

Samana

Monday, May 04, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Germany embassy to provide food to 600 families in Lahore

Pakistan to soon overcome virus challenge: Yao Jing



Press Freedom essential for democracy



<u>YAO JING SAYS</u>

Pakistan to soon overcome virus challenge

When China was facing a severe challenge because of the coronavirus, Pakistan did its best to help us and in return, Beijing has also helped Islamabad by sending medical teams who have expertise in fighting the virus, relief aid and other things

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that Beijing is confident that Pakistan will soon overcome the challenge presented by the coronavirus pandemic which has infected more than 3.34 million people worldwide and killed over 237,000.

In an interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, Ambassador Jing said Pakistan had a lower mortality rate of the virus. "About 60% of Pakistan's population is under

Briefs

Dr Sania

talks about

web portal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special

Assistant on Social

Protection and Pov-

erty Alleviation, Dr.

Sania Nishtar has said

Prime Minister Imran

Khan has launched a

web-portal to solicit

Ehsaas Emergency

Cash aid applications

from COVID-19 live-

lihood-loss-affectees

In a tweet, she said

the Category-4 benefi-

ciaries who qualify for

PM's COVID-19 fund

assistance will get Eh-

saas Emergency Cash

Dr Sania Nishtar said

the COVID-19 fund

would continue to be

realized for those in

need of assistance

and for each rupee do-

nated by donors, four

rupees will be com-

mitted by the Govern-

Inside..

Ramadan Kitchen

provides cooked

food over 200

poor families

Why Controversy

over Maulana

Jameel's

Remarks?

India allows 193

Pak nationals to

return on May 5

UK PM says

it was tough

moment to

be in ICU

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ment.

of 12,000 rupees.

(category-4).

the age of 30. Patients infected with the novel coronavirus are mainly young people, with mild symptoms. It is easier to treat them," he said.

He added, "Like the traditional Chinese medicine, Pakistan also has a herbal system with good effect on treatment."

Jing said the cooperation between China and Pakistan has set a good example of international cooperation in the fight against "When China was facing a

severe challenge because of the coronavirus, Pakistan did its best to help

DNA

BAKU: The current san-

itary-epidemiological sit-

uation in Azerbaijan in

connection with the novel

coronavirus (COVID-19)

infection, the preventive

measures being taken in

other countries and the

recommendations of the

World Health Organiza-

tion have been analyzed

and the decision has been

made to extend the special

quarantine regime until

At the same time, taking

into consideration the

rate of the infection and

the recovery dynamics

among patients, a number

of restrictions have been

00:00, 31 May 2020.

us and in return, Beijing has also helped Islamabad by sending medical teams who have expertise in fighting the virus, relief aid and other things," he said. China has sent several consignments of aid relief since it stemmed the spread of the virus in the country.

Last month a special Pakistan International Airline flight arrived carrying 52 tonnes of aid to help Pakistan fight in the coronavirus. The aid included protective kits, masks, testing kits and other medical supplies.

Earlier, the Chinese gov-

Quarantine regime in

Azerbaijan extended

Based on the current

sanitary-epidemiological

situation, the number of

patients and the rate of

infection, the easing of re-

strictions is carried out in

stages in Baku, Sumgayit,

Gania. Lankaran cities.

Absheron district and oth-

Therefore, starting from

00:00, 4 May 2020, the

following rules shall apply

to Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja,

Lankaran cities and Ab-

· the activities of an ap-

proved number of employ-

ees of state bodies are

being restored (the num-

ber of employees of state

bodies whose activity is

being restored will be

determined by a relevant

decision of the Cabinet of

sheron district:

er regions.

ernment sent 12,000 test kits, 300,000 masks, and 10,000 units of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Pakistan along with \$4 million to build a separate hospital for coronavirus patients.

Pakistan has so far reported more than 19,000 confirmed cases and 340 deaths from the virus.

China, on the other hand, and 4,633 deaths.

has seen a reduction in the number of cases in the country with just two cases reported on May 2. Overall, the country has reported 82,877 confirmed cases of the virus

Ministers of the Republic

to resume their activities

in the areas of targeted

social assistance and issu-

ance of social bank cards

in their respective terri-

· the activities of legal

entities and individuals

engaged in activities and

provision of services to

other business entities

the operation of which

was restricted during the

special quarantine regime

· the activities of individ-

ual retail facilities in all

areas are being restored;

· the activities of barber-

shops, beauty salons and

cosmetic services are be-

ing restored.

are being restored;

"DOST" centers are

of Azerbaijan);

tories;

'Pak wants a stable **Afghanistan**'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has consistently underlined the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, which we deem indispensable for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement signed in February 2020 is a significant step forward, creating a historic opportunity for the move towards intra-Afghan negotiations.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office said on Sunday that "We believe that the pursuit of sustained reduction in violence by all concerned parties is pivotal in advancing the cause of peace in Afghanistan. The unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19 and the advent of the holy month of Ramzan further underscore the imperative of creating a conducive environment".

'Sufficient petrol, diesel stock'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Petroleum Division on Sunday clarified that sufficient stock of petrol and diesel was available to meet 15-day needs of the country, rejecting some media reports regarding shortage of petroleum products. A spokesman for the Petroleum Division said a significant increase in the sales of POL products was witnessed.

German embassy to provide food to 600 families

ISLAMABAD: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing the participants

of a media workers' sit-in in front of the Parliament House. - APP

Fighting consequences of COVID-19 together: Ambassador signed a contract with @Rizg Sharefood this week to support financing of 240000 meals for 600 widows and vulnerable families in Lahore: Ambassador Bernhard

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy Islamabad has joined hands with a local non-governmental organisation to provide food to some 600 vulnerable families of Lahore during the ongoing lockdown

imposed in the country

to contain the COVID-19 food this week to support Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck signed a

agreement with the Rizg

Sharefood for preparing

240,000 meals for the pur-"Fighting consequences of COVID-19 together: Ambassador signed a con-

tract with @Rizq_Share-

financing of 240000 meals for 600 widows and vulnerable families in Lahore. They can stay at home and get food delivered to their homes. Great cooperation with the young team of Rizg," the ambassador wrote on his social media accounts both on Facebook and Twitter.

Qureshi thanks China for support

DNA

ISLAMABA: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the UN Secretary General to take notice of India's intensified persecution campaign in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to the media persons in Lahore on Sunday, he regretted that the Indian government has not changed its posture regardless of the breakout of Covid-19 pandemic.

He pointed out that the siege of occupied Jammu and Kashmir is continuing. The Indian occupation forces are barging into the houses of Kashmiri people and subjecting them to violence. He said Pakistan will continue to highlight



the plight of Kashmiri people at different forums. Responding to a question, the Foreign Minister commended the assistance extended by China to Pakistan to cope with coronavirus challenge. He expressed gratitude to Chinese President and the people for the assistance. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the country's economy cannot afford lockdown for a long period.

RCCI urges for opening of all businesses

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saboor Malik has urged government to ease lock-down and provide a way to open all business-

es under strict SOPs. Pakistan's economy cannot afford a complete lockdown, nor can it survive mass infections due to its overburdened healthcare system. An out of the box solution can be opted to open businesses on alternate bases either via limited working hours or geo location base, said Saboor Malik while addressing 8th executive committee meet-

ing at Chamber house. He said that business community has lauded Punjab Government's recent steps and consultations with respect to partial lock-down aiming to open businesses. We consider recommendations prepared by Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazdar regarding opening of business as encouraging one, he added.

RCCI had already sent letters to CM Punjab, Provincial Minister for Industry, Minister for Commerce Razzaq Dawood, Minister for Planning Asad Umar and Minister for Industry and Production Hamad Azhar regarding the Corona epidemic and lockdown where we demanded that all businesses be allowed to open.

Press Freedom essential for democracy: Wouter

А.М.Внатті

ISLAMABAD: Wouter Plomp Ambassador of the Netherland to Pakistan has said press freedom is corner stone of human rights.

He added, press freedom in fact protects others fundamental freedom

In a message on the Press Freedom Day the ambassador said, free press is essential democracy. In

demic reliable information can save lives. The ambassador said media workers should report independently without anv fear.

We need a free press now than ever, the ambassa-

this current corona pandor added.

Azerbaijan president convenes NAM summit

President Dr. Arif Alvi will represent Pakistan; online summit will take place today; leaders to discuss COVID 19 and its impact; Non-Aligned Movement represents the biggest grouping of countries outside the United Nations

А.М.Внатті

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi will represent Pakistan at the virtual Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) being held on 4 May 2020. The Special Online Summit of the Heads of State and Government of NAM Member States has been convened at the initiative

iyev of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as current Chair of the Movement. The Summit will conclude

with a political Declaration of the Movement "Uniting Against COVID-19" as well as identified measures for enhanced coordination among NAM Member States in their common fight against COVID-19. President Aliyev's efforts aim at bringing the Movement, at the highest



decision-making level, for assessing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Member States and identifying needs and steps for possible remedies and follow-up measures.

The Non-Aligned Moverepresents the biggest grouping of countries outside the United Nations, comprising 120 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin

A number of Heads of State and Government will participate in the virtual Summit. Pakistan is an active mem-

ber of the Movement and has contributed and shaped the Movement's position on a range of political, legal, economic and social issues. President Dr. Arif Alvi had represented Pakistan at the 18th Summit of NAM in Baku in October 2019.

of the President Ilham Al-

Briefs

DC visits fruit market

Munir Faisal

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamer paid a surprise visit to Fruits and vegetable market on Sunday to monitor the auction process. Ensure availability of sufficient quantity of standard vegetable, timely price lists should be issued and the process of bidding should be completed in a transparent manner under his supervision.

He also inspected the measures taken for prevention from Corona Virus. The Deputy Commissioner has said that the supply and wholesale prices of the Fruits and vegetables are being supervised minutely for keeping the balance between supply and demand to discourage the negative trend of the price hike during Ramzan.

DC visited different sheds of the market and reviewed the auction process of strawberries and other fruits. He warned that unwarranted and unfair increase in auction would not be tolerated. He said that the fair profit was right in business but exploitation of the consumers would not be allowed.

Traders delegation meets Chairman PAC

DNA

ATTOCK: A delegation of Traders Community of attock meet with Chairman Public Public Accounts Committee Syed Yawer Abbas Bukhari on Sunday.

The members of the

delegation informed the Chairman PAC about their confronting problems and difficulties during the lockdown. They maintained that in every turmoil and challenging situation, the trading commounity come to the Rescue and offered more sacrifices for the nation. They informed that traders community was extending full support to the administration against COVID-19. The members of the delegation also presented some suggestions for easing the lockdown. While talking to the traders delegation the Chairman Punjab Public Accounts Committee Syed Yawer Abbas Bukhari said that traders are playing a pivotal role in economic development of a country.

148 arrested for profiteering

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar arrested 148 more for profiteering and violation of lockdown from different localities of the district. Deputy Commissioner (DC), Peshawar Mohammad Ali Asghar along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ishfaq Khan and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nauman Ali Shah inspected bazaars at Faqir Kelley, Bashirabad, Bacha Khan Chowk, G.T. Road, Ashraf Road, Hashtnagri, Pajgi Road and other localities and arrested several persons for profiteering and violation of lockdown, said a news release issued here Sunday. - APP

Ramadan Kitchen provides cooked food over 200 poor families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ramadan open Kitchen of Muslim Hands Pakistan is fully active to provide high genic cooked food over 200 poor and deserving families daily in the surrounding of federal capital Islamabad.

In the middle and poor population of the city, where the Muslim Hands Pakistan is active in relief work, groups of young people also seek self-respect by finding white-clad families. Engaged in helping people with care, said Muslim Hands country director Syed Zia ul Noor.

He said that during ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Muslim Hands also provided safety equipment's, sanitizers, N95 masks and other items to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as well as distribution of rations to 10,000 families

Now we are distributing cooked meals on daily basis at the door steps over 200 200 poor and needy families through Muslim Hand Ramadan

Open Kitchen, adding that we are also starting Ramadan Open Kitchen in other cities of country during Ramadan to support needy persons for good cause.

"Once food are cooked our volunteers packed them and reached out to people affected by the lockdown during Ramadan and provided them food", Zia ul Noor said.

He said that several other welfare organizations, individuals and businessmen are pitching in to help the citizens and government through various initiatives with the hope that humanity would survive these dreadful times of coronavirus.

"Muslim Hands will continue to provide food support to such families and to help them have a reliable supply of meals in the absence of employment opportunities", Zia ul Noor told.

"The needy families are facing their worst times. They are worried about their own sustenance for the next 20 days or so in Ramadan. But we are doing our best to support them for humanity", he concluded.



AIOU offers degree programs to overseas Pakistanis

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has offered four Associate Degree programs of Bachelor-level to the overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in Middle East.

These programs are Associate degree in General Group, Commerce Group, Mass Communication and Library Information Sciences.

According to Overseas section, Directorate of Regional Services, interested people could take admission in these programs

by June 5.

The programs have been offered for Spring 2020 semester. Admission forms and prospectus have been made available on the University website (aiou.edu. pk/overseasdel.asp).

Those holding FA/FSc or equivalent degrees are eligible to enroll themselves in these programs, which are

of four-year duration. Exams of these programs will be conducted through Pakistan Foreign Missions abroad. Over the years a number

of overseas Pakistanis, mainly from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman have been benefiting from the AIOU, that is only institution in the country that facilitate them in upgrading their education through distance learning system.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr.

Zia Ul-Qayyum assured

them that the University being a public sector institution will facilitate them in their academic pursuits to maximum extent. They, he added are actively engaged in improving quality of education and its contents' delivery system through online mode of education.

He hoped that the eligible people would take advantage of the proposed programs, that have been developed according to the contemporary needs.

Businessmen host iftar for police officials



Fiaz Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: Business Community arranged Iftar/ Dinner at Dhoke Kashmirian Naka G-11 Islamabad .SP Sadder Sarfraz Virk, ASP Rana Wahab, DSP Khalid Awan, DSP Abid Ikram, & SHO;s Sader Division, Saif ur Rehman Khan VP-ICCI, Khalid Choudhary Former SVP-ICCI, Liaqat Noon (Tehzib Bakers), Asad Rasheed (Jamil Sweets) were there with front line duty performers of islamabad Police at Naka"s to boost their moral.

CDA to start work on signal free corridor

Shaheen Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: May 3, 2020 Capital Development Authority (CDA) is to resume work on construction of Signal Free Controlled Access Corridor shortly. In this connection, bids for construction of Korang Bridge have been invited. The NIT cost of the project is Rs. 741.395 millions. The project Signal Free Controlled

Access Corridor was approved under PSDP. Considering the need of this facility it was decided that a phased wise approach will be followed and in phase-I, Korang Bridge and PWD underpass are needed to address most complicated of the issues.

The Development Working Party (DWP) in its last meeting held in the previous week approved project construction of Korang Bridge and Construction of PWD underpass.

Upon approval by CDA Management, a transparent bidding process has been initiated, and bids for construction of bridge has been sought under Single Stage Two Envelope procedure from Firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid registration Certificate. Similarly, instructions have been also issued to invite bids for construction of PWD underpass at earliest.

Petrol pump fined

DNA

FAISALABAD: Assis tant Commissioner (AC) Sammundri Faisal Sultan imposed fine on a petrol pump on the charge of selling petrol above fixed rate. Spokesman of local administration said here on Monday that AC Sammundri along with his team checked various petrol pumps early in the morning and found a petrol pump involved in overcharging and selling petrol on excessive rates.

Therefore, the Assistant Commissioner imposed a fine of Rs.10,000/- on its owner and warned him to sell petrol on government-fixed rate, otherwise, he would be sent behind bars besides sealing his pump premises.

28 FIRs registered

DNA

SARGODHA: Despite Pa-

kistan Air Force's ban on kite and pigeon flying to protect lives of the people and to keep the skies clear for fighter jets, 28 persons were booked over the violation of the ban. Police Station Cantt and Factory Area had registered three First Information Reports (FIRs) for pigeons flying while Factory Area Police Station had registered 14 and Cantt Police Station had registered 8 FIRs for kite flying. It was disclosed in a Bird Hazard Control Committee meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Bilal Feroze here on Sunday. The meeting was attended by CO Metropolitan Corporation Tariq Proya, officials of Environmental and Police departments. ADCG directed the concerned departments to ensure the removal of all piles of garbage from the fly zone, drainage of sewerage water and removal of pigeon cages on the roofs.

SBP asked to devise policy for importers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The business community on Sunday said that due to closure of businesses, importers have no sufficient finances to clear their consignments due to which space at the ports is choking and as a result demurrage and detention charges are also piling up making the goods costlier.

They appealed the central bank to formulate some financial policy for commercial and industrial importers like its various schemes already announced to facilitate SMEs, retail, corporate businesses, workers of business concerns and export sector.

FEBR President Kashif Anwar asked Reza Baqir, the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, that no policy has yet been announced for the commercial and industrial importers, as they immensely need finance to get their consignments cleared from the port for the last over one month.
"We have no finance to get
their documents released
from banks and finally
get their consignments
cleared from ports."

"It is also sad that Government is trying to facilitate at their earliest possible but some relevant departments are not ready to abide by the instructions with full spirit. FBR is continuously writing to shipping terminals not to impose demurrage and detention charges of the containers, also ministry of maritime affairs has requested the associations of shipping lines to request the master shipping lines not to impose detention charges above free days but all that fell on their deaf ears."

He appealed the SBP to send its recommendations to the government for directing all terminals at ports not to charge demurrage and compelling offices of shipping lines in Pakistan to inform their master shipping lines about the lockdown in Pakistan.

Cyclists enjoy carefree rides

ISLAMABAD: Increasing number of cyclists can be seen roaming in different sectors of federal capital during the lockdown days enjoying carefree rides on the less crowded roads to boost their physical health besides communing with the beauties of nature in the flowery season. Cycling was once a popular means of transportation due

to its various benefits like easier parking, less air and

noise pollution and sustained physical exercise but lost

attraction for the riders with the passage of time. The trend is again picking up momentum in the city during the prevailing lockdown when a number of bicyclists can be seen around different corners in groups enjoying the free space on roads. Saad Muddasir, who was riding his bicycle alongside a park on Faisal Avenue said, it has become our routine that we all the friends move on our bicycles wearing safety kits after Iftar time and enjoy rides till late night. He said in our hectic study routine, we never even thought of going outside on bicycles for

such long hours due to the heavy traffic on the roads and

time limitations. – Agencies

'Smart Lockdown': A better option to combat COVID-19

Taj Nabi Khan

ISLAMABAD: The 'smart lockdown' is a viable option of active intervention of the government to launch targeted tracking, tracing, testing and quarantine mechanism in coordination with national security apparatus to halt the spread of COVID-19 by sealing the areas of infected cluster population only while easing restrictions on economic activities under the safety guidelines. Almost fifty days have passed since the lockdown (partial) is imposed in Pakistan. People in general and business community in particular are showing signs of worry, restlessness and fatigue.

More or less the national economy is also facing the same situation. It is not

Probably, no country can go like this when the time period of coronavirus persistence is not known. No doubt, the unprecedented global

possible to go on indefinitely like this.

No doubt, the unprecedented global pandemic of coronavirus has ravaged the economy of developed countries. But it has made the underdeveloped and developing parts of the world faced with numerous challenges. Before, they used to fight against the curse of poverty. Now they have also to fight against the spread of deadly virus by imposing restriction on businesses and economic activities.

Thus the current circumstances of prolonged lockdown have made the survival difficult for poor segments of the society.

But on April 24, the government has decided to convert the existing lock-

down into a 'smart lockdown' on the patterns practiced by the western countries. As it is almost impossible to exactly predict that for how long the virus would persist in the country.

Primarily, the 'smart lockdown' means closing selectively the areas experiencing the outbreak of pandemic. The purpose of a 'smart lockdown' is to provide relief and ease restriction to the labor class and the lower strata to survive economically along with fending off the virus.

Therefore, the government has come up with a balancing strategy of 'smart lockdown' to help the weaker segments to earn their routine livelihood while isolating the coronavirus cases and their contacts to contain the disease. It also allowed the economy to function smoothly with guidelines of

preventive measures.

A recent research of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) titled 'Opting for a Smart Lockdown in Pakistan' has suggested that "We need a policy that, at the same time, contains the infection and also allows some basic level of economic activity." The PIDE COVID-19 Bulletins is an initiative of research launched by the Institute in response to the current pandemic.

It analyzes the impact of the lock-downs on the economy. The research also proposed that the procedure of 'smart lockdown" involves tracking and identifying the area of infected persons and their contacts and isolating them for a period of time. "So, it is not as if there will be no lockdown, but it will need to track and isolate the

infection" only, it added.

Under the 'smart lockdown' and those areas would be closed where the outbreak has taken place while certain economic activities would be allowed to operate. So that the poor segment of the society might not fall prey to hunger and extreme poverty. Talking to APP, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani said that the cases of coronavirus and their contacts are hunted while the areas of the infected persons were cordoned off to halt the spread of virus. She said, "Pakistan can't afford a complete shutter down lockdown due to daily wagers and poor segments of the society. And this is due to the fact that actually neither the advanced countries nor we know about that for how long the COVID-19 would persist".

03 Monday, May 04, 2020

What freedom?

N this World Press Freedom Day today on May 3, how do you explain the over 90 cases of attacks and violations against the media that have taken place in just one year? The recently released report produced by the Freedom Network is a revealing document and sheds plenty of light on the darker side of curbs on media in Pakistan. According to this report, as many as seven journalists were killed and ten assaulted in the reporting period from May 2019 to April 2020 in the country. In addition, nine journalists were arrested, two abducted, and 23 threatened by non-state and state actors. In ten cases, censorship was imposed and eight were slapped with legal notices. This signifies a climate of harassment and intimidation for both electronic and print media practitioners across the country. This escalation of covert and overt exercise of power against the media in Pakistan is not only worrying but also outright condemnable. If this practice continues, it will adversely affect the freedom of expression in the long run and the environment for access to information will also become more hostile and intimidating in the country.

The situation for journalists has been fraught in Pakistan for many years. In March this year, the Committee to Protect Journalists had expressed concern over the suspension of advertising to two major media houses, apparently to penalize them for publishing material deemed to go against government stances on various issues. The arrest of Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman, the editor-in-chief of the Jang/Geo group, the biggest media house in the country, was also condemned during the same month by the CPJ and leading journalists and analysts around the world. And recently the One Free Press Coalition has named Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman on its list of the top ten most urgent press freedom cases in the world. In a country where the state itself wields the biggest stick, a climate of silence is bound to emerge creating a deafening calm across the media which should be speaking truth to power. This growing silence is not good for society and neither is it going to serve

It is alarming that Islamabad, which some people consider the safest city in the country, is found to be a dangerous place to practise journalism in Pakistan. This all paints a fairly grim picture for freedom of expression in Pakistan. Despite national and international condemnation of the victimization of journalists and media personnel in the country, the government appears to be in deep slumber and does not heed the call to action by reputed journalists and scholars. For a free country, a free people and a democratic and tolerant society, journalists must be able to work without fear. That is the Pakistan we urge the government to work towards.

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Kashmir domiciles

ITH the introduction of a new set of laws for Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government has given new domiciles to people from other parts of India to claim residency in the territory. One of the laws is a most controversial piece of legislation empowering those who have resided for 15 years or studied for seven years in IOK to become permanent residents. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has registered migrants who are eligible to claim this right. The same applies to the children of central government officials who have served in IOK for a period of just ten years to become permanent residents there. The BJP government which has been on a spree to encroach upon the rights of the local people and disturb the demographic balance in Kashmir has authorized local revenue officials to issue domicile certificates. According to reports, the government has already granted as many as 300,000 domiciles to non-resident Hindus.

Kashmiri Muslim leaders have made appeals to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to mount pressure on India to revoke the anti-Kashmir measures passed during the past one year in violation of both national and international laws. Up until now, the Kashmiris were faced with the challenge of the illegal Kashmir annexation law, but now this new domicile law has compounded their concerns. As if their miseries were not already enough, these new measures will create more hardship as they will be gradually outnumbered by the incoming hordes of non-Kashmiri Hindus into the territory. There is no doubt that the new domicile law violates the UN resolutions that were supposed to provide a basis for a final solution to this dispute. A fair and free plebiscite under the UN auspices is the only viable solution. India has been violating international covenants and resolutions passed in 1948 and 1949 for over 70 years now.

These internationally accepted injunctions restrict and restrain the occupying Indian government from making any alterations in the demographic composition of the occupied territories. Since it is an internationally recognized dispute, in addition to the UN it must be resolved under the Geneva Convention and Hague Regulations which put limits on what an occupying force can or cannot do in an occupied area such as Kashmir. Since India is a signatory to most of the international covenants, it is legally and morally bound to protect the right of the Kashmiri people. Though the efforts to change the demographic character of the IOK by India are not new, they have taken an unprecedented shape in the recent past since India has operationalized its new design in the IOK. The world community must come forward in unison to condemn the evil designs of India in Kashmir and force it to revoke all new laws passed in the past one year including the latest domicile law.

Why Controversy over Maulana Jameel's Remarks?

Sajjad Shaukat



Unfortunately, freedom of expression in Pakistan appears to have been totally misused due to the uncompromising media. In this connection, without taking cognizance of its negative effects on the people, a majority of the TV channels and associated burgeoning business interests led to coin unique methods of generating market competition so as to attract viewership and control financial shares

AKISTAN'S Prime Minister Imran Khan on April 23, this year led a long telethon, televised live on TV channels, to mobilise funds from the people at large to help the deserving persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking on the event, the Premier Imran appealed

to the people to give maximum funds for the "Ehsaas Programme.'

The transmission was joined by news anchors representing partnering media groups, including Hamid Mir (Geo), Kashif Abbasi (ARY News), Nadeem Malik (Samaa News), Kamran Shahid (Dunya News), Sami Ibrahim (Bol News), Shiffa Yousfzai (Hum

News), Muniba Mazari (PTV News), Mansoor Khan (Express News) and Mohammad Malick (92 News). The broadcast concluded with the special prayer (dua) by the renowned religious scholar Maulana Taiq Jameel, who in light of the coronavirus otbreak advised the people to recite the supplications like Ayat-e-Kareema to seek Allah Almighty's forgiveness and blessings in the distressing situation. While pointing out various un-Islamic practices, Maulana Jameel said that that Pakistani TV channels, like foreign media, told lies and did not present the truth- "This is not just restricted to Pakistani media. Foreign media are also liars", as he claimed on the whole. In the dua, the Maulana also spoke about a large number of women who "were often scantily dressed". As regard women's dress, we should leave it to public to decide either it is Islamic or un-Islamic practice.

Notably, a renowned newspaper wrote: "Among those who reacted strongly to Maulana Tariq's remarks was prominent anchorperson Hamid Mir, who said in a tweet that giving such generalised statements about media houses was an irresponsible act". However, speaking to a private TV channel on April 24, 2020 during a live call in Muhammad Maalik's TV show, where Hamid Mir was also present, Maulana Tariq Jameel apologised publicly to the journalist fraternity regarding his remarks about media.

Nevertheless, controversy about Maulana Tarig's prayer statement was deliberately created or what is the truth behind, which needs analysis.

In this regard, thousands of supporters of Maulana Tarig Jameel have stormed social media and let it known that they are unhappy with how the cleric has been treated. One of Twitter's top trends #Hamid-MirMafiMango sees people demanding an apology from Hamid Mir. Other than that, there has also been a call for a boycott of Hamid Mir-not watching his show. One of his supporters wrote on the Twitter, "He [Maulana Tariq] has exposed the hypocrisy of Media."

Another follower of the Maulana tweeted, "Blackmailers liars media blackmailed molana sahab as he spoke Truth about them".

In this respect, Quoting Daily Net PK Today, Website Parhlo Com said: "Hamid Mir's Old Interview Proves Maulana Tariq Jameel was right about media lying...After the controversial exchange of narratives between representatives of Pakistani media and a religious cleric, the internet is still talking about. Yes, we're talking about Hamid Mir's forceful spat with Maulana Tariq Jameel....One of the biggest critics of Maulana's remarks was veteran journalist Hamid Mir. He had urged the Maulana to reply and had made harsh remarks on his prayer speech...an old interview of Hamid Mir has now gone viral. In the video, while speaking to host Nawazish Ali, Hamid Mir's remarks seem to be exactly the same as Maulana Tariq Jameel. Upon being asked if the Pakistani media was truthful, this is what Hamid Mir said on air. "If we speak the truth, everything will catch fire. In my opinion, the Pakistani media doesn't even tell 10% of the real truth...This automatically means that the other 90% of the time, the Pakistani media is lying. These were Hamid Mir's own words for his profession. So, isn't this exactly what Maulana Tariq Jameel said?...Maulana's supporters have been demanding an apology from Hamdi Mir...This viral video is attracting a lot of attention and people have been calling out Hamid Mir for his blatant hypocrisy in this regard".

Nonetheless, the above mentioned facts show that religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil was forced to apologise for highlighting a mere fact that media spreads false/fake news, which is so unfortunate. This is bias of the highest degree when senior media anchor like Hamid Mir asks Maulana Tariq Jamil to apologise for speaking simply the truth.

It is mentionable that in Pakistan, every media organization works in accordance with its policy, and it would always design content accordance to the policy at hand. Even prominent journalists have stated on many occasions that media has been sold to the highest bidder throughout history and spreading disinformation is part of media designs and tactics.

It is, however, even more unfortunate that religious community who usually are united in defending each other, did not even protested Hamid Mir's approach and other's accusations made by so-called liberal brigade. Hamid Mir and the likes' approach have displayed this highest degree of disrespect of the well-reputed and respectable religious figure of the

It noteworthy that in the western countries media have been playing a key role by educating and guiding the people regarding various developments and issues which have been taking place on global and regional level. Despite it, taking advantage of the freedom of expression, in the west, newspapers and TV channels employ various tactics like sensationalism, exaggeration and distortion of facts to attract the maximum readers and viewers for financial gains in the era of competition, while consensus developed among responsible journalists and media owners around the world that it is against the moral codes of journalism. Therefore, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) launched an Ethical Journalism Initiative in 2008.

Unfortunately, freedom of expression in Pakistan appears to have been totally misused due to the uncompromising media. In this connection, without taking cognizance of its negative effects on the people, a majority of the TV channels and associated burgeoning business interests led to coin unique methods of generating market competition so as to attract viewership and control financial shares.

While presenting little or no legitimate well-researched news items, Pakistan's TV channels, exploit, distort and exaggerate the news to create sensations and attract viewers in order to become more popular with the sole aim to advance their financial gains. Based upon opinion-masquerading as objective fact, most of the country's media anchors mislead and excite public opinion. They do not indicate what the people need, but show what the people want, thus have stunning impact of psychological shock. Thus, ignoring the moral codes of journalism, particularly some famous media analysts and anchors have adopted negative techniques and unscrupulous practices in their coverage of an event or issue in their talk shows.

Resultantly, freedom of expression is getting repressed by media itself, as few anchors and media owners have monopolized the media market and have formed powerful syndicates to support each other, while silencing the voice of the dissents by sparing no space for impartial and independent expression. No doubt, mistakes have been committed by everyone in the past. But, during debate, instead of manipulation, Paksitan's media and their commentators should emphasize the solution of the various crises which the country is facing in wake of the outbreak of the COVID-19.

Anyhow, media must follow the real principles of journalism by educating and guiding the people towards right direction through credible and true information. They should avoid developing stereotypes among the people by displaying unbiased news and comments in wake of war against terrorism and especially coronavirus pandemic.

Post Covid-19 Era and International World Order

Zara Mansoor

Back in 1992, Francis Fukuyama- American Political Scientist, in his book "The End of History and The Last Man" clearly stated the postcoldwar era as an end of ideological evolution and the universalization of western liberal democracy but all this epoch portrays now is that, the previously made assertions have ceased to exist and dropped prior prestige. As the Chaos Theory goes, a small change in any event has the power to make bigger changes happen and one small incident in the beginning can have a huge impact on future and same went with the case of Covid-19

HE severe lockdown in the countries has caused uncontrollable humanitarian disaster along with economy turning down into a global recession and claiming more lives than ever in history after second world war. Self-isolation, price hikes and food shortages are all badly impacting the daily wagers and leaving them with no choice just to stay ravening and quarantined. While on the other hand, those in the political corridor of power are getting benefited and still politicizing the

Ongoing world crisis are highlighting that neo-liberal world order- the modernized form of classical liberal economic thought which dominated the economic policymaking means during the past centuries has now facing a downfall as the market-oriented reform policies themselves are in the haunted phase and can no more influence the statesand it will be more limited in the upcoming era because of the impacts of recent horrors of

Adding to this, the older conventional polices and the liberal policy stance of most states has now been militarized in order to cope with imbalances produced by the current bad situation of the globe.

Moreover, it seems that the post Covid-19 era is going to arise with the Deglobalization as it is being accelerating due to the hit of modern form of poisonous virus and the entire system has several points of failure as the economic trade and investments between nation-states has started declining, covid-19 has given shutdown to many national economies. Factories are being shuttered, global supply chains disrupted, flights and cruises cancelled, closer of venues, National Health Systems are in big trouble and likely to collapse, tourism has crashed and oil prices are going lower because of the plummet in demands.

The toppling of overwhelming power of corporations can bring cataclysm in the once well-proportioned global order. All these things are contributing in the breakdown of the global economy.

Besides, termination of mutual dependencies will also play a huge role in worsening the future relations amid states. The blame game amongst the previously dependent nations is ruining their future deals. The noxious global pandemic is reshaping the overall geopolitics and the changing world order from west to the rest has also been stuck at a standstill point. Additionally, Economic Relocalisation of manufacturing facilities can entirely change the stream of capital flow from the vast industrialized world to the developed states or can make states more focused on centralized economy. This would permit states to maintain oneself by independent effort or become more self-sustainable

Back in 1992, Francis Fukuyama-American Political Scientist, in his book "The End of History and The Last Man" clearly stated the post-coldwar era as an end of ideological evolution and the universalization of western liberal democracy but all this epoch portrays now is that, the previously made assertions have ceased to exist and dropped prior prestige.

As the Chaos Theory goes, a small change in any event has the power to make bigger changes happen and one small incident in the beginning can have a huge impact on future and same went with the case of Covid-19, Trump's misinformation, mishandling and denial to international cooperation paved way to the aggravated situation. All the diplomatic methods were squandered and it made the world to pay higher price for living. US policies adopted in state of panic has led it towards many wrong paths which let the world to predict that China is going to emerge as new economic leader, but

still US grips many high cards. The major drop in the world economy and political contextual has dismissed the safe zone of stability from the planet and has rapidly increased the chaos.

Following this, in an anarchic international system there is no hierarchically superior authority to resolve the conflicts, enforce law and order, punishes the responsible one and no coercive power to command and control the devastations of the world, so the current international arena's crisis can only be fixed through nation-states' own diplomatic defensive policies as all the superabundant resources to cope with the disaster has almost remained unsuccessful.

Further, an emerging conventional wisdom says, if the high consuming states fade away or become extinct, then the world's economic leader will have nothing in order to preserve its status as a global hegemony. If there is no buyer, then the seller would be stuck with its shares until and unless some buying interest from investors come, otherwise work has to collapse and same will go with China if it arises as world's economic power hub and other strong buyers fail to survive after playing dead with hazardous illness caused by ongoing disease. Chinese policymakers should recognize if their state doesn't rise to meet the moment to help other states in controlling the pandemic, it also won't be able to strive alone in the world with no consumers and merchandisers.

As a consequence, the future international world order is likely to miscarry the stable foundations as the economical demise and political violence has already disintegrated the well-balanced policies which made the trade and diplomatic defense go round. Globalization and interdependence across continents or within states is likely to be ceased soon along with dawdling financial growth and curtailed trade.





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India allows 193 Pak nationals to return on May 5

The directives by the Indian government had been issued after the Pakistan high commission requested facilitation for Pakistani citizens in returning to their country

DNA

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has allowed 193 Pakistanis stranded in the country due to the coronavirus lockdown, to return on

The Indian External Affairs Ministry has directed state police chiefs to facilitate the travel of the stranded Pakistanis back to their country via the Attari-Wagah border crossing next week. The Pakistani nationals have been told to arrive at

the border early Tuesday to begin the formal process of their return. The Indian External Affairs Ministry said only asymptomatic persons will be allowed to return to Pakistan.

"It is requested that all returning Pakistan nationals may be screened as per international norms and existing provisions of the Government of India and only asymptomatic individuals may be allowed to return," said Dammu Ravi, additional secretary of the ministry, to the state governments.

The directives by the Indian government had been issued after the Pakistan high commission requested facilitation for Pakistani citizens in returning to their country.

Last month, a smaller group of Pakistanis had returned from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The 193 Pakistanis who will return to their country on May 5 were stranded across 25 districts in 10 states: Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.



ISLAMABAD: Various Chinese companies have donated RS 7 million for PM Relief Fund. Cheque being handed over to Zulfi Bukhar. – DNA

Briefs

Rangers raids gutka factory

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Rangers Sindh on Sunday conducted a raid at Gutka production factory in Old Golimar area and arrested two accused. The Rangers also recovered material and equipment used in Gutka production, said a

news release. Arrested Amjad Hussain and Sajid Ahmed belonged to Lyari Gang. The accused were involved in the Gutka business since long under the supervision of Lyari Gang. During preliminary investigation, the arrested confessed that they were paying heavy extortion to Lyari Gang heads Sajid alias Golimar and Agha Zikri for safety of their illegal business. Their network of Gutka supply is spread across the city. The paramilitary force seized 1000kg betel nuts, packaging material and equipments used in Gutka production from the possession of arrested. On their pointation Rangers also recovered arms and ammunition which they were using to safeguard their illegal business. Both arrested have been handed over

Egypt says 18 militants killed

to police for further le-

gal action.

CAIRO: Egypt's interior ministry said Sunday 18 suspected militants were killed in North Sinai in a firefight with security forces, two days after a deadly blast claimed by the Islamic State group.

"National security received intelligence about terrorist elements hiding out in a home in Bir al-Abed, where they were planning to launch hostile operations," the ministry said in a statement.

"Their hideout was targeted and a firefight ensued which led to the death of 18 (militants)."

Security forces found 13 automatic weapons, two explosive belts and three other explosive devices in their possession, the ministry said. Egypt's army said Thursday that 10 soldiers, including an officer, had been killed or wounded in an explosion targeting an armoured vehicle near Bir al-Abed in North Sinai. – APP

'Donations will be used transparently'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has assured the donations in PM's Relief Fund for Covid-19 will be transparently disbursed amongst the deserving families affected by the breakout of Coronavirus.

He was speaking in Islamabad today (Saturday) after launching a web portal to register and provide assistance to those who have lost their jobs due to The Prime Minister said

he is personally monitoring the relief fund and its details will be shared with the public after audit.

Imran Khan said the government will contribute four rupees for each rupee

Adnan Yousaf

for Planning and Develop-

ment, Asad Umar has as-

sured to take all the deci-

sions regarding relaxation

in lockdown after 9th of

this month in consensus

Briefing the media per-

sons in Islamabad on Sun-

day, he said the National

Coordination Committee

on Coronavirus will take

the decision about the fu-

Asad Umar said the de-

cisions will be taken in

such a manner that they

do not paralyze our health-

care system. He said the

restrictions will be eased

gradually in order to pro-

vide livelihoods to the

He said we have signifi-

cantly enhanced the ca-

ture course of action.

with all the provinces.

Minister

ISLAMABAD:

donated to the relief fund. He said our aim is to reach out the maximum number of people during these testing times.

Giving details of the web portal, Imran Khan said those who have lost jobs due to lockdown can get themselves registered on the ehsaaslabour.nadra. gov.pk to get the assistance of twelve thousand rupees. He asked the volunteers and Tiger Force to help these people get them registered on the website. He said the registered people will be scrutinized and the cash assistance will be given to the qualifying ones. He said the cash assistance will be given totally on merit irrespective of the political affiliations of

the recipients. The Prime Minister said

Relaxation in lockdown

decision after May 9

Fatality rate in Pakistan is far less compared

to the United States, the UK and Spain

pacity of our healthcare

system. We currently have

1,400 ventilators for Coro-

navirus patients and 900

more will be added in two

months. He said at present

there are 35 Coronavirus

He said the country has

now the capacity to de-

velop medical equipment

and soon the domestic

production of ventilators

The Minister said the

country has fifty five func-

tional labs and we have the

capacity to carry out over

will start.

patients on ventilators.

eighty-one billion rupees have been disbursed under Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program to 6.8 million poor and deserving families over a period of three weeks.

He said it is first time in the country's history that such a hefty amount has been disbursed in a short span of time. He added that the program would be taken forward.

Alluding to the opening of businesses in different parts of the world including New York, the Prime Minister said we have also decided to fully open the construction industry as it will provide job opportunities especially to the labourers.

He said we have given unprecedented incentives to the construction industry.

14000 corona tests on dai-

The Minister for Planning

said the testing, tracking

and quarantine system has

been made functional and

one saw its manifestation

recently in two sectors of

Asad Umar expressed sat-

isfaction that the corona-

virus has not proved to be

as contagious for Pakistan

when compared with Eu-

rope and the United States.

He said the fatality rate

in Pakistan is far less

compared to the United

States, the UK and Spain.

He, however stressed that

we have to adopt the pre-

cautionary measures in

order to avoid it getting

Asad Umar said that the

economic impact of the

lockdown on Pakistan is

serious than the western

contagious.

the federal capital.

ly basis.

French virus toll hits fiveweek low

PARIS: The number of daily deaths in France from the coronavirus fell to 166, the health ministry said Saturday, the lowest number in more than five weeks. The total number of COVID-19 deaths in

France since March 1 rose however to 24,760 it added the fourth highest in Europe.

Pressure on intensive care units eased a bit further meanwhile, the data showed, with a net decline of 51 patients.

The last time the number of daily reported deaths was below 166 was on March 22, when it represented only those reported by hos-

The current figure also includes deaths in elderly care facilities and at home.

The government has announced the country's strict lockdown will be eased from May 11, but the pace will be slower in harder hit areas such as the greater Paris region and the northeast quarter of the country - APP

Iran to reopen many mosques

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said mosques would reopen across large parts of the country Monday after being shuttered since early March over the novel coronavirus

outbreak. Rouhani said 132 counties, or about one third of the administrative divisions, would "reopen their mosques as of tomorrow," speaking at a televised virus task-

force meeting. "social Maintaining distancing is more important than collective prayer," he added, arguing that Islam considers safety obligatory while praying in mosques is only recommended.

Europe prepares for lockdown easing

MADRID: Europe on Sunday prepared for a further cautious easing of coronavirus restrictions following signs the pandemic may be slowing, after Spaniards flocked to the streets to jog, cycle and rollerskate for the first time after 48 days of confinement.

More than 242,000 people have been killed and 3.4 million infected worldwide by the virus, which has left half of humanity under some form of lockdown and pushed the global economy towards its worst downturn since the Great Depression.

With signs that the spread brought under control,

parts of Europe and the United States have begun to lift restrictions to try to inject life into economies crippled by weeks of closures and ease the pressure from populations wearying of captivity.

After a two-month lockdown in Italy - with the second-highest number of virus deaths in the world people on Monday will be allowed to stroll in parks and visit relatives. Restaurants can open for takeaway and wholesale stores can resume business.

And in Hungary, some stores and museums, outdoor spaces of restaurants of the contagion has been and hotels, beaches and baths can reopen from

Monday - but restrictions will remain in the capital Budapest, which has recorded about 70 percent of the country's cases.

Germany will also contin-

ue its easing at the start of the week, with schools in some areas expected to reopen, while Slovenia and Poland will allow some businesses and public spaces to operate again. France has said it will partially lift its lockdown on May 11.

But with health experts warning the disease could hit hard once again, they are sticking to social distancing measures, the use of masks and more testing to try to track infections.

Spain daily virus death toll drops

MADRID: Spain on Sunday counted another 164 coronavirus deaths, the lowest daily number in nearly seven weeks as the country begins to gradually lift its strict lockdown. The figures from the

health ministry bring the total number of fatalities from the pandemic in Spain to 25,264 - the fourth-highest after the United States, Italy and Britain.

It is the lowest daily increase since March 18 when 107 deaths were recorded but the ministry's emergencies coordinator, Fernando Simon, said the figure had to be interpreted with "caution" as it comes on a long holiday weekend when reporting of fatalities by hospitals is

usually slower. "The figures are very good and confirm the trend we have observed. We have to see if they are consolidated in the coming days," he told a news conference.

PM food export ban helping millions of poor

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the business community and former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday lauded the government for imposing a ban on exports of all edible items to ensure adequate food supply to the local market at affordable rates.

The decision is providing relief to millions of people facing countrywide lockdown due to coronavirus pandemic, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that prices of fruit, vegetable and other food items have come down substantially after the ban while such quality products can be seen in the markets which were never seen before.

Export quality fruit and vegetable are now in the reach of poor which is a great development, he said, adding that for this all the credit goes to the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Russia reports 10,000 new cases

MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday registered more than 10,600 new coronavirus infections, marking a fresh one-day record increase. New infections jumped by 10,633 to 134,687 cases, Russian authorities said. Russia is now the European country registering the

But the official fatality rate is low in comparison to countries like Italy, Spain and the United States.

most new infections.

Fifty eight people died over the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 1,280. Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin has said the Russian capital, which has emerged as the epicentre of the contagion, was not yet past the peak of the outbreak.

Moscow recorded 5.948 new cases, bringing the capital's total to 68,606. President Vladimir Putin has said the situation remains "very difficult." Despite the steady increase in cases, the government has indicated it could gradually lift confinement measures from May 12. but the easing will depend on the region. - APP

UK PM says it was tough moment to be in ICU

Says doctors were ready to declare him dead; was aware there were contingency plans in place

LONDON: Doctors treating Boris Johnson for coronavirus prepared to announce his death after he was taken to intensive care, the British prime minister said on Sunday, in his first detailed comments about his illness. "It was a tough old moment, I won't deny it," he was quoted as saying by the Sun on Sunday newspaper in an interview. "They had a strategy to deal with a 'death of Stalin'-type sce-

nario.

"I was not in particularly brilliant shape and I was aware there were contingency plans in place. The doctors had all sorts of arrangements for what to do if things went badly

Johnson, 55, first announced he had contracted COVID-19 on March 27 but maintained he had only mild symptoms. Yet he failed to shake the illness after a week of self-isolation. He was taken to hospital as a precau-



tion on April 5 for further tests but within 24 hours was moved to intensive

care. The Conservative party leader spent three days receiving "oxygen support", and admitted after his discharge on April 12 that his fight with the virus

"could have gone either way". But although he told the newspaper he did think "how am I going to get out of this?", he did not think at any point he was going to die.

Johnson, who returned to work last Monday and became a father again when his fiancee Carrie Symonds gave birth on Wednesday, said he was given "litres and litres" of oxygen in

He said he felt frustrated he was not getting better but the reality hit home when doctors were deliberating whether to intubate him and put him on a ventilator.

"That was when it got a bit... they were starting to think about how to handle it presentationally," he told the weekly tabloid. - APP