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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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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

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, Myan-

mar and Vietnam, Wu

Qian, a spokesperson

for Chinese Ministry of

National Defense said.

Expressing deep grati-

tude to other countries'

defense ministries and

militaries that had helped

China in fighting COV-

ID-19, he said during an

online briefing that China

will help the international

community to the best of

its ability while continu-

ing its epidemic control

Experts from the Chi-

nese military had shared

their experience in fight-

ing COVID-19 with their

counterparts from Paki-

stan, Singapore and Rus-

sia via video conferences.

Inside..

CPEC to help strengthening

industrial cooperation

Turkey's anti-

COVID-19

policies: an

overview

- Page 02

efforts at home.

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

DNA

HAVA: In the early hours of

Thursday, an unknown indi-

vidual opened fire with an

assault weapon against the

building of the Embassy of

Cuba in the United States.

There was no personal in-

jury to the Mission staff,

which is safe and protect-

ed, but there was materi-

al damage caused to the

building resulting from the

The individual, about

whose identity to the Cu-

ban government has no

information, was detained

on site by local authorities

and is under custody.

impact of the bullets.

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 disbursed being

He pointed out that industries such as construction have also been reopened to provide livelihood opportunities to the workers.

amongst them.

Responding to a question, the Information Minister said a mechanism is being evolved to ensure the

Cuban embassy

in USA fired upon

salary protection of media

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.

e Repu Emba ikasining n Pak xonasi

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: 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 Ramzanul-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.

UN hails Pakistani Peacekeepers

ISLAMABAD: The United

A spokesperson of the world body, in a tweet, said Pakistani peacekeepers helped save hundreds of lives during deadly floods

Peacekeeping

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
In very lively discussions, 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.

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

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.

Uzbekistan.

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 pan-

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.

China-Pak prisoners swap treaty ratified

The diplomatic mission

of Cuba, located in Wash-

ington D.C., has a protec-

tion and security systems

to face threats against its

The government of Cuba

is waiting for the corre-

investigation

staff and premises.

spondent

DNA/STAFF REPORT

BEIIING: 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

Delegations from China and Pakistan started negotiations on the treaty in Islamabad in August 2014, reaching bilateral agreement on provisions and initiating the text of the treaty..

by US authorities on the

identity and motives of the

individual who carried out

this aggression and the cir-

cumstances surrounding

The U.S. Department of

State is aware of what hap-

the event.

pened.

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.

DNA

Nations has hailed the services of Pakistani Peacekeepers in Congo.

in Congo.

The spokesperson said Pakistan is amongst the top contributors to the UN

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 (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa as Special Assistant for 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.

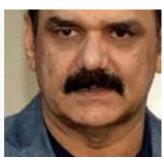
The government's move to rope in them in Cabinet, will dial up media voices on CPEC and Sino-Pak relations. Having personas for championing the cause of true and transparent picture on CPEC, their double impact will transform information, media and communication landscapes.

This will give a higher edge

to improve understanding on

CPEC and allow people of all strata, home and abroad, to dis-

tinguish 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 (retd) 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 (retd) 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.

- Page 03 Uzbekistan to get

over 3 bln dollars from partners **Winning**

fight against COVID-19 requires strength of WHO'

– Back Page

Briefs

LPG industry demands **bailout** package

ISLAMABAD: The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Industries Association Pakistan (LPGIAP) on Friday demanded a bailout package from the government in economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) evolving situation across the country.

"The LPG industry is suffering a loss of around Rs 500 million on monthly basis after the federal and provincial governments ordered lockdown in the wake of coronavirus. Our 70 percent business has come to a halt," LPGIA Chairman Irfan Khokhar said while talking to APP.

He said 70 percent of LPG's total supplies were being used in auto sector, industries, hotels and restaurants. tandoors and marriage halls, which were now facing shutdown as preventive measures to contain the spread of virus.

108 arrested in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: administration Peshawar Friday arrested 108 more persons from different localities in a crackdown against profiteers and violation of lockdown, said a news release issued here.

In this connection, Dep-

uty Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Mohammad Ali Asghar along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ishfaq Khan and Assistant Commissioner (AC), Nauman Ali Shah visited University Road, Arbab Road, Canal Road, Customs Chowk and other localities and inspected various bazaars. Similarly, AC City Sara Rehman, AC (Shah Alam) Dr. Ihtesham-ul-Haq, AC Saddar, Islahuddin and AC Mathani, Rizwana Dar also inspected bazaars on G.T. Road, Charsadda Road, Ingilab Road, Phandu Road, Mathani and Kohat Road while all Additional Assistant Commissioners (AACs) also carried out crackdown against profiteers and violators of the lockdown and collectively arrested 108 persons. – APP

CPI inflation falls

ISLAMABAD:

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based monthly inflation decelerated to 8.5 percent on year-onyear (YoY) basis in April 2020, from 10.2 percent during February, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reporter Friday. On month-on-month basis. it decreased by 0.8% in April as compared to an increase of 0.04% in the previous month and an increase of 0.7% in April 2019. The Urban CPI inflation increased by 7.7% on year-on-year basis in April 2020 as compared to an increase of 9.3% in the previous month and 8.4% in April 2019. On the other hand, the Rural CPI inflation increased by 9.8% on vear-on-vear basis in April 2020 as compared to an increase of 11.7% in the previous month and 8.1% in April 2019. On month-onmonth basis, it decreased by 1.1% in April 2020 as compared to a decrease of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 0.6% in April 2019. - APP

CPEC to help strengthening industrial cooperation: Haroon

DNA/STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could speed up the industrial cooperation in priority sectors, said Haroon Sharif, the former Minister of State and Chairman of Pakistan Board of Investment.

"At this stage, there is a huge scope for investments in the health sector including pharmaceuticals and expansion of hospitals' network," said Sharif in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

The CPEC, he said could help strengthening the digital technologybase in Pakistan, as the world moves to remote working. More specifically, there is a huge demand for digital education in the remote areas of Pakistan. "China should also look at relocating some industries to mitigate future risks," said Mr Sharif, adding that a number of global buyers would like to have diversified production sources in future rather than taking the risk of

dealing with one country.

Pakistan has the comparative advantage in value added textiles, agriculture-based food processing and information technology, he said.

He told CEN it is critical for China to create support mechanisms for priority industrial sectors that can create the majority of jobs in Pakistan, such as agriculture, services and manufacturing. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, textiles, food processing and retail will be badly hit. A Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) fund to support these economic sectors will be extremely helpful to keep the momentum of CPEC going.

According to him, focus of CPEC should move towards human development and funds need to be allocated for expanding the health infrastructure as well as essential skills for the labor-force.

About Prime Minister Imran Khan's public appeal to the Group of 20 (G20) for debt relief to the developing countries, Mr Sharif said it certainly



carried weight and strengthened the case for deferral of debt payments till December 2020.

He said, "It is important to understand that there hasn't been a debt write-off for and it is kind of a rescheduling of repayments. Using it as "debt relief" may cause confusion among general public." According to Mr Sharif, this bilateral relief by the International Development Association (IDA) is likely to be extended for one more year. The G20 leaders have appealed to the commercial lenders including global pension and hedge

funds to follow the same path. Sharif said that Pakistan's foreign debt is around 110 billion U.S. dollars and this year's repayments are in the range of \$10 billion.

This debt suspension will ease pressure on the external account for one year and the overall relaxation of repayments will be in the range of \$1 to \$2 billion.

Pakistan is likely to reach out to the bilateral lenders including China for deferral of loan payments. Mr Sharif said, "China should look at a potential debt write-off."

If Pakistan manages to reschedule the debt, it will prove fair amount of fiscal space to focus on the revival of economy which has been badly hit due to COVID-19 pandemic.

It is pertinent to point out that Pakistan's domestic debt is three times more than the international debt, said

He added, while debt relief will ease pressures on government's fiscal position, investments will be needed to revive the job creating industries. According to Mr Sharif, the current

debt suspension will further ease pressure on the current account, however, the fiscal deficit, is likely to be very high above 9 percent of GDP due to low tax revenues and high expenditures on health and cash transfers to the poor.

Pakistan's GDP growth is likely to go down to 1 percent in 2020. The recent interest rate cuts will ease some pressure on the fiscal deficit, according to Mr Sharif.

So, it is a testing time for everyone and Pakistan will certainly be looking forward to targeted support from the best friend China, said Mr Sharif.

He said, China has clearly shown global leadership in dealing with this pandemic and it is expected that China will continue its leadership in ensuring regional stability especially in the Belt and Road initiative partner countries. This will prove to the world the real meaning of the term - a community with a shared future for mankind.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Red Crescent distributes relief goods among needy people. - DNA

Chinese company donates medical supplies

DNA

PESHAWAR: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) donated to the Pakistani government a batch of medical supplies that include 20,000 surgical masks, 5,000 N95 masks, 300 protection gowns, 1,000 surgical gloves and 20 temperature check guns.

According to Gwadar Pro App, at a simple handover ceremony held here, Lyu Yan, deputy general manager of Pakistan division of CRBC, said, "CRBC has been busy purchasing anti-pandemic medical supplies since the COVID-19 broke out in

Overcoming difficulties, CRBC staff has finally sent the goods to Pakistan and donated them to the Pakistani



government at the earliest time." Lyu added that, CRBC will work with the Pakistani people to tide over difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic as CRBC staff and the Pakistani people have shared a bond of brotherhood for decades.

After attending the handover ceremony, Hassan Daud, CEO of Board of Investment and Trade of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed thanks to China and CRBC for their supports in combating COVID-19. He also wrote "Long live Pak-China Friendship" in Chinese on his social media account. In addition to this batch of medical supplies, CRBC also donated Rs 1 million to Prime Minister's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund-2020 in March 30, 2020.

One staff member of CRBC's Pakistan division said, "The donations is just to show our love to Pakistan and express sympathy and love towards the Pakistani people."

Pak Post revenue

surges

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman of Pakistan Post said on Friday the revenue of Pakistan Post is regularly witnessing an increase which is enough proof that postal business in the country is running smoothly and not on decline.

Talking to APP here with this scribe, he said Pakistan Post has recently initiated e-commerce and financial services to cater for the customers requirements apace with the changing communications market. Pakistan Post is providing postal services in every nook and corner of the country through a network of around 13,000 post offices.

purchases reservations reports ISLAMABAD: The Nater totally out of context. tional Disaster Manage-

NDMA denies

ment Authority (NDMA) on Friday denied a news item alleging that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNSRC) was skeptical over the purchases of COVID-19 items by NDMA.

Commenting on the news item reported by a section of media, he said the ministry had not expressed its ported the contents of let- Chairman NDMA. - APP

The complete details of the COVID-19 equipment purchased by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is available on its website.

The spokesman said that the details of purchased items were being updated at the website and being regularly shared with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health and Secretary Ministry of National reservations over the pur- Health Services, Regulachases and media had re-tions and Coordination by

Asad pays tributes to labours

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Friday reiterated PTI government's commitment to effectively protect the basic rights of workers and laborers and to help them meet emerging challenges of globalisation.

In his message on the occasion of Labour Day being observed today (Friday) on PTV news, he said today we acknowledge with gratitude the valuable and an immense contribution of the labour class in the progress and development of the country as they are

like our backbone." He said the government is also making best possible efforts to combating the coronavirus pandemic and handling the threat proactively thus nation should play their responsible citizens' role to follow its SOPs.



He said, "the govt is keening analyzing experiences of other countries and watch their efforts for fight against corona virus; we are actively in contact with our foreign friends and officials and can understand the intensity of the situation prevailing all over the world as we can foresee the risks, we know what needs to be done in this critical situation".

The minister said all necessary measures have already been taken for the safety of citizens, adding, the coronavirus would be eliminated soon with the joint efforts of the government and the public. – APP

Pak can save US\$5-6bn annually by utilizing PNSC

Explaining the situation at length, Obaidullah briefed that Pakistan has been importing three types of oils: Crude oil (11 mln tons annually), processed oil (12.5 mln tons annually) and LNG (3-4 mln tons annually)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can save around US\$5-6 billion annually merely by using Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) as a mainstay of its international maritime trade, while also allowing the national flag carrier to buy more oil carriers and tankers in order to increase its capacity of transporting liquid freight.

The recommendation was made by Commodore (r) Syed Muhammad Obaidullah, former executive director of PNSC, who has also served as the founding director of National Maritime Policy Research Center (NMPRC), in an exclusive webinar talk 'Global Oil Crisis Amidst COVID19 and its Impact on Shipping Sector: Challenges and Prospects for PNSC', organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

Explaining the reasons of the current oil crisis, the expert said that the chaos started with the conflict between Russia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over oil supply. Though the conflict got resolved due to the intervention of the US president, the outbreak of COVID19 pandemic soon rendered the resolution almost irrelevant. With no air operators, no transport and no rail services in function and the lowest level of industrial productivity that followed, the demand for oil reduced significantly. The development had a severe impact on the oil markets around the globe in general, and the US oil market (WTI) and Canadian oil market in particular, owing to storage capacity issues at both suppliers' and buvers' end. The oil prices in these markets as a result fell into negatives, affecting a

number of industries globally, including the shipping industry.

Speaking of any advantages of reduction in oil prices for Pakistan, the speaker opined that the situation may not benefit the country at all. Pakistan buys crude oil of Brent and Dubai crude, which though stands at around US\$15-20 per barrel at present, the very low demand of oil within the country following the pandemic may not let it gain much. Three of its five oil refineries are shut down due to exhaustion of their storage capacities and low market demand. Another crisis for them is the new regulation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) introduced in January 2020, which requires diesel to have Sulphur content of 0.5% instead of 3.5% - inability of which has hindered the processed oil exports of Pakistani refineries considerably, he added.

Explaining the situation at length, Obaidullah briefed that Pakistan has been importing three types of oils: Crude oil (11 million tons annually), processed oil (12.5 million tons annually) and LNG (3-4 million tons annually). This situation however, according to the speaker, was now changing slightly as most of the IPPs in the country had shifted to LNG already. The speaker told that Pakistan Nahad been earning more than US\$2.5

tional Shipping Corporation (PNSC) billion as net profit annually continuously for the last 20 years despite the slump in the global shipping sector. The corporation initially was same as other trembling SOEs (State-Owned Enterprises) till 2000s and its share price was only Rs.1.50, but it rose to Rs.150 within just one year owing to some good decisions taken by the management of that time. Cdre (r) Obaidullah lamented that the

present international trade volume of Pakistan is around 100 million tons annually and only 15 per cent of it was being carried by PNSC. In case of oil and energy transportation, he bemoaned, 100 per cent freight of the country is being handled by international carriers, which is costing the country around US\$5-6 billion annually. The country however can save this enormous amount - which he pointed as being equivalent to the recent IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that Pakistan is set to get in 39 months - merely by assigning the carrying of its international trade to PNSC as well as by letting the corporation buy more crude oil carriers and processed oil tankers in order to increase its carrying and transporting capacity.

For the workers

HE first day of May is celebrated in many countries of the world as International Workers' Day or Labour Day. This day commemorates the struggle of workers for an eight-hour workday that resulted in the famous Haymarket Affair in May 1886 in Chicago, USA, in which many workers lost their lives. But 'mayday' also serves as a distress signal, and that is what is happening in 2020 when most daily-wage labourers and workers are under tremendous distress. This distress is caused by the poverty that is a permanent scourge for the workers of Pakistan but this year it is also compounded by a mounting pressure of job losses and threats to their health in the face of the novel coronavirus. We sound this distress call on behalf of millions of workers around the country who are without sustainable means to support their families. They are without jobs, lack food security, and seek help just to remain floating somehow. Though every year Labour Day serves as a reminder of workers' rights, this year it is more so amid increasing hardships resulting from a protracted lockdown. The lockdown is necessary to protect people from getting infected but it has also put labourers in an extremely difficult condition. Pakistan is one of those countries where labour laws are either non-existent - or even if there are some laws - they are not properly implemented. Ideally, provision of job opportunities should be a constitutional responsibility of the government in power. But in Pakistan we have only heard about a welfare state being promised by successive governments. No government to date has considered it its responsibility to make sure that all able-bodied adults are gainfully employed. In the absence of jobs, the government does not offer any unemployment benefits. There is no food security for the common people if they are unable to feed their children. This Labour Day is perhaps the worst for workers in many decades, and calls for an effective and immediate response from the government and the private sector alike.

From the government side, concerted efforts are required not only to solve the problems at hand such as relief provision and health cover, but also to devise a long-term strategy to improve living conditions for the laborers and workers, both in rural and urban areas. From the private sector, a consideration beyond the profit motive is required. Businessmen, industrialists, and traders should all be not just doling out charity but also change their business practices for good and provide permanent benefits to their employees. In rural areas bonded labour, sharecropping, and lack of job opportunities is a permanent issue. In urban areas, a ruthless contractual system, lack of job security, absence of any health or life insurance - even for workers laboring in hazardous conditions - are common. Rampant occurrence of child labour at factories, shops, workshops, and in construction industry deprives children of workers of their right to education.

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A tragic week

ITHIN 24 hours of each other, two actors who had played pivotal roles in the Indian film industry - or Bollywood - over the last few decades lost their lives. The careers of Rishi Kapoor, 67, who died of cancer, and Irrfan Khan, 53, who died of neuro-endocrine tumours, both in Mumbai, followed very different trajectories. But in different ways, each of them left a mark that will not easily be erased. Their death has thrown Bollywood, India and even Pakistan into genuine grief as tributes and words of praise pour in from around the world. Rishi Kapoor or 'Chintu' as he was affectionately known as was one of the sons of the legendary Raj Kapoor and a member of what is the best-known acting family in India, with the talent running through four generations. The late Rishi made his debut in his father's film Mera Naam Joker, though his first film in which he was cast as the star was the legendary 'Bobby'. He went on to star in classics such as Amar Akbar Anthony, Kabhi Kabhi, Naseeb and many more. He evolved through his career as an actor and was admired by his peers for his warm-heartedness and his ability to adopt various styles of acting while encouraging those who performed alongside him. In the later years of his life, he also spoke out openly on Indo-Pakistan relations and the need to build bridges between the two countries. To many in Pakistan, remembering Rishi Kapoor comes with a hit of nostalgia. Chintu, in his many different sweaters, holding a dafli or tweeting about South Asian solidarity - he will be missed.

Irrfan Khan was in some ways completely different to Rishi Kapoor. He came without any notable family acting credentials and belonged to a nawab family from Rajasthan. He was careful to reiterate that the 'nawabiat' in his family had been lost long before he was born. Irrfan Khan was remarkable for his extraordinary sensitivity and generosity as an actor. His early days as an actor, attempting to find roles on Indian television plays, were a near complete failure; and in his 30s he considered giving up his attempts to gain a hold in the world of acting. But then, fortunes changed, and he landed roles in blockbuster films including Slumdog Millionaire, Jurassic World, Haider, Maqbool, Life of Pi.

However, Irrfan Khan never let go of the one thing that made him stand out among the Khans in Bollywood: his restrained and effortless acting prowess, which shone through in quiet films such as The Lunchbox and Piku. He combined the careful planning of Hollywood with the more slapdash style of Bollywood and created a new vision of film, Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan brought to acting a vision that was entirely their own, informed by both their generations and backgrounds. They truly will live on in the songs, music, and ideas and emotions they evoke through performances.

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

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Turkey has increased the Credit Guarantee Fund limit from TL 25 billion to TL 50 billion and provided it to (small- and mediumsized enterprises) SMEs and companies with liquidity needs and collateral deficit. It encouraged the introduction of loan packages for social purposes under favorable and advantageous conditions for our citizens

OVERNMENT of Turkey under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has initiated diversified but integrated short, medium and long terms policy measures to cater the bad effects of COVID-19 in its country. Turkey owns the best "public health system" in the whole Muslim world has taken strong measures to prevent the spread of novel cornoa-virus (COVID-19) through effective economic bailout, social assistance mechanism, and administrative measures. Turkey has now become icon of hope, mercy and generosity in the world.

Turkey has reported 74,193 Covid-19 cases and 1,643 deaths as of April 16, 2020, with over 515,000 tests

completed. The government has adopted multiple containment measures including: social distancing, curfews, travel bans along with quarantines for returning nationals, and the closures of schools/universities, stores, and entertainment venues.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the biggest economic bailout package in the history of Turkey which intended to help and protect the country from the effects of the coronavirus outbreak. A TL100 billion (US\$15 billion) package was announced. It consisted of TL75 billion (\$11.6 billion or 1.5 percent of GDP) in "fiscal measures", as well as TL 25 billion (\$3.8 billion or 0.5 percent of GDP) for the doubling the "credit guarantee" fund.

He announced and implemented various support measures which included raising minimum pension and cash assistance to needy families, enhanced employment security by reducing/adjusting short-term work allowance rules, postponed taxes for affected industries and also for citizens over 65 or with chronic illnesses, extension of personal and corporate income tax filing deadlines, easing of households' utility bill payments to local governments, imposition of job security by ban on layoffs, initially, for three months, with a state subsidy for affected staff, state payment of two-thirds of workers' salaries in affected firms, debt relief for local governments' earmarked revenues, new job creation 32,000 additional medical staff hired and performance payments maximized, allowances of social assistance and solidarity foundations increased, including accelerating support for farmers, direct support to Turkish Airlines and other affected entities, and last but not least, Turkey Wealth Fund (TWF) given new rights to buy stakes in distressed firms.

The economic package included measures for the postponement of tax duties, loans and social insurance payments, as well as several incentives for Turkish businesses and citizens. There will be a sixmonth postponement of tax and social insurance payments for all companies operating in a wide variety of spheres retail, iron and steel, logistics and transportation, food and drink, the auto industry, cinema and theatre, textiles, management companies, housing and hotel businesses.

The government also pledged to give financial support to its export companies. It increased the state credit guarantee fund from 25 billion liras to 50 billion liras to shield private banks. The government instructed all financial institutions not to cancel existing loans and to ease the requirements for new loans. Moreover, credit payments to Halk Bank for our small- and medium-sized enterprises also postponed for three months.

Its central bank (CBRT) decreased the policy rate by 100bps to 9.75 percent, and a package of financial measures was announced and implemented. Liquidity facilities were augmented, including with longer-term instruments and at discounted rates. The reserve requirements on foreign currency deposits were reduced by 500 bps for banks meeting lending growth targets. A new TL lending facility for SMEs in the export sector was set up. Exporters' inventory financing is being supported by extending maturities for existing and new export rediscount credits.

A second package of CBRT measures (March 31) allowed for an increase in outright purchases of sovereign bonds, and broadened the pool of assets for use as collateral in CBRT transactions. It announced many measures primarily to limit the accounting im-

pact of TL depreciation and fall in securities prices. The minimum payment for individual credit cards was reduced to 20 percent, and banks postponed repayments on credit card loans for housing, consumer and vehicle purchases. Public banks granted firms affected by the crisis a 3-month moratorium on bank loan repayments (principal and interest). Debt enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings have been suspended. Firms' dividend payments limited to 25 percent of 2019 profits. Exporters will be provided with inventory financing, and reimbursement of rediscount credits have been extended by 90 days.

A new, two billion lira (285 million euro) fund for poor families affected by the coronavirus outbreak was also announced. The government package included several benefits for elderly people, who are the most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

Turkey has increased the Credit Guarantee Fund limit from TL 25 billion to TL 50 billion and provided it to (small- and medium-sized enterprises) SMEs and companies with liquidity needs and collateral deficit. It encouraged the introduction of loan packages for social purposes under favorable and advantageous conditions for our citizens. It also implemented the Short Work Allowance, It announced temporary income support to the workers in the workplaces that suspend their activities.

Turkish government announced to start "Project to House" for housing and other needs of the homeless people in the country and set a good example for others to follow. US\$ 150 will be paid needy families. 2.1 million Household will receive 1000 Turkish Liras/TL. More than 1.5 million senior citizens will also be received handsome financial assistance from the government. It has also started to provide 5 masks to every household free of charge on weekly basis because mask has become mandatory for every citizen in Turkey. Minimum pension raised to TL1500(US\$221) to every pensioner. Short term employment allowance has been announced.

Turkey has sent aid and medical supplies to nearly 30 nations on five continents to support efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic. It has sent supplies such as protective equipment and sanitizer to Balkan countries, as well as, Spain, Italy and the UK. Turkey has set a new example of global assistance after Chinese and dispatched humanitarian assistance to 30 countries including Bosnia, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Germany, Hungry, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan republic, Lebanon, Libya, TRNC, USA, Yemen, UK, Spain, Serbia, Poland, Philippines, Palestine Pakistan Tunisia and many others. It has turned tears into similes and crises into opportunities in the world.

Pakistan and Turkev have agreed to work together and reinforce each other's efforts in the fight against COVID-19. An agreement to his effect reached during a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkesh President Recep Tayyip. A Turkish non-governmental organisation distributed rations among needy people affected by the COVID-19 in the country.

Ration bags comprising flour, rice, sugar, oil and other essential commodities were provided to the needy people in Rawalpindi by Stichting Internationale Humanitaire Hulporganisatie Nederland (IHH-NL) at a ceremony held at the office of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, said Ankara would not leave Pakistanis alone at this trying time.

Turkish government has now instrumented to safe the precious lives of not their own people living in 81 provinces but also in five continents. Due to its massive international drive of humanitarian assistance against deadly and infectious COVID-19, it has become sign of life, hope, help and humanity to all the struggling people living around the globe.

It has also introduced holistic economic, financial and banking policies to mitigate the bad effects of COV-ID-19 on its macro-economy and society alike.

Corona tells we aren't individuals

Aqeel Malik



Pakistan, a country of over 220 million people, with Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.562, one of the lowest in the world and about 25% of the population living below poverty line, also announced a partial lockdown since 22 March 2020 after countrywide outbreak of the disease. The pandemic is already fast draining the global and national economies

HE onset of year 2020 witnessed implementation of 'Corona World Order' manifested with social distancing, isolations, quarantines and massive lockdowns. COVID-19, characterized by unique and devastating levels of stress and anxieties, has so far putup an unattainable challenge to the contemporary medical science. Available data reveals that around one out of every six people who contract COVID-19 becomes seriously ill; whereas the psychological impact of the pandemic is much more colossal as it evenly affects beyond borders and without any discrimination. It is rather more distressing for the non-affected populace. Consequently, it must always remain on the top priority of the decision makers.

Doctors and paramedics confronting the pandemic on frontline are first victim of this catastrophic strain. As one doctor told the BBC, "the stress was intense;seeing people die is not the issue. We're trained to deal with deaths. The issue is giving up on people we wouldn't normally give up on."Arthur Marksman, a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas, Austin, says: "Few people in healthcare have had real-life experience with triage in which a significant number of life-and-death decisions had to be made because of equipment shortages. That increases the chances that they may experience moral injury as a result of their jobs". Such exceptional scenarios may lead to haunting states of inner conflict and turmoil particularly for paramedics facing the Covid-19 outbreak on the frontlines.

The infotainment media on the other hand shapes the environment that further amplifies horrification of the disease hence acts as a force multiplier under obtaining environment. A number of conspiracy theories, fake news, rumours and disinformation

surrounding the pandemic are scaremongering and aggravating the agony of already distressed people. Some people obsess about it which can result in mental saturation and overload. Anxiety levels begin to rise with the uncertainty of it all.

Pakistan, a country of over 220 million people, with Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.562, one of the lowest in the world and about 25% of the population living below poverty line, also announced a partial lockdown since 22 March 2020 after countrywide outbreak of the disease. The pandemic is already fast draining the global and national economies and has imposed a harsh reality of bereavement, ailment and unemployment across the globe. Prolong exposure to lockdowns; social distancing and quarantines may render the world populace to complex psychological disorders including emotional disturbance, depression, stress, low mood, irritability, avoidance, fear, insomnia along with post-traumatic stress symptoms. The society may also become more selfish while already existing religious, social, ethnic and political prejudices may aggravate to devastating levels.

The world we live in today may appear entirely different in post COVID-19 scenario where psychological wellbeing of mentally fatigued communities with minimal hope, feeble conviction and damaged belief systems would be the real tough task. Post Traumatic Growth, therefore, must be realized through a strong sense of meaning and purpose for overcoming major life events. We need to understand that coronavirus is a stark reminder by the Creator that we are not individuals. We are interlinked, interconnected and dependent on each other. Empathy and care must be shown particularly for the vulnerable populations. We need to be concerned, not panicked. Preventative rather than reactionary measures have to be implemented. A more stringent, focused and uniformed approach both at conceptual and functional levels is therefore the way forward. Beside provision of outright empathetic support, it is imperative that health professionals on the frontlines must be trained on stress management, to mitigate the fallout. Uninterrupted supply chains of basic needs must be ensured with conservation and reallocation plans particularly during lockdowns; while ensuring dignity and honour of the people. The concept of telemedicine is required to be evolved with availability of doctors and psychiatrists at a single click for immediate medical and mental healthcare. We may also be a little more cautious in discussing the pandemic related issues in front of children.

To curb panic, people need to feel a sense of control. Rather than saturating themselves in updates excessively, ring fence media exposure to certain times in the day. Sense must also be promoted amongst the masses to obtain information from reliable sources only to curb the tendency of rumours and fake news. Audience-specific "objective infotainment" broadcast is to be carried out to entertain and keep their aesthetics intact. Public health officials must be encouraged to provide rapid, clear messages delivered effectively for the entire affected population for accurate understanding of the situation.

Psychological wellbeing in post COVID-19 scenario with society at large showing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) would, therefore, be a challenge much larger than the pandemic itself. Cohesion, integration and harmonization are the prescription. But are we capable of this sustainable behavioural

> (The writer is Social and Behavioral Sciences analyst).







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Briefs

UN chief pushes for debt moratorium

DNA

UITED 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 longterm 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.

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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 raging 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

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 Mirzivovev 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 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.

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

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 buvers were invited to hold "one-toone" negotiations through precise matching, and 124 meetings have been held between the two sides.

PM Imran deserves praise, says Malik

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) President-designate Iftikhar 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 Francebased 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 Paki-

stan regarding operation

of special flights to bring

kistanis 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

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-ep-

idemic 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 rightwing 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-Gen-

eral 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-

demic. 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 begin-

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 COV-ID-19 is highly infectious, posing a serious threat to the lives and safety of people in small and medium-sized

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

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 peo-

To win the global battle against COV-ID-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.