic activity, she said.

"Whether it's a risk of inflation or deflation, central bank credibility is critical," she said in the text of her speech posted online by the bank.

"This requires keeping our eye on the ball in terms of our mandate and retaining the operational independence to achieve it."

The question of keeping the bank free of political influence faced Finance Minister Bill Morneau last week when he unveiled the next governor, Tiff Macklem.

The Liberals and central bank have an "effectively working relationship," Morneau said at the Friday press conference, adding the Liberals saw "the independence of the Bank of Canada as critical" to the future of the economy.

Wilkins was considered a top candidate to replace outgoing governor Stephen Poloz, just as Macklem had been the favourite seven years ago when he was the bank's No. 2 and Poloz got the top job.

The choice to appoint Macklem received praise in some quarters: private sector economists spoke highly of his skills and environment



Carolyn Wilkins, Senior Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada.

groups saw promise in his interest in the effects of climate change on the economy.

"Canada needed to move climate change to the front of the financial line, and with Tiff as incoming governor that need has been met," said Blair Feltmate, head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo.

But there was criticism as well, including from some women's groups who questioned why Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government didn't appoint Wilkins to head an institution that has never had a female governor.

"We made the determination on who would be the best to see us through this difficult time and seven years into the future as well, and I know that Tiff Macklem will do just that," Trudeau said Monday outside his Ottawa residence.

The bank estimates that pandemic-related restrictions, which have closed non-essential businesses and led to more than seven million workers receiving federal aid, will result in a 15 to 30 per cent drop in gross domestic product for the second quarter from its level in late 2019.

Wilkins said the bank hasn't published a full forecast because of the uncertainty about when restrictions will be lifted. There could also be other headwinds slowing a recovery, she said, citing low oil prices.

Quebec, Ontario account for 92% of coronavirus deaths in Canada as cases approach 60K

Canada saw 116 more deaths due to COVID-19 — the disease caused by the novel coronavirus — on Sunday, as nationwide cases approached the 60,000 mark.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Canada totalled 59,473 — with more than 30,000 of them considered active. A total of 3,682 deaths have been reported since the pandemic began.

Tallied daily based on figures released by provincial and federal health authorities, the numbers include 24,921 people who are considered recovered, and more than 933,000 tests conducted in Canada so far.

Quebec and Ontario collectively account for 83 per cent of Canada's cases, and 92 per cent of the national death toll.

In Quebec, 69 more deaths were announced on Sunday, totalling 2,205 deaths since the pandemic began. The province has a total of 31,865 cases. More than 7,200 people are considered recovered. Montreal continues to be the provincial epicentre, accounting for more than half of Quebec's cases.

Ontario reported 434 new cases and 40 deaths on Sunday, raising the provincial total to 17,553 cases and 1,216 deaths. More than 12,000 people have recovered.

In Nova Scotia, six new deaths were reported, all at one long-term care home called Northwood in Halifax. Thirty-seven people have died in the province since the pandemic began. The cumulative total number of cases in the province is 971, with 424 people deemed to have recovered.

New Brunswick reported no new cases for the 15th day in a row. On Saturday, officials had announced all 118 cases of COVID-19 in the province had recovered. New Brunswick is in the process of cautiously easing some restrictions,

259 cases in total, with 232 recoveries and three deaths so far.

Alberta reported 96 new cases and one new death, raising the provincial total to 5,766 cases and 93 deaths. More than 2,700 people are considered recovered.

Saskatchewan reported 12 new cases and no new deaths on Sunday. The province has 433 cases in total — 305 of them have recovered — and has so far experienced six deaths.

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Canada launches Coronavirus Global Response with international partners

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joined other global leaders to launch the Coronavirus Global Response amid the pandemic.

The response, an online pledging event looking to initially raise more than USD \$4 billion, is aiming to help researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent further spread of the virus.

"COVID-19 is an unprecedented challenge, but it's not the first time Canadians have been called to do their part," said Trudeau on Monday.

The prime minister also spoke of the Canadian liberation of the Netherlands, "today, 75 years later, we remember their courage and their sacrifice."

Trudeau asked Canadians to pause for two minutes at 2 pm ET to honour veterans.

In terms of Canada's role in the Coronavirus Global Response, to date, the federal government has announced investments of over CAD \$850 million that support this fundraising target, according to the Prime Minister's Office.



"None of us is immune to the effects of COVID-19, and none of us can beat the virus alone. Only by protecting each other can we protect ourselves," said Trudeau in a statement.

"Canada is ready to help lead a coordinated global response which will contribute to overcoming the pandemic."

Canada's investments include funding to mobilize Canadian researchers and life sciences companies' coronavirus research and development of medical countermeasures; support accelerated vaccine development, including through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

and other partners; find a safe and effective treatment for coronavirus through the World Health Organization (WHO) Solidarity Trial; coordinate a coronavirus viral and host genome sequencing effort across Canada; help provide diagnostic support to more than 20 partner countries; and create strategies to tackle misinformation, stigma, and fear.

"The pledging conference this morning was a beginning," Trudeau said.

He also said that there would be more coming "as the world grapples with this pandemic."

The Coronavirus Global Response initiative is an international online pledging event co-hosted by Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Spain, Norway, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Africa as the current G20 presidency, and Italy as the future G20 presidency.

Several provinces begin easing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions

OTTAWA — Several provinces began to slowly loosen lockdown restrictions on Monday as Ottawa pledged \$850 million for the international fight against COVID-19.

Quebec, which accounts for more than half of Canada's coronavirus cases, including deaths from the illness, was reopening retail stores outside Montreal while those in the greater Montreal area are to reopen next Monday.

Ontario, the other virus epicentre, was allowing a few mostly seasonal businesses to reopen, including garden centres with curbside pickups, lawn care and landscaping companies, and automatic car washes.

Manitoba's museums, libraries and retail businesses — including restaurants patios — were also to reopen, although at half capacity.

The province, along with Saskatchewan and Alberta, was also allowing non-essential medical activities such as dentistry and physiotherapy to resume.

The Cargill beef-processing plant south of Calgary resumed its business



after it was shut down for two weeks because of an extensive COVID-19 outbreak. Nearly half the plant's 2,000 workers have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

The union that represents the workers held a rally on the edge of the property and handed out black face

to continue Monday.

British Columbia has yet to release its reopening plan; however, Premier John Horgan is promising details this week.

The Maritime provinces, where COVID-19 case loads have been trending downward, began relaxing some restrictions over the last week, primarily in the areas of public health services and outdoor recreation.

Newfoundland and Labrador plans to loosen some of its public health and recreation restrictions next Monday.

Even though some lockdown restrictions are being eased, physical distancing rules and guidelines still apply.

Also Monday, Canada pledged \$850 million to bolster international efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment, as well as aid for developing countries.

The European Union organized a pledge conference in an effort to fill the World Health Organization's funding gaps.

The goal is to raise \$11.5 billion for vaccine and treatment options for COVID-19 and make them available and affordable worldwide.

Canada has confirmed nearly 60,000 cases of the illness, including nearly 3,800 deaths.

'Good degree of confidence' Canada's economy will rebound after COVID-19: Duclos

President of the Treasury Board, Jean-Yves Duclos says he has "a good degree of confidence" in Canada's ability to exit the recession created by the novel coronavirus outbreak.

But, when asked by The West Block's Mercedes Stephenson how the government is going to pay for the billions it has spent in emergency aid, Duclos said officials are "focused on the emergency," adding that without spending, Canada could slip into a depression.

"The alternative, if we didn't do this, would be depression," he explained. "A depression is a recession which is a lot longer and a lot deeper than a recession and with consequences for the coffee that would be even greater."

He said if the government didn't act quickly, unemployment would increase further, wages

And we are acting quickly, again, to avoid moving from a recession, in

which we are obviously finding ourselves now, towards a depression," he said.

As the pandemic hit Canada, the government ramped-up its spending, developing emergency programs aimed at keeping Canadians afloat while schools and businesses closed their doors.

On Thursday, Parliament's budget watchdog released a report which said it's likely the federal deficit for the year will hit \$252.1 billion and could go even higher if emergency measures remain in place longer than planned.

The figure is an estimate based on the almost \$146 billion in spending measures the government has announced to help cushion the economic blow from the pandemic, estimated declines in the country's gross domestic product, and the price of oil remaining well below previous expectations.

Asked if Canadians can expect to see

tax increases or cuts to government programs as a result, Duclos said for now, officials are focused on handling the emergency.

But, he said Canada entered the crisis with a "strong economy," and had the strongest fiscal situation of all developed economies.

"We had full employment," he said. "So we started from a very strong position and we are confident that the economy will rebound quickly once we go through the health crisis because we all know, this is initially a health crisis."

He said that is why all Canadians "need to do our part" and follow guidance from public health officials.

"But because of the strength of the fiscal situation and the strength of the economy before the crisis, we have big confidence in moving the economy back quickly to a stronger position," he said.

According to Duclos, the "absolute

priority" is getting Canadians back to work.

"If you want to decrease the fiscal costs, you want to reduce the deficit," he said.

"Now, we know we're going to do that better and more quickly if we maintain the economic fabric of our society and the particular small business fabric of our economy," he said.

Canada's growth for years has been driven by the ability of small businesses to invest in workers and the economy.

"That's why a very important objective of the plan — it's a big plan — is to maintain the ability of small businesses to go through the crisis and then to emerge strongly, and to rehire as many workers as possible," he said.

On Saturday, Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam issued a statement saying Canada has managed to bring the rate of infection down, by heeding the advice of medical authorities.

"We are flattening the curve," she wrote.

And, over the last several weeks, provinces have begun releasing their plans to reopen their economies, with some already starting to relax restrictions.

Ontario high school students grapple with possible graduation ceremony cancellations

TORONTO — Urmila Persaud spent months picturing herself walking across a stage to collect her high school diploma in front of friends and family.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has replaced that vision with a big question mark as schools and boards across Canada grapple with how to handle graduation ceremonies because of COVID-19 restrictions.

For soon-to-be graduates like Persaud, this typically joyous milestone is fraught with uncertainty about whether they'll get a chance to celebrate the end of their high school chapter, and the murky future that lies ahead.

"I imagined and dreamed about my graduation for months," the 17-year-old from Richmond Hill, Ont., said. "And before March break, I had no idea that might be the last time I see my class in person."

It's not just graduation — Persaud had imagined moving into a dorm and



starting university come September, but that picture has been supplanted by questions about whether she'll have to take her first post-secondary courses out from her parents' home.

But the ceremony is a particular sore spot — a final hurrah with her tight-knit class of just 17 students.

"We pretty much grew up together," she said. "Our graduation would be our

last time together — all together — in person. And now that might not happen."

The French-language board to which Persaud's school belongs cancelled graduation dances but has yet to make a formal decree on graduation ceremonies, a spokeswoman said.

A spokeswoman said that if commencement ceremonies in New Brunswick go ahead, they will be different than usual as the Department of Education looks for "positive alternatives to traditional graduation ceremonies that would meet the restrictions recommended by Public Health."

So too for 17-year-old Trinity Parchment of Barrie, Ont., who learned on Friday that her school wouldn't be holding a graduation ceremony, but would try to do something to mark the occasion online.



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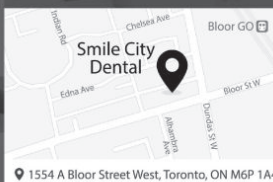
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Ontario's three phase plan to reopen economy 'makes sense': Mayor Watson

OTTAWA — Ottawa's Mayor and Medical Officer of Health are supportive of Ontario's three phase plan to reopen the province following weeks of shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Vera Etches says Ontario's framework appears to mirror the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health's ideas for safely relaxing the physical distancing requirements.

"At first glance, the plan does appear to consider the same kinds of things we would expect to be considered in reopening the economy safely."

Dr. Etches told reporters on Monday afternoon that Ottawa Public Health will review the plan with the City of Ottawa and health care partners to see what it means for Ottawa.

Mayor Jim Watson says the plan introduced by Premier Doug Ford on Monday "makes sense".

"It's a plan based on principles in three stages."

The Ontario Government says stage one will allow select workplaces to reopen, and allow some small gatherings. The second stage would



more workplaces and outdoor spaces open to the public.

The third phase would further relax restrictions on public gatherings and reopen workplaces.

Watson says he has previously told Premier Ford and Ontario cabinet ministers that "I think the slow and cautious approach is the way to go. The last thing we need is to open up

segments of the economy too quickly and then a second wave of the virus hits us, and these people have to get laid off again."

Watson also said he doesn't want Ontario to lift restrictions in individual cities based on the current situation, noting a Kingston councillor wanted to ease restrictions in that city due to a lower number of COVID-19 cases.

City of Ottawa staff will meet with Ottawa Public Health within the next three weeks to discuss options available for festivals this summer and fall.

"My hope is it's a province-wide regulation, that it's consistent and it's not a piecemeal approach based on where you live."

Both the Mayor and the Medical Officer of Health said the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health are working with the City of Gatineau and the Outaouais health region on plans to relax the physical distancing guidelines.

City of Ottawa facilities closed until June 30.

The Mayor says the City of Ottawa's decision to cancel all festival permits, prohibit public gatherings and shutdown municipal facilities until June 30 is "firm."

Watson told reporters on Monday afternoon that the City of Ottawa will review that decision forward to see if it should be extended, and it's unclear what will happen for festivals in the summer and fall.

"The bulk of our major festivals are taking place in the summer months and obviously they're on pins-and-needles right now as to whether they should go ahead with those concerts and festivals," said Watson, when asked about RBC Ottawa Bluesfest and other festivals.

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about whether mortality data could be released earlier than the deadline.

A spokesperson in Government and Consumer Services Minister Lisa Thompson's office did not respond to questions about whether Ontario could start releasing data about death more promptly.

The U.K., by contrast, releases mortality data for the whole country every week; the most recent data release comes up to April 17.

Most Canadian provinces are far more sluggish about reporting death (B.C., which reports death monthly, is an exception), with the result that Statistics Canada's national data on mortality only comes up to 2018.

"There are a lot of things to take into consideration," Kwan says. "That being said, it sounds like a lot of European countries and the U.S. have been able to produce this sort of data and publish it on a weekly, if not monthly, basis. Hopefully, COVID-19 will allow us to expedite the process here."

Doctors who submit death certificates to the province send the documents in quickly once they're complete, Kwan says; the delay isn't on their end.

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Ford hints at 'good news' as Ontario's new case count drops below 400 for 2nd day since early April

Ontario's top doctor tapped down some of Monday's optimism about the status of COVID-19 in the province, saying while the number of new cases has come down somewhat in recent days, the curve continues to waver upward.

On Saturday, Ontario reported 511 new cases of the virus, falling to 370 Monday. But Saturday's numbers represented a jump from April 29, when there were just 347 new cases, Dr. David Williams pointed out.

"So we're in the range of the possible, but we're not in the range of the probable at this stage," Williams said at a news conference Monday.

The sobering reminder comes as Premier Doug Ford struck a hopeful tone, hinting in his daily COVID-19 update Monday that possible good news for more retail curb-side pick up and for cottage-goers ahead of Victoria Day.

Ford appeared to change his tune about whether Ontarians with cottages should be able to head to their properties during the pandemic, telling reporters, "there's only so long

you can hold back taxpayers."

The comments follow weeks of the premier insisting people should not be travelling to cottage country to avoid putting undue pressure on smaller communities as the province's fight with COVID-19 continues.

The premier also said Ontario may be "getting close" to opening parks and more curbside pick-up retail options, as the province saw a drop in the number of new coronavirus cases to under 400 for only the second time since early April.

"We will have some good news" as early as this week, Ford said.

That could include Ontario's garden centres, whose operators say they're frustrated by government orders meant to ease the restrictions they've been under. While landscapers and lawn-care workers can resume their usual workloads, garden centres say the new rules only allow them to provide curbside pickup and delivery services.

The province also saw another 48 COVID-19 related deaths Monday, bringing the total to 1,359, based on

CBC's analysis of data provided by Ontario's local health units.

The provincial government has said it wants to see a steady drop in new confirmed cases for a two-to-four-week period before embarking on the first phase of easing emergency measures.

Speaking to reporters, Ford lauded the province for reaching its target of 16,000 tests per day ahead of schedule, claiming Ontario's testing strategy has allowed it to "stay ahead of this virus."

In the initial weeks of the pandemic, the province was slow to ramp up its testing, drawing criticism for not acting quickly enough to stop the spread.

"We still have a lot of work to do," Ford said, but added the results are giving him confidence about the weeks ahead.

Ford calls for national contact-tracing strategy.

Ford was asked Monday about random community testing, which some experts have said is key before reopening the economy. The premier said he is calling for a national strategy for contact tracing, and said

the virtual conference. He also spoke about it during his daily update on COVID-19. He says the fight needs to extend beyond Canada's borders to beat COVID-19 for good.

"The more we cooperate the more likely we find a cure and find it quickly and that's something we all want to see," said Trudeau.

Trudeau said the initial probe is a beginning.

"And there will be more to come as the world grapples with this pandemic," he said.

The federal government is earmarking more than \$1 billion dollars for a national medical and research strategy in the fight against the coronavirus. Trudeau says if Canada is successful in developing a vaccine, it and the formula will be shared with the rest of the world.

But production of that vaccine will be extremely important right around the world as well, he said.

"It can't just be the wealthiest countries producing that vaccine for their citizens. We need to ensure there are systems in place so that the billions of people around the world who are vulnerable can get these vaccines as well."

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Monday's COVID-19 update from the government reflects Ford's optimism, with 370 new cases confirmed. The only other instance of an increase lower than 400 was in the province's April 29th report, when 347 new cases were confirmed.

There have now been 17,923 confirmed cases in the province since the COVID-19 outbreak began in late January, of which 12,505 cases are now considered resolved.

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