



Islamabad POST

Saturday, May 02, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Smart lockdown to protect daily wagers, says Shibli Faraz

COVID-19 badly affects labour class: Kaira

Ambassador Moin talks to Pak media

Smart lockdown to protect daily wagers: Shibli

Government has given the concept of smart lockdown to protect the daily wagers and labourers from the impacts of Coronavirus. He said the country cannot afford a complete lockdown due to our economic situation: Shibli Faraz

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shibli Faraz has said the government will take along all the federating units to address the situation arising out of coronavirus. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, he said the nation is faced with an unprecedented challenge of Covid-19 and a collective response is required to meet it. He said the government has given the concept of

smart lockdown to protect the daily wagers and labourers from the impacts of Coronavirus. He said the country cannot afford a complete lockdown due to our economic situation. He said there is now greater realization including in Sindh of striking a balance in the lockdown and the economic activity. The Information Minister said this is the first government which has taken practical steps including that of Panagahs and Sehat cards for the well-being and protection of the workers.

Shibli Faraz said it is the empathy of Prime Minister Imran Khan for the workers and labourers that a mega Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program was launched in the wake of coronavirus under which twelve thousand rupees are being disbursed amongst them. He pointed out that industries such as construction have also been reopened to provide livelihood opportunities to the workers. Responding to a question, the Information Minister said a mechanism is being evolved to ensure the

salary protection of media workers. When asked about the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Information Minister said the government has effectively highlighted the lingering dispute at the world forums including the United Nations. Shibli Faraz expressed the commitment to transform the Information Ministry as per the modern requirements. He said our plan is to enhance its outreach to the protection of the national interests and image of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov presenting a souvenir to Pak Army officer on the occasion of video conference among Pakistani and Uzbek medical experts in the wake of COVID 19. - DNA

Qadri thanks Saudia govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Friday thanked Saudi Arabia for helping the marginalized section of society during the holy month of Ramzan-ul-Mubarak. Addressing the 20,000 Ration Bags distribution ceremony among the deserving persons by Maktaba-e-Dawa Islamabad, he said Saudi Arabia has helped Pakistan in difficult times. He said Pakistani nation and Government thanked Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki for participating in welfare activities in Pakistan, said a news release.

Pak, Uzbek experts share experiences

Video conference took place at the Uzbek embassy in Islamabad, thus achieving yet another important milestone in cooperation between the brotherly countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health Care officers of Uzbekistan and Pakistan held a video conference on Friday during which they exchanged experience in the fight against COVID-19. The video conference took place at the Uzbek embassy in Islamabad, thus achieving yet another important milestone in cooperation between

the brotherly countries, which is very relevant during the period of the spread of the pandemic in the world. In very lively discussions, Pakistani partners shared their rich experience in the field of prevention and response to epidemics, as well as large-scale work carried out to ensure the safety of the nation and the state, which was very useful in the sense of its practical application in

Uzbekistan. Particular importance is the special interest of Pakistani officers in the consistent, clear and targeted measures taken by the leadership of Uzbekistan, which not only prevented the spread of infection in the country in a timely manner, but also supported the welfare of the population, as well as small and medium enterprises, in very difficult conditions in the world.

Briefs

Chinese military sends experts to Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: The Chinese military has donated anti-epidemic supplies or sent medical teams to countries including Pakistan, Iran, Myanmar and Vietnam, Wu Qian, a spokesperson for Chinese Ministry of National Defense said. Expressing deep gratitude to other countries' defense ministries and militaries that had helped China in fighting COVID-19, he said during an online briefing that China will help the international community to the best of its ability while continuing its epidemic control efforts at home. Experts from the Chinese military had shared their experience in fighting COVID-19 with their counterparts from Pakistan, Singapore and Russia via video conferences.

Cuban embassy in USA fired upon

DNA

HAVA: In the early hours of Thursday, an unknown individual opened fire with an assault weapon against the building of the Embassy of Cuba in the United States. There was no personal injury to the Mission staff, which is safe and protected, but there was material damage caused to the building resulting from the impact of the bullets. The individual, about whose identity to the Cuban government has no information, was detained on site by local authorities and is under custody.



The diplomatic mission of Cuba, located in Washington D.C., has a protection and security systems to face threats against its staff and premises. The government of Cuba is waiting for the correspondent investigation

by US authorities on the identity and motives of the individual who carried out this aggression and the circumstances surrounding the event. The U.S. Department of State is aware of what happened.

China-Pak prisoners swap treaty ratified

DNA/STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: The treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons between China and Pakistan was ratified by China's top legislative body National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. The 17th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th NPC, which concluded

on Wednesday, was chaired by its chairman Li Zhanshu, and attended by 123 committee members in person and 46 others via video link. The meeting heard the report of the deliberations of a treaty on the transfer of convicted criminals between China and Pakistan and got it ratified. Delegations from China and Pakistan started negotia-

tions on the treaty in Islamabad in August 2014, reaching bilateral agreement on provisions and initiating the text of the treaty. China's then Minister of Justice Fu Zhenghua and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi officially signed the treaty during Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing in November 2018.

UN hails Pakistani Peacekeepers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations has hailed the services of Pakistani Peacekeepers in Congo. A spokesperson of the world body, in a tweet, said Pakistani peacekeepers helped save hundreds of lives during deadly floods in Congo. The spokesperson said Pakistan is amongst the top contributors to the UN Peacekeeping

500 Pakistanis return from Saudi Arabia

Over 13,000 Pakistanis, mostly on short term visas and final exits

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 500 stranded Pakistanis Friday were repatriated from Saudi Arabia who were stuck up there after the suspension of flight operations following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. A special PIA flight PK 8710 carrying 250 stranded Pakistanis departed from Jeddah for Lahore at 14:30 hours. Pakistan's Consul General at Jeddah Khalid Majid and Deputy Consul General Shaiq Ahmed Bhutto saw off the passengers at

the airport, said a press release received here. This was second of the two special flights departed from the Kingdom carrying stranded Pakistanis to their homeland. The first flight with 250 passengers departed for Islamabad from Riyadh on Friday morning. Over 13,000 Pakistanis, mostly on short term visas and final exits, are currently stuck in Saudi Arabia due to the cancellation of international flights in the wake of outbreak of coronavirus. The Government of Pakistan is arranging special flights for their return to Pakistan.

Japan to help ADB developing members

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In support of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) efforts to combat COVID-19 effects, government of Japan would be providing emergency support of \$150 million through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) and the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF). The Fund would help developing member countries (DMCs) strengthen their capacity to contain the spread of COVID-19, according to ADB press statement received here. It said the ADB has provided several targeted interventions to support its developing member countries (DMCs) in combating the effects of coronavirus.

Inside...

CPEC to help strengthening industrial cooperation
- Page 02

Turkey's anti-COVID-19 policies: an overview
- Page 03

Uzbekistan to get over 3 bln dollars from partners

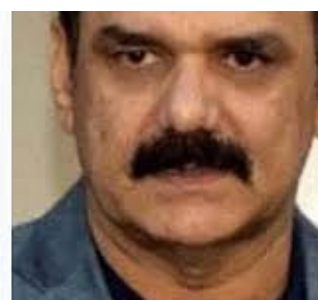
'Winning fight against COVID-19 requires strength of WHO'
- Back Page

Heyday for CPEC with induction of new faces

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is likely to have heyday with the induction of new faces in the Federal Cabinet, which unleashes a fresh dynamism in the execution and progress of all projects in future. Senator Shibli Faraz, a strong supporter of CPEC has been appointed as the federal minister for Information and Broadcasting and CPEC Authority Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa as Special Assistant to Prime Minister on

Information. Both of them are touted as professionally diligent in performing their tasks in quickest and smooth manner as per vision envisaged by National Action Plan on priority areas especially CPEC. The government's move to rope in them in Cabinet, will dial up media voices on CPEC and Sino-Pak relations. Having personas for championing the cause of true and transparent picture on CPEC, their double impact will transform information, media and communication landscapes. This will give a higher edge to improve understanding on



CPEC and allow people of all strata, home and abroad, to distinguish false and truth. Senator Shibli Faraz, was a key panelist on the 5th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Media Forum held on Nov. 22 2019. In his speech, Shibli Faraz said CPEC

possessed significant importance for Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asian countries and the Gulf region. Gwadar, he said, was the top priority of the incumbent regime. He thanked the contributions of Pakistan-China Institute and reaffirmed the commitment of Pa-

kistani government to promoting CPEC and taking it forward to next stage, which will reap big dividends for the nation. CPEC Authority Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa, who is now SAPM on information, is being considered a fresh breather due to his approach and demeanor on CPEC. Recently he tweeted that "Time to gear up for phase-II (of CPEC) which is envisioned to generate mass employment through more projects, mass industrialization, agricultural and socio-economic uplift." The statement comes a week after Prime Minister Imran

Khan directed all concerned ministries to set goals for schemes and ensure inter-governmental coordination for early conclusion of phase II of the multibillion-dollar project. Lt-Gen (ret'd) Bajwa, the former DG ISPR who has also served as commander Southern Command, was appointed as the first chairman of the newly-established CPEC Authority in November last year. The Authority was established through a presidential ordinance in October for coordination, monitoring and evaluation to ensure implementation of CPEC-related activities.

Briefs

UN chief pushes for debt moratorium

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has reinforced calls for debt moratorium to help developing countries combat coronavirus pandemic that has had a devastating effect on their economies. "The debt moratorium must be extended to all developing countries that are unable to service their debt, including several middle-income countries...followed by targeted debt relief...to prevent defaults leading to prolonged financial and economic crises", he told a virtual news conference on Thursday. "The International Labour Organization (ILO) reported this week that the global workforce will be hit with the equivalent of the loss of more than 300 million jobs", the UN chief said, adding that millions of children risk missing life-saving vaccines and that those officially living in poverty could rise by around 500 million - "the first increase in three decades". Underscoring the "massive and urgent support" needed for developing countries, he echoed his call for a worldwide relief package of at least 10 per cent of the global economy's output.

NCOC directs RSPs to enhance mobilization

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday directed the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) spread across various villages and districts of the country to enhance community mobilization for effectively containing COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The NCOC, which met with Minister for Planning Development Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in chair closely observed the existing structure of RSPs in the country in its high level meeting organized on Labour Day. The Centre noted that community mobilization was of utmost significance to cope with any pandemic or national crisis.

COVID 19: Uzbekistan to get over 3 bln dollars from partners

Within the healthcare system, the country is planning to upgrade sanitary-epidemiological service, supply technical equipment and training of specialists in accordance with international standards and best practices, create world standard regional sanitary and epidemiological laboratories equipped, improve specialists' capacity, attract experts with international experience, build modern clinics for the treatment of infectious diseases, especially for children and mothers

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the decree "On measures to attract external assistance to support the population, budget, basic infrastructure and business entities during the coronavirus epidemic". International financial institutions are ready to provide Uzbekistan with long-term loans and grant totaling more than 3 billion dollars. Agreements have already been reached. A "Roadmap", enclosed to this resolution, stipulates that 277,5 million dollars will go to strengthening healthcare system, 700 million dollars to business and banking systems support, 1,7 billion dollars and 150 million Euro to state budget support and 300

million dollars to utilities and energy enterprises areas. Within the healthcare system, the country is planning to upgrade sanitary-epidemiological service, supply technical equipment and training of specialists in accordance with international standards and best practices, create world standard regional sanitary and epidemiological laboratories equipped, improve specialists' capacity, attract experts with international experience, build modern clinics for the treatment of infectious diseases, especially for children and mothers. Uzbekistan is taking active steps to develop the construction of energy-efficient housing. Climate change and carbon footprint reduction are among the most widespread topics of discussion in the world. There are many ways to ad-

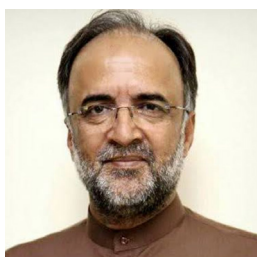


dress these global challenges at different layers ranging from individual and state. Improving buildings and houses are some of those ways. Uzbekistan is taking measures to develop the construction of energy-efficient housing starting from rural areas.

According to the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan dated November 14, 2018, starting from January 1, 2020 housing facilities should be equipped with energy-efficient and energy-saving building materials. This document stimulated the joint project of the Ministry of Construction of Uzbekistan, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Fund (GEF). Within it, in 2019 a number of business trainings for bank workers specializing on "green mortgage" were organized in 12 regions of the country. Assistance was provided in the construction of 800 one-story 3-bedroom energy-efficient and low-carbon houses in the Ferghana, Samarkand, Bukhara, Surkhandarya and Khorezm regions.

UN and OSCE in Uzbekistan Representatives Heads got acquainted with newly created conditions for ethnic minorities. UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan Helena Fraser and OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan John MacGregor joined by the representative of ministries and agencies paid a visit to Altinkul village in Pakhtakor district of Jizzakh region, built within "Prosperous Villages" Program. This village was built within a few months in the abandoned wasteland. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev was personally supervising the implementation of the construction project. Less than in year, this area saw 460 new cottages, consumer services utilities and textile factory that provided 500 new jobs.

COVID-19 badly affects labour class: Kaira



DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party Punjab president Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Friday that coronavirus had badly affected rights of labour class across the globe. In a message issued here on the Labour Day, he said that the PPP was standing with the labour class of the society in the hard times.

He said that it was the first time in last 135 years that not a single rally of labours could be organized due to the pandemic. He urged the government to announce special support fund for registered and unregistered workers and financial help of the labours. Kaira said that the labours had to work for lengthy hours on low wages and the industrialists were not ready to give accepted rights to the labours. He also urged the government to ensure registration of all industrial and non-industrial workers as soon as possible and they should be given all rights mentioned in the constitution.

Pak Cos. take part in show

DNA

JINAN: Twenty eight Pakistani enterprises have been invited to participate in the Shandong Export Commodities (Pakistan) Cloud Exhibition launched here, Gwarar Pro reported on Wednesday. The exhibition demonstrates a creative way of engaging international business in a lockdown period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enterprises involved in production of electro-mechanical, hardware, building materials, anred epidemic prevention materials etc. have been invited to participate the cloud exhibition. A total of 84 enterprises from Shandong province rolled in the exhibition, and 28 Pakistani buyers were invited to hold "one-to-one" negotiations through precise matching, and 124 meetings have been held between the two sides.



LAHORE: People leave Masjid Wazir Khan after offering Juma prayers. - Shahbaz Sindhu

PM Imran deserves praise, says Malik

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) President-designate Ifkhar Ali Malik Friday lauded PM Imran Khan for keeping the interest of masses and the business community at large by continuous reforms in economy and allocating billions of rupees to meet the challenge of COVID-19. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of traders who called on him here today.

Ambassador Moin talks to Pak media in France

MUBASHAR BHATTI

PARIS: The Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque held a virtual meeting with France-based Pakistani journalists and apprised them of various steps taken to provide relief and assistance to Pakistani community members affected by the coronavirus epidemic. He also informed the journalists about the policy of the Government of Pakistan regarding operation of special flights to bring

back home stranded Pakistanis worldwide and transportation of dead bodies from abroad to Pakistan. As these two issues pertain to France also, he assured the community

that the Embassy has taken them up with the concerned authorities for an early resolution. The Ambassador urged the community to donate generously in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for

COVID 19 to help the Government of Pakistan in providing relief to the vulnerable segments of the society during the epidemic. He called upon the Pakistan community in France to raise their voice against the brutal repression of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and stigmatization of Muslims in India during the coronavirus epidemic. The Ambassador also reassured the community that the Embassy stands by them in these difficult times.



'Winning fight against COVID-19 requires strength of WHO'

DNA / STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump on April 14, announced that he would halt US funding to the World Health Organization (WHO), accusing the agency of failing to obtain, vet and share information in a timely and transparent manner. This move will doubtless affect WHO financially. As an agency of the United Nations, WHO has limited resources and cannot carry out its operations without international cooperation. According to China Economic Net, at this critical moment when countries around the world are working together to fight the COVID-19 epidemic, US funding suspension will impair the agency's ability, and that shows irresponsibility that does not fit the status of the US as a major country and will not help stop the spread of the disease. The country is now a "political cancer" that undermines global anti-epidemic efforts. The US has made its intention very

clear, that is to blame others for the COVID-19 outbreak to shift American attention. Its true aim is to cover up its failure to adopt effective anti-epidemic measures, which has led to terrible consequences. More than 800,000 Americans have been infected, of which tens of thousands have died, and the unemployment has soared to the highest level since the Great Depression. Therefore, China, where the infection was spotted, and WHO, the multilateral organization involved in public health security, have been made the "scapegoat". Since the coronavirus disease outbreak in January, Americans from all walks of life have never stopped hurling accusations at China. Some senior US officials and right-wing media have continuously stigmatized China. In the face of public grievances and international criticism due to poor prevention and control, and with unsuccessful attempts to make China a "scapegoat", the US plays its old trick. It has pinned the blame on WHO,

politicized the COVID-19 epidemic, and even taken a despicable and barbarous act like "funding halt" as a political threat against WHO, in an attempt to shift the blame for the grave epidemic situation in the country onto others. This mindset and action of the country as a global superpower are contemptible and demonstrate its arrogance and prejudice. The US is completely ignoring its responsibilities and obligations as a superpower. A Chinese proverb says, if you are out to condemn someone, you can always trump up a charge. WHO has taken active actions and earnestly performed its duties since the COVID-19 outbreak. Its anti-epidemic efforts have been acclaimed by the international community and recognized by many people around the world. On January 1, WHO activated a crisis group, putting the body on an emergency footing for dealing with the outbreak. On January 14, it pointed out that there might have been limited human-to-human transmission. On Jan-

uary 30, it declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency of international concern. From February 16 to 24, an expert team from WHO traveled to China for an on-site situation assessment. On February 27, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries to use the window of opportunity and take prompt actions. On February 28, WHO increased its COVID-19 risk assessment to "very high at a global level". On March 11, WHO designated COVID-19 as a pandemic. Despite all these alerts, many American politicians continuously pretend to be "asleep". As a consequence, the situation in their country has become worse. Many US people remain "asleep" as their "Twitter President" says that the coronavirus will "miraculously go away", "I think we have it totally under control," "the risk to Americans from coronavirus is very low"... These eventually have led to the grave epidemic situation in the US today. COVID-19 has become a global pan-

dem. At this critical moment, the role of WHO is much more important than ever before. COVID-19 is a new type of disease, about which human beings knew nothing at the beginning. People around the world must unite and strengthen cooperation to contain it as soon as possible and restore the normal world order. WHO plays a leading role in the battle. It is coordinating the medical resources of countries, training health care workers, and facilitating vaccine research and development. The health systems of most developing countries are weak, and COVID-19 is highly infectious, posing a serious threat to the lives and safety of people in small and medium-sized countries. The prevention and control in these countries could relate directly to whether the global fight against the epidemic will win or not. WHO can better coordinate the resources of all parties and more efficiently provide support to small and medium-sized countries.

As of mid-April, WHO had delivered over two million pieces of personal protective equipment to 133 countries and regions and more than one million testing kits to 126 countries and regions. These resources are undoubtedly important for small and medium-sized countries to fight and win the battle against the epidemic. With our efforts aggregated, we will conquer all difficulties; with our intelligence crystallized, we will not fail. Blaming and shifting the blame onto others will not help solve any problem. Any attempts to weaken the role of any multilateral organizations like WHO and to undermine the global health governance system are extremely irresponsible and could threaten the safety and health of people. To win the global battle against COVID-19 requires sincerity, unity, the adherence to the concept of building a community of shared future for mankind and multilateralism and, more than ever, the strength of WHO.