



# Islamabad POST

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Completion of phase-1 of CPEC has laid a strong foundation

Pak needs to mitigate risks on the CPEC

China, India working to ease tension: Hua



## Briefs

### PM briefed about Interior Ministry working

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Ijaz Shah called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Wednesday and presented him the performance report of his ministry and relevant departments based on steps taken during August 2018 to this April. The Prime Minister was apprised that National Action Plan was revived during this period by National Internal Security, besides setting up of 14 high-level committees of experts to submit proposals on different issues within a month. It was informed that in line with the Prime Minister's vision of investment and tourism, the facility of e-visa was introduced for 175 countries to ease the process. - APP

### Confirmed cases in Pakistan 113,702

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 5,385 new coronavirus cases have surfaced in the country over the last twenty-four hours taking the total tally to 113,702. These include 43,460 in Punjab, 41,303 in Sindh, 14,527 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 7,031 in Balochistan, 5,963 in Islamabad, 974 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 444 in Azad Kashmir. The death toll from the virus stands at 2,255 with 83 deaths reported over the last twenty-four hours. 23,799 corona tests were also carried out during this period. 36,308 patients have so far recovered from the disease.

### TTP man killed

BANNU: A militant of banned Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), named Ameen Shah was killed in an encounter with police in Bannu, Police confirmed on Wednesday. KP Police Chief Sanaullah Abbasi in a media statement also confirming the development said that Ameen Shah was killed in an exchange of fire with police in Haved area after he refused to surrender. - APP

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Pak to get Paris Club debt relief

### Other countries whose debt service has been suspended include Chad, Ethiopia and the Republic of Congo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been included in the group of countries that will be entitled to debt relief as part of the G20 debt relief deal, the Paris Club of creditor nations announced on Wednesday. Other countries whose debt service has been suspended include Chad, Ethiopia and the Republic of Congo. The Group of 20 leading economies and the Paris Club, an informal group of state creditors coordinated by the French finance ministry,

agreed in April to freeze debt payments of the 77 poorest countries this year to free up cash to enable them to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest agreements raise the number of countries to receive debt relief to 12 under the deal with a total of \$1.1 billion in debt deferred as a result, the Paris Club said, adding 30 countries had requested for the facility. In April, major international creditors will relieve the world's poorest countries of debt payments this year to help them deal with the coronavirus pandemic that has sparked the steepest

downturn in the global economy since the 1930s. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire had told reporters some 76 countries, including 40 in sub-Saharan Africa, would be eligible to have debt payments worth a combined \$20 billion suspended by official and private creditors, with a remaining \$12 billion in payments due to multilateral institutions to be sorted out. "We have obtained a debt moratorium at the level of bilateral creditors and private creditors for a total of \$20 billion," Le Maire had told journalists.

# MPs for joint response against virus

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from around the world have called for collective and joint response to overcome pandemic and chalk out strategies aimed at bringing life to normalcy. This was decided by the participants during a webinar interaction, organized by Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Parliamentarians for

Global Goals to connect parliamentarians from around the world with global experts in public health, economics and other fields. Parliamentarians stressed the need for systemic control of the infection by testing and tracing. They also called for strict implementation of the SOPs. Pakistani side actively participated in the webinar. They termed the initiative important and underlined the need for continued engagement at regional and global levels to

overcome the pandemic. It was pointed out that developing world is faced with resource constraints and needs immediate intervention from the global forums in the form of medical equipment, medicines and other technical support to better deal with covid-19 and protect its population. Parliamentarians from around the globe appreciated Pakistan's stance and called for collective approach to control the spread and restart economic activities.

# China, India working to ease tension: Hua Chunying

BEIJING: China and India are taking actions to ease situation along border after the diplomatic and military channels of two countries reached a positive consensus, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying said here on Wednesday. "Recently the diplomatic and military channels of China and India held effective communication on the situation along the border, reached positive consensus and the two sides are following this consensus to take actions to ease

the situation along the border," she said during her regular briefing when asked to confirm the reports that Chinese and Indian border troops were disengaging and moving back from their previous locations in Eastern Ladakh. China-India border tensions flared up after India recently illegally constructed defence facilities across the border into Chinese territory in the Galwan Valley region. This dispute which has seen thousands of troops sent to both sides of the disputed border. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Speaker Asad Qaisar presiding over National Assembly session on Wednesday. - DNA

## Russia adds 8,404 virus cases

MOSCOW: Russia added 8,404 COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking its total to 493,657, the country's coronavirus response center said in a statement Wednesday. The death toll grew by 216 to 6,358, while 252,783 people have recovered, including 10,386 over the last 24 hours, said the statement. Moscow, the country's worst-hit region, reported 1,195 newly confirmed cases, taking its tally of infections to 199,785. As of Tuesday, 318,274 people were under medical observation, and over 13.5 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted nationwide, Russia's consumer rights and human well-being watchdog said in a statement Wednesday. - APP

## Sugar Mills challenge report

ISLAMABAD: The report of the Sugar Scandal Inquiry Commission has been challenged by 17 mill owners including Pakistan Sugar Mills Association. According to details, owners of 17 mills, including Pakistan Sugar Mills Association, challenged the report of Sugar Scandal Inquiry Commission in the IHC. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Jahangir Tareen, Son of Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi, Member of National Assembly Chaudhry Moonis Elahi, brother of the Federal Minister Khuro Bakhtyar said to be among petitioners. - DNA

# China-Pak cloud deal worth \$2.94 mln

### More than 90% Chinese companies involved spoke highly of the cloud exhibition, saying that the online exhibition demonstrated a creative way of engaging international business in a lockdown period due to the COVID-19 pandemic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deals worth \$2.94 million were agreed at the 2020 Shandong Export Commodities (Pakistan) Online Exhibition, China, with 28 Pakistani enterprises being invited this May, China Economic Net reported on Tuesday. The events industry has taken a massive hit as businesses continue to withdraw from planned events, so an online fair could provide bilateral trade opportunities for Pakistan and China's enterprises through an accurate match and online negotiation. Many of the companies in-

involved took an active part in the cloud exhibition. For instance, staff from Linyi Dingyi Power Machinery Co., Ltd., China showed how to drive a mini-tractor via video in the exhibition, allowing Pakistani buyers to have a more intuitive understanding of the product, gaining recognition from many buyers, and nailing down an intended deal with LAL Group, Pakistan. In addition, the products of Shifeng Group Co., Ltd., one of the leading companies of Chinese machinery industry, were presented in the opening ceremony. The company held online negotiations with Ali Coop-

eration, a major agricultural machinery enterprises in Pakistan. According to Shifeng Group, they failed to pay a visit to Ali Cooperation because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but thanks to the cloud exhibition, the two companies reached consensus on a number of purchase and cooperation. As per a post-exhibition questionnaire, more than 90% Chinese companies involved spoke highly of the cloud exhibition, saying that the online exhibition demonstrated a creative way of engaging international business in a lockdown period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Germany extends non-EU travel ban

DNA

BERLIN: Germany extends non-EU travel ban for countries outside the European Union until August 31 over ongoing concerns linked to the coronavirus pandemic, in a blow to top summer destinations like Turkey. Germany introduced an unprecedented warning against all foreign travel in mid-March at the height of the coronavirus outbreak. But from Monday, Germans will be able to travel freely again to EU member states as well Britain, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and

Switzerland. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the decision to extend the travel ban for so-called third countries - those outside the EU and the no-passport Schengen zone - was necessary because of a lack of "shared criteria and coordination processes" with those countries in case of a virus flare-up. "We cannot and will not risk that Germans become stranded all over the world this summer or that those returning from holiday bring the virus back to Germany," Maas said in a statement. Turkey will be among those hardest hit by the extended travel ban.

# ADB \$500m loan to help protect poor

DNA

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million loan to help the Government of Pakistan deliver social protection programs to the poor and vulnerable, expand health sector capabilities, and deliver a pro-poor fiscal stimulus to boost growth and create jobs as the country fights the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. "The COVID-19 pandemic hit Pakistan at a critical point in its ongoing economic recovery program," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "We are fully committed to supporting Pakistan through this difficult period. This loan will help plug selected funding gaps as the government implements its countercyclical development plan, including strengthening the country's social safety net and health sector capacity."

# 86 members to attend NA budget session

ISLAMABAD: Following the increasing number of coronavirus cases in the country, new rules for the National Assembly budget session have been approved. According to details, federal government has taken precautionary measures before presenting budget in National Assembly on June 12. - DNA

# CPEC will be a growth-puller: World Bank

### According to Yao Jing, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, "Completion of phase-1 of CPEC has laid a strong foundation for the 2nd phase which will focus on development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The mega projects like China's BRI and CPEC will prove to be growth-pullers in the time of global recession in the days to come (following the outbreak of Covid-19), said Gwadar Pro quoting the recently published reports and research studies of World Bank (WB) and IMF. Although at present, this appears to be a remote possibility to some economists worried about the post-Corona negative growth, a WB's April 2020 report forecasts good days ahead

for Pakistan whose "GDP is likely to increase up to 6.43 per cent till 2030, courtesy the steady pace of CPEC". According to the research studies, certainly there is no reason to disbelieve this 2030 projection. Given the fact that despite slowing down of economic activity in many parts of the world, CPEC is entering its second phase that will also focus, among others, on more areas of cooperation like tourism, food security, science and technology and agriculture with enhanced partnership between China's and Pakistan's private sectors. According to Yao Jing,

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, "Completion of phase-1 of CPEC has laid a strong foundation for the 2nd phase which will focus on development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and strengthening of the trade and cultural ties through joint ventures and exchanges of delegations." While reminding that China has granted duty-free access to Pakistan for export of 313 goods under the 2nd phase of China-Pak Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the ambassador opined that Pakistan could act as a bridge between the East and the West. Many economists agree that

this FTA will help increase Pakistan's exports by optimally utilizing its potential in agriculture, textiles, food, minerals, engineering and other sectors. Of late, another landmark project under the umbrella of Pak-China economic cooperation is going to see its formal ground-breaking within days from now. It is the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (Rashakai SEZ). Its ceremony is likely to be held within the next few weeks in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. According to provincial Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan, this project will cre-

ate thousands of employment opportunities for the people of this province in particular and for the people of Pakistan, in general. For this purpose, Chief Minister Khan has directed the authorities to speed up working on the construction of approach roads of this SEZ. The authorities concerned in Pakistan have also been instructed to complete all the prerequisites and make all necessary arrangements in this direction since. According to Chief Minister Khan, Rashakai SEZ project is a flagship project of CPEC that the present gov-

ernment considers it as a big source of development, prosperity and economic growth for Pakistan, even for the whole region. This is, for sure, the sole objective of CPEC and BRI which aim at intercontinental linkages and prosperity for all. Since Rashakai ground-breaking is about to be held, the revised development agreement of Rashakai SEZ has been submitted to Pakistan's Federal Board of Investment for giving it a final shape before the signing of the agreement that is expected to take place in and around the mid of June 2020.

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**Briefs**

**Rs. 120.76 billion disbursed**

ISLAMABAD: So far, an amount of over Rs.120.76 billion has been disbursed among over 9,934,000 beneficiaries under the different categories of historical Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program. The programme was initiated to disburse cash amount of Rs. 12,000 among those affected from the Coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continued across the country. According to the cash update received by official source on June 10, a total of over Rs. 52.20 billion has been disbursed among over 4,301,000 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs. 36.44 billion has been disbursed among 3,018,000 families in Sindh. Over Rs. 22.62 billion has been disbursed among more than 1,840,000 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over Rs. 5.95 billion has been disbursed among 488,000 persons in Balochistan. — APP

**PAL publishes over 500 books**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has published more than 500 books on Pakistani literature and mystic poetry translations to increase reading habits and encourage youth to read quality material. According to an official, only in year 2019 PAL has published 10 books and five quarterly magazines Adabiyat (Urdu) and bi-annual Pakistani Literature (English) and monthly newsletter academy. He said that in 2019 several quality books were published "Khaqan of the East: Personality and Art" by Junaid Azer, "Munir Ahmad Badini: Personality and Art" by Dr. Ekun Bakhsh Bazzar, Professor Taha Khan: Personality and Art "by Dr. Omar Qiaz Qayil, Pierre Fazl Hossein Gujarat: The Personality and Fan "From Mysticism to Ahmad Arifi, Dr. Aminul Haq Javed: Personality and Art "by Dr. Amjad Ali Bhatti, Architect of Pakistani Literature "(reprint, edits and additions edition)," Sheikh Ayaz: Personality and Art" by Dr Anwar Fagher Hakdero (Edits and Additions Edition) and "Kishwar Naheed: Pey Dr. Shaheen Mufti. — APP

**PTI focuses on national economy**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shandana Gulzar Wednesday said that due to COVID-19 the country has to go through a hard time, as previous governments did nothing to strengthen the national economy. Talking to a private news channel, she stated that democratic regimes during last 40 years could not uplift the national economy rather wasted many national institutions and assets including Pakistan Steel Mills. "PTI government has been striving hard to steer out the country from economic crisis," she claimed. All political parties should accept the fact that losses and damages suffered the country due to previous governments' mistakes could not be rectified in just two years, she further said. — APP

**Serena's Sarangi Season 4 concludes**

Sarangi is one of Serena Hotels' cultural diplomacy initiatives that aims to foster the rich cultural heritage of the country and promote arts and activities that inspire peace and hope

**DNA**  
 ISLAMABAD: Despite COVID-19 challenges, Serena Hotels continue to use the digital platform in engaging the community through their various initiatives. It has recently concluded Season 4 of its nationwide music talent hunt platform "Sarangi", whose theme this year was "Hamd-O-Naat", with the jury announcing the winners of the competition online. Hamd is exclusive praise to Allah and Allah Alone whereas Naat is praises to the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad P.B.U.H Sarangi is one of Serena Hotels' cultural diplomacy initiatives that aims to foster the rich cultural heritage of the country and promote arts and activities that inspire peace and hope. Over the years it has become a powerful platform that gives hitherto undiscovered musical talent from around the country the chance to step forward by sending a sample of their performance online, to be discovered and polished by the professionals in the music industry.

This year's competition, which kicked off at the beginning of Ramadan, received more than 150 submissions from promising vocal talent in the art of Hamd and Naat from all over the country. The end of season judging event for Serena Sarangi Competition is usually a star-studded affair, however due to Covid-19 the event had to be held in a limited setting with the participants showcasing their talent via video link. However, the quality of the competitors made up for this and the jury consisting of Sufi folk maestro Arieab Azhar, legendary Qawwal Asif Ali Santoo and leading music producer Sarmad Ghafoor, found it difficult to pick a single winner. Osaid Alam, an FSc. from Punjab College of IT, was picked as one of the winners. Inspired by world renowned Naatkhan Syed Zabeen Masood Shah, Osaid started reciting Naats from a young age. He was mentored by his teacher Syed Manzoor Ul Konain Shah who helped him polish his talent and passion and won a number of Provincial and National Naat competitions to-date.



Another winner was Ayesha Rasheed, a doctorate student from University of Punjab who said her powerful vocals and Sufi singing style are inspired by Abida Perveen. Ayesha has already won a number district and national level accolades since her

young age for Sufi Singing and Kalaam, including Kalam e Iqbal competition held by Iqbal Academy and Unique Drama Festival Lahore. The third winner was Ayesha Tariq, a 17-year-old second year student from Lahore passionate about

Hamd-o-Naat and Sufi Ghazals. "It would be unfair for us to single out one winner as three of the finalists were at par with their skills, hence we have decided to award all three as co-winners," said Asif Ali Santoo, while extending warm congrats to the

winners. The winners received certificate and cash prize which will be divided equally. They will also each receive a recording session on Serena Sarangi Nights, an online live music initiative by Serena Hotels which is broadcast around the world.

**AIOU makes its text books available online**

**MAHNOOR ANSAR**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has uploaded the soft copy of its text books on its official website for facilitating its around 1.4 million students across the country. Most of the books from Matric to PhD programs have been provided in a PDF's form that could be downloaded by visiting the Website.

This is the first time in the University's history, that the students were being given the online facility of going through the soft copies for preparation of their assignments and exams. While expediting its years-long practice of sending the books to the students by post in original form, the University has now gone an extra mile meeting the students' academic needs through internet access. This is part of the major

digital transformation work, the AIOU has undertaken on the initiative of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum. As per the VC's commitment, we are engaged in digitalizing the University's overall working through the use of new technology in order to ensure quality education and to provide best educational services to its students, a University's official said. The alternative measure,

putting soft copies of the books on the internet will help the students to prepare their assignments within the scheduled time. It will also reduce students' complaints of submitting late assignments owing to delay in timely receipt of books. It was being ensured that the contents' deliver process could be developed in accordance with the new Learning Management system and prevailing international practices, he added.

**Govt's decision about PSM hald**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The business community on Wednesday hailed government's decision to run Pakistan Steel Mills on public private partnership and termed that public-private partnership is key to economic turnaround in the country especially in steel sector. Talking to a delegation of steel traders led by Barrister Mian Rehman Aziz, former zonal chairman FPCCI Punjab, President elect SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and United Business Group (UBG) Chairman Iftekhar Ali Malik said privatization is the need of the hour. He said the total losses and liabilities of the mills have gone beyond Rs500 billion, besides about \$2.5 billion in foreign exchange loss per annum to the country because of import of steel that should have been produced at the PSM.

**OPF alive to expats issues**

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Wednesday said it had been conducting regular online interaction with the host countries' relevant officials to resolves the Pakistani expatriates' issues, besides providing them relief amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. "The online interactions with the relevant officials of foreign countries are being held with the help of the Community Welfare Attachees and Pakistan's mission abroad," an official in the OPF told APP. — APP

**PPP, PML-N fearing accountability: Kanwal Shauzab**

**DNA**



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader Kanwal Shauzab Wednesday said that the leaderships of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have similarity in looted wealth of the nation and joint hands against government in their fear of accountability. Talking to a private news channel, she said that opposition was united under against the government to protect their alleged corruption cases and to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). It was first the Sharif brothers who blamed Zardari for being corrupt then it was Zardari with his son accusing the Sharifs of corruption and now they both are joining hands to save each other," she said. Kanwal said Prime Minister Imran Khan had no personal enmity against the opposition parties' leadership and that he only wishes that the plundered national wealth should be recovered from the looters. "Our manifesto is to eradicate corruption, bring back the looted money and provide justice to people without any prejudice and discrimination", she said. The National Accountability Bureau and courts are independent institution and PTI led government believes in the independent working of the institutions, she added. She said it was a commitment of incumbent government to provide relief to downtrodden and poor segments of society under the vision of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan.

**Ufone introduces special Super Card Gold offer**

ISLAMABAD: Keeping in view growing data demand of its customers, Pakistani Telecom Company, Ufone, has introduced a lucrative offer by launching Super Card Gold for only PKR 999. This offer will ensure that subscribers remain connected with their loved ones all the time and without any hassle. The new addition to the Super Card family will facilitate the ones with greater connectivity needs. Super Card Gold offers 12 GB data including 7GB for Facebook, unlimited U-U & U-PTCL minutes, SMS and 300 off-net min. The card will be valid for 30 days and can be activated by self-service channels i.e. dialling \*900#, digital mediums i.e. my Ufone app, www.ufone.com via credit & debit card and online partners. Upon subscribing via credit & debit card via my Ufone app and Ufone websites, customers can avail 10% cash back as well. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Shaikh Anser Aziz handing over PPEs to PIMS administration on Wednesday. — DNA

**Emirates resumes scheduled services from Pakistan**

**DNA**

PAKISTAN: Emirates has resumed scheduled services from Pakistan, operating flights from Karachi and Lahore to Dubai yesterday. The first scheduled flight from Islamabad will take off on Thursday. The resumption comes after over two months of travel restrictions imposed globally due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Emirates is operating 14 weekly flights to Dubai, including seven from Karachi, five from Lahore and two from Islamabad using its modern Boeing 777-300ER aircraft. Passengers can book tickets on Economy and Business Class. From Pakistan, the airline is flying UAE residents and citizens, as well as cargo to Dubai. From Dubai to Pakistan, the airline is flying in only cargo. Travelers will only be accepted on these flights if they comply with the eligibility and entry criteria requirements of the UAE government. Details are available here. Mohammad Sarhan, Emirates' Vice President Pakistan said: "We are extremely pleased to resume services successfully from Pakistan, and thank the authorities for the arrangements and their assistance. Emirates has implemented a comprehensive set of measures at every step of

the traveller's journey to ensure the health and safety of customers and employees at all touchpoints. Our customers travelling with us will find these measures reassuring and comforting." Social distancing measures have been applied and baggage is disinfected at all three airports. The boarding sequence has been staggered in Economy Class and passengers board by row, from the last row to the first, in small numbers. All cabin crew on board are fully kitted out in PPEs. Crew hand out hygiene travel kits that contain masks, gloves, antibacterial wipes and a sanitiser to every passenger. Comfort items such

as mattresses, pillows, blankets and headphones are hygienically sealed. Hot meals are served with high-quality cutlery and crockery, sterilised before each use. Cabin service assistants ensure toilets are cleaned at frequent intervals of every 45 minutes. Toilets are equipped with sanitising soap and handwashing instructions. Emirates' modern aircraft cabins feature advanced HEPA air filters which remove 99.97% of viruses and eliminate dust, allergens and germs from cabin air for a healthier and safer on-board environment. In Dubai, each aircraft goes through enhanced cleaning and disinfection processes after every journey.



ISLAMABAD: Former President of FPCCI, Senator Ghulam Ali condoling the death of Zafar Bakhtawari's father in Islamabad. — DNA

## Populism and the coronavirus

THE writer has served as federal minister for finance, revenue and economic affairs. The collapse of communism in Europe, leading to the former Warsaw Pact countries progressing rapidly after adopting market economies, the unprecedented growth in China since the 1990s, and the focus on growth, development and trade in most developing countries has led to a kind of global wealth creation the world has never known.

But the notion that history has ended, in the sense that the liberal democratic model coupled with a market-based economy has won the battle of ideas, as popularised by Francis Fukuyama in the 1990s, is hardly incontestable. Fukuyama's prediction that wars amongst nation-states would end has also not panned out. Not only that half or more of the world population doesn't live under a liberal democracy but that even where liberal democracies exist, they are in a flux. Moreover many questions are being raised about the desirability of the market-based economic model. While the last three decades saw improvements in the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, and national incomes rose appreciably, income distribution was often top-loaded. Greater international trade led to the wages of workers rising in the developing countries, but it also resulted in wages of unskilled people declining in developed nations. This fuelled discontentment in the developed world. Moreover, in the developing world a new class of elites emerged that disproportionately benefited from this development and growth. There is no doubt that workers in the developing world did earn more in the last few decades, but they didn't do well relative to the rich. The angst however targeted not capital but the weak in society: ethnic or religious minorities.

Often this social discontentment saw many decidedly non-liberal notions gain momentum. While crass racism and (in non-Islamic countries) blatant misogyny were not politically correct anymore, nationalism and xenophobia (particularly Islamophobia) got a new life. We saw all manner of populists, nationalists, authoritarian and even fascist political leaders emerge around the world, many with an overly simplistic, us-versus-them, view of the world. The governance record of these leaders hasn't been impressive for their countries. Leaders with little appreciation for nuance and understanding of governance were particularly destined to fail. But then these populists and nationalists only focused on groups whose support brought them to power. The larger electorate or national welfare was never their concern. I have written in this newspaper about the Dunning-Kruger effect, which postulates how people who are not knowledgeable about a subject believe that solving problems existing in that subject are easy. Many populist leaders fit this description.

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## The descent of America

COMPLAINTS about American decline have been commonplace since at least the Vietnam War era. In the late 1980s, declinism experienced an upsurge with the publication of *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, by Paul Kennedy, which warned of the dangers of imperial overstretch. Even America's putative victory over the Soviet Union in the cold war represented only a minor lull in the chatter about the erosion of US status relative to other countries, particularly a rising China.

Closer to home, meanwhile, the grumbling over America's crumbling usually spikes around the release of the American Society of Civil Engineers' quadrennial infrastructure report card. In 2017, the ASCE awarded America a D+ for the state of its roads, bridges, schools, parks, and public transportation. The grade was no surprise to many Americans.

"This is an advanced economy?" people ask themselves as they wait for a broken-down bus, hit a pothole on the highway, turn away from the undrinkable water coming out of their taps, or drop their child at a school that's just a few steps away from being condemned. In US schools, D is unsatisfactory but still officially passing. In terms of infrastructure, the United States teeters perilously on the edge of failure.

In the last few months, however, America has gone over the edge. The country has quickly, recklessly, impulsively entered the failure zone. First, there's the failure of leadership. The country has been ruled for the last three years by a corrupt, incompetent, would-be dictator who, when faced with a spate of crises, has proven spectacularly unfit for the job. Second, there's the failure to protect American lives. More than 100,000 people have died from the coronavirus, a level of death generally seen only in wartime. Third, there's the failure of the American dream. The economy has collapsed due to the coronavirus, and the unemployment rate has surged to nearly 20 percent.

Finally, there's the chronic failure of American racism. In the last week, people have taken to the streets to protest the death of yet another African American at the hands of the police. On May 25, a police officer in Minneapolis handcuffed George Floyd on suspicion of forgery, pinned him to the ground, put a knee on his neck, and killed him.

Floyd was one of over 7,500 people killed by the police since 2013. Protesters are fed up with police profiling, targeting, and killing. But they are also outraged at the disproportionate impact of the pandemic and the economic collapse on people of color. The anger is entirely understandable. "I can't breathe" applies to victims of police violence and the coronavirus both. The protests themselves are a sign of hope, notwithstanding the over 60,000 National Guard that have poured onto the streets in 24 states.

## Indian society worst example of invidious discrimination

Ali Sukhanver



*The Trump Administration is openly blaming that Far-Left Extremists are airing and fueling the protests against murder of George Floyd. In an interview with some media group, Attorney General William Barr said, "Unfortunately, with the rioting that is occurring in many of our cities around the country, the voices of peaceful protest are being hijacked by violent, radical elements"*

DISCRIMINATION on the basis of caste and creed is simply a heinous crime. The worst example of communal discrimination we can find today in the Indian society where no security or safety could be guaranteed to those who are not Hindus. Not only the Muslims but all other communities including the Sikhs and the Christians are always living a life of fear and harassment.

The condition of the low-caste Hindus is also not very much different from that of the other minorities. Some people are of the opinion that such discrimination could flourish only in uncivilized, uneducated and financially disappointed and depressed societies but the murder of a black man George Floyd in US police custody, a few days back, simply rejected this opinion.

The horrible reaction of the American people proved another thing too; in a state of aggression and anger, all the nations behave in the same way. The same burning of police vehicles, looting of shops, raising of slogans, attempt of trespassing the official residences of President Trump and an overall lawlessness could be observed there which we have observed in Pakistan, India and in so many other countries so many times.

Is all this agitation simply a protest against the murder of a Black American or it is a reaction against police brutality; if George

Floyd were not a black man and if the policeman were not a white-man, would the people have reacted in the same way; these questions are also very important.

And above all is the question; would things have proceeded the same way if 2020 were not the election year and if Mr. Donald Trump was not the President. Surely the story behind seems somewhat different.

As a nation, if the Americans were narrow-minded and prejudiced with reference to the racial discrimination; Barack Obama would never have been elected the President of USA.

At individual or personal level this discrimination does exist in a very harsh rather rigid way but this attitude is very common all over the world in almost all countries. So same is the situation in America too; some of the Whites dislike rather hate the Blacks and vice versa. In other words, it could be said that racial hatred and disliking is a part of the American society but education, scientific advancement, technical achievement and an overall superiority of the American people in the field of economy has simply buried these negative passion somewhere in the depth not so deep.

In spite of the fact that these riots have a lot of hidden positivity too but at the same time they have simply peeled off the widely honoured mask of decency, politeness and

civility from the face of the American society. Certainly the countries which have been ranking the US as their god-father with a never-declining ultimate authority will have to review their point of view now.

The Trump Administration is openly blaming that Far-Left Extremists are airing and fueling the protests against murder of George Floyd. In an interview with some media group, Attorney General William Barr said, "Unfortunately, with the rioting that is occurring in many of our cities around the country, the voices of peaceful protest are being hijacked by violent, radical elements." According to the VOA, there could be four different extremist groups which are trying to add to the intensity of protest. These groups include the White Supremacists, Boogaloo Boys, Antifa and the Anarchists. By putting blame on the 'far-left' extremists, the Trump administration has, however, admitted that even USA is not free of the extremists and their extremism.

Astonishingly for more than two decades, the USA has been admonishing rather reprimanding almost all Muslim countries for their alleged extremism; sometimes punishing them in shape of putting sanctions and sometimes in form of imposing bans of different types on them but it could not keep a vigilant eye on the extremism nurturing inside its own boundaries.

## How China Would Lead Global Economy Amid COVID-19

Sardar Ameer Jehanzeb

*However, an expected rebound of COVID-19 will be of a grave concern until a vaccine is developed, the infrastructure China has already put in place to manage the outbreak will empower authorities to isolate new outbreaks. Chinese authorities, have instituted virus tests in workplaces like schools, offices, factories, etc.*

AS a result of the COVID-19, the global economy gets in turmoil due to the coronavirus pandemic. China has a unique position to lead the subsequent recovery. Like other countries hit by COVID-19, China's economy also suffered greatly over the course of the outbreak, its GDP contracted by 6.8 percent for January-March period. However, China has taken COVID-19 under control and the economy has started to reopen, at a time when much of the rest of the world is facing the worst of the pandemic. Although many governments are in disaster management phase, Chinese government is now looking ahead towards putting the economy back on track for the rest of 2020 and after wards. With the size of China's economy, its success will be contributory in revitalizing the global economy as a whole and

with the virus under control and ambitious economic policies set to be released; China appears well located to achieve its ultimate goals. China has conducted bulk testing, the aggressive use of quarantines and physical distancing, and the adoption of technology to track the spread of the virus, Chinese authorities managed to control the COVID 19. As a result of China's success handling of the virus, most businesses have reopened, even in Wuhan.

However, an expected rebound of COVID-19 will be of a grave concern until a vaccine is developed, the infrastructure China has already put in place to manage the outbreak will empower authorities to isolate new outbreaks. Chinese authorities, have instituted virus tests in workplaces like schools, offices, factories, etc. They have also launched a smartphone app to track the individual's health. These measures will allow the Chinese authorities to react speedily to the COVID-19 cases.

Although COVID-19 has tarnished some of China's short-term economic goals, the government still is determined to accomplish its goals for the coming years. Before COVID-19 emerged, most economists expected China's GDP to grow by around 06 percent in 2020. To do so, China will likely enact a stimulus package to jolt the economy back to life. Because of the government's high levels of debt emanating from its stimulus in response to the 2008 financial crash, this round will likely be lower. The stimulus package will be sizeable, this time focused on developing "new infrastructure", such as 5G networks, NEV charging stations, energy efficiency programs, and other initiatives that will help build China's economy of the future. If China's stimulus policies are effective, they will not only stabilize the economy in the short-term but help transition the country towards a high-tech and service-driven economy to set the stage for the next decade. The global economic outlook is highly uncertain

due to the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 and the ability of different countries to control its spread. Given the current situation, however, economists generally expect economic contraction in 2020 before a recovery in 2021. If and when China's economic stimulus policies are enacted, the country's economy will be on the upswing. Despite the contraction in China's economy during the first quarter of 2020, the IMF still projects the economy to grow by 1.2 percent for the year. For 2021, the IMF predicts China's economy will grow by 9.2 percent, leading all major economies.

While this year's 1.2 percent is significantly lower than the approximately six percent growth most economists expected for China before the coronavirus outbreak hit, that China will manage positive growth at all is a testament to its strength. And if the IMF's projections are correct, China will be rapidly making up for lost time in 2021.

In contrast to China, economists predict most major economies to contract in 2020. Although the US has already pumped massive amounts of money into stabilizing the economy, given US\$2.3 trillion financing package, the IMF projects the US to contract by 5.9 percent in 2020 and grow by 4.7 percent in 2021. Similarly, the IMF expects the Euro Area to decrease by 7.5 percent in 2020 before bouncing back to 4.7 percent the next year. Just as emerging Asian markets were the key contributors of global economic growth before the COVID-19 pandemic, they will be essential in driving the recovery. With the virus largely under control in China and the government equipped with the resources to stimulate the economy, China is set to be a leader in the global recovery; on the back of both is unparalleled production capacity and enormous consumption market.

Ultimately, however, a global recovery will depend on the ability of governments worldwide to contain

COVID-19, thereby preventing future outbreaks and allowing countries to reopen for business. In the case of the economic crisis set off by COVID-19, then, economic recovery begins with an effective public health response across the globe.

Despite the deadly outbreak of Covid-19 virus in the world, which had shaken the global economy, Pak-China economic cooperation is showing signs of revival as established with the arrival of the first bulk cargo ship 'V Manet, carrying wheat and urea for Afghanistan transit trade, at the Gwadar seaport. The speedy initiation of ML-1 Railway project under CPEC is another good initiative. China has given a serious thought on this project vis-vis its different implementation phases. China has also offered a great opportunity to explore the potential of the 'BLUE ECONOMY' of Pakistan. CPEC has potential to accelerate goods and services within the country. With increased regional connectivity and maritime cooperation under CPEC, 'BLUE PARTNERSHIP' would help Pakistan to promote its economic growth. Cooperation and opportunities offered by the Chinese government and companies under the CPEC, both the countries are devising a development plan to promote coordination among the stakeholders to explore the potential of the blue economy.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and locust plague has strengthened Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation. Agricultural commissioner at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has informed that bilateral cooperation to combat locust in Pakistan is commendable. Virtual salon, established on joint efforts to control locusts, has attracted almost 170 delegates, including agriculture and technology experts to discuss cooperation between China and Pakistan in locust control. Both the iron brothers have joined hands and extended their full support to further strengthen CPEC, the pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) even after the outbreak of COVID 19.

**Briefs**

**PTI Govt perusing holistic plan to combat virus**

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on National Health Services Dr. Zafar Mirza has said the government is pursuing a holistic strategy to combat coronavirus. In a statement on Wednesday with reference to the WHO letter, he said we have made best sovereign decisions in the best interest of our people. He said we have to make tough policy choices to strike a balance between lives and livelihoods. Zafar Mirza said Pakistan has consciously but gradually eased generalized lockdowns but at the same time it has focused on enforcement of SOPs in shops, industries, mosques and public transport etc. Mask donning has been made compulsory in the country. Along with this, we have developed a robust tracing, testing and quarantine policy to identify hot-spots and cordon off them. Currently there are more than seven hundred such smart lockdowns in place. The Special Assistant said other plank of our strategy is ramping up of our health system to cater to the growing number of patients. Zafar Mirza said our choice of policies has been guided by the best evidence available about the disease spread and our best assessment of the fast deteriorating socio economic conditions in the country.

**Locust spray continues says NDMA**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has said survey and spray operations are underway across the country to control the locust. According to the spokesperson of NDMA, survey of 326000 hectares of area has been carried out while 10,000 hectares have been sprayed across the country during last twenty-four hours. He said the crop munching bug exists in 51 districts of the country including 33 districts in Balochistan, 10 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2 in Punjab and 6 in Sindh. He said 7886 hectares in Balochistan, 960 hectares in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14 hectares in Punjab and 1161 hectares in Sindh have been sprayed during last twenty-four hours.

**OGRA teams to inspect depots**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has decided to activate its 22 enforcement teams aimed at inspecting oil depots across the country and ending the artificial fuel shortage created by some opportunists. The spokesman of the OGRA in a tweet said the teams of the Authority along with the experts of Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan will inspect all oil depots across Pakistan from Wednesday to check the availability of fuel stocks. He said the violations will be dealt according to law.

## Indian poor COVID strategy condemned worldwide

Modi now says the virus will “remain part of our lives for a long time”. India looks dangerously ill-equipped for that prospect

DNA

LONGON: India has officially suffered only about 7,500 Covid-19 deaths out of its 1.4bn population. Yet the pandemic's total human cost there has in many ways already been among the worst in the world. On March 24, prime minister Narendra Modi imposed one of the world's strictest lockdowns when India still had little over 500 cases, in-

sisting it would “emerge victorious” against the virus. Since late May, the country has been reopening its severely battered economy – even as rising numbers of new infections are overwhelming its hospitals. Mr Modi now says the virus will “remain part of our lives for a long time”. India looks dangerously ill-equipped for that prospect. The Indian premier's defenders say he deserves credit for his initial in-

stincts. Unlike Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro who dismissed the virus as a “little flu”, he took the outbreak seriously, and put lives first. Yet the lockdown strategy was badly mishandled. As businesses and shops closed and all public transport abruptly suspended, tens of millions of internal migrant workers in cities immediately lost work. Millions remained stranded in slums and industrial areas with no livelihood. Many set off on

foot to their home villages. The economic impact has been grave. More than 140m people lost jobs; Goldman Sachs estimates the country's gross domestic product will contract at an annualised rate of 45 per cent in April-June from the previous quarter. India's first annual recession for 40 years looms. While the lockdown may have made the country's curve of new infections less steep so far, however, it has not

flattened it. Lockdowns are challenging enough in rich countries; when millions are crammed into slums, sharing communal toilets and water taps, they are acutely difficult to sustain. Unlike wealthier European economies emerging from shutdown with new cases steadily falling, India's are still growing. Its seven-day rolling daily average of 9,439 to June 7, according to FT tracking, is exceeded only by Brazil and the US.

Health experts warn India's outbreak may not peak until late July. Millions are emerging from lockdown into an environment where Covid-19 infection is more widespread than when they went in. Migrant workers who use restored public transport to return home now risk spreading the virus more widely into the countryside than if they had been able to relocate before the March shutdown.

**Parleys for caretaker CM GB**

GILGIT: Government of Gilgit Baltistan has decided to consult with opposition leader on the issue of framing a caretaker government. Talking to media on Wednesday, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman said that he intended to discuss the more important issue to choose the caretaker Chief Minister for Gilgit Baltistan. In this regard GB government would invite the leader of opposition Muhammad Shafi formally, CM informed. He hoped that they would be succeeded in the end the process of the nomination of caretaker Chief minister. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi chaired a consultative session to discuss modalities for holding next budgetary session in the wake of Covid-19 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad on 10th June 2020. – DNA

## Swarms of locusts threaten Indian livelihoods

DNA

DOHA: Given the lockdown's impact and India's economic realities, Mr Modi arguably had little option but to start trying to get people back to work. Yet India is moving rapidly towards something closer to Sweden's light-touch restrictions – in a population 140 times

the size, with teeming cities and a chronically underfunded public health system that was already under severe strain even before the pandemic. Far more needs to be done to protect and prepare citizens. The government last month announced a stimulus package billed as worth \$266bn, or 10 per cent of GDP. Yet direct support for the poor

was limited. As in many western packages, the focus was guarantees aimed at prompting banks to lend more to already-indebted businesses. Economists estimate the true stimulus value as perhaps 1.5 per cent of GDP. Health experts are also calling for new measures to try to slow the virus. They include “cluster” restrictions

where there are severe outbreaks, far more testing and data-sharing – amid suspicions authorities are trying to suppress figures – and strenuous efforts to promote universal mask wearing and hand hygiene. Without these steps and more, the situation in the world's second most populous country could get an awful lot worse.

**UK passes 50,000 corona deaths**

LONDON: The number of suspected and confirmed deaths from coronavirus in Britain has passed the grim milestone of 50,000, the government said on Tuesday. Business Secretary Alok Sharma cited analysis from the ONS, which said 50,107 people had died in the outbreak. The ONS assessed all deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned or suspected on the death certificate up to May 29. Officially, the government only counts the deaths of those who had tested positive for COVID-19. That figure rose to 40,883 on Tuesday, up 286 on Monday. On either measure, the toll is Europe's worst and the second highest in the world behind the United States, although each country has different reporting methods and lag times. The ONS data also showed that deaths in England and Wales exceeded the average of the last five years by 57,961 in the 10-week period. – APP

**Japan MPs pass record corona budget**

TOKYO: Japan's powerful lower house of parliament approved an emergency budget worth nearly \$300 billion Wednesday, doubling the scale of measures to pep up the world's third-biggest economy after the coronavirus tipped it into recession. Consumer spending has slowed to a crawl despite Japan's relatively low infection numbers and death toll from the pandemic, prompting the first economic downturn since 2015. In response, lawmakers approved a second exceptional budget of 31.91 trillion yen (\$297 billion), including subsidies for smaller businesses and cash handouts for medical workers.

The budget bill will be sent to the upper house and is widely expected to be enacted as early as Friday. The cash – to be raised by issuing bonds – will also be used to help finance rescue programmes and loans for struggling businesses. The government said the size of the package, including loans and investments in addition to actual fiscal spending, is worth about 117 trillion yen, nearly the same size as the first extra budget enacted on April 30. Combined with that initial stimulus package, Japan's total measures amount to 230 trillion yen when loan schemes are taken into account. – APP

**Pakistan's imports from China decrease**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's imports of goods and services from China witnessed decrease of 7.81 percent during the first ten months of financial year (2019-20) compared to the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall imports from China into the country were recorded at \$7638.407 million during July-April (2019-20) against the imports of \$8286.397 million during July-April (2018-19), showing negative growth of 7.81 percent, SBP data revealed. The overall imports into the country from other coun-

tries witnessed decrease of 16.93 percent, from \$43.447 billion last year to \$36.090 billion current year, according to the data. On the other hand, the exports to China during the period under review were recorded at \$1410.732 million against exports of \$1484.727 million during same period of last year, showing negative growth of 4.98 percent. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed also decrease of 2.40 percent in ten months, from \$20.134 billion to \$19.649 billion, the SBP data revealed. – APP

## Who killed the Swedish PM? Probe nears end

STOCKHOLM: In a highly anticipated announcement, Swedish prosecutors will reveal Wednesday whether they are pressing charges or closing the investigation into the unsolved 1986 murder of prime minister Olof Palme. The killing, which current Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has described as an “open wound”, has stumped investigators for decades. The news that the probe would be wrapped up – one way or the other – has made headlines in Sweden and abroad. One report, in the tabloid Aftonbladet, claimed investigators now had the murder weapon, while

Britain's The Guardian reported this week that South African intelligence officials met Swedish investigators in March to hand over information on the assassination. Palme was killed on February 28, 1986, after leaving a Stockholm cinema with his wife Lisbet to walk home, having dismissed his bodyguards for the evening. An unidentified attacker shot Palme in the back and fled, leaving the 59-year-old dying in a pool of blood on the sidewalk. More than 10,000 people have been questioned over the years, but authorities do not currently have any

one placed under formal suspicion. Chief prosecutor Krister Petersson, who took over the probe in 2017, will announce his decision at 9:30 am (0730 GMT). Experts and Swedish media have in recent months suggested that the most likely scenario would be that the case will be closed, because the main suspects speculated about in the media in recent years are all dead. Petersson said in February that if the main suspect was dead, that would justify closing the case as a dead person cannot be prosecuted. – APP

## Egypt cleans up for return of tourists

CAIRO: Hotels have ramped up hygiene, archaeological sites have been sanitised and beaches cleaned up – Egypt is gearing up to welcome back tourists kept away by the coronavirus pandemic. “We are laying the groundwork for tourists from around the world to find this destination ... in exemplary sanitary conditions,” Egypt's antiquities and tourism minister, Khaled al-Anani, told AFP. Egypt has since March halted air traffic and shuttered archaeological sites, museums and hotels to stem the spread of COVID-19. “We are waiting for our curve (of contaminations) to stabilise,” the minister said. – APP

## Pak needs to mitigate risks on the CPEC progress: Haroon

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan is needed to mitigate the potential risks to the growth of its national economy and smooth functioning of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This was stated by Haroon Sharif, former Minister of State and Chairman of Board of Investment in an article, published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. This article evaluates the evolving situation and suggests priorities to mitigate the potential risks on the CPEC progress. The COVID-19 crisis, is also a challenging time for maintaining the pace and focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative which in its current shape faces an imminent slow-down in the near future. According to the article, the

CPEC partnership will be tested on geopolitical pressures, fiscal constraints in both China and Pakistan, macro-economic stability and more importantly ensuring sustained ownership by the people of Pakistan. If both countries manage to set a few strategic priorities that ensure human development, job creation and easing government's debt burden, CPEC will certainly come out as a winner. As expected, the pressure on Pakistan is increasing in the wake of escalating tensions between the US and China. Recently, the outgoing US diplomat Alice Wells urged Pakistan to go for a moratorium on Chinese debt in line with Prime Minister Khan's desire for a debt relief to expand fiscal space for social protection and stabilization of economy. Debt restructuring is a complex



issue and it will be increasingly difficult for Pakistan to negotiate favorable deals with the Paris Club and other western lenders only. Pressures are likely to come from Western countries to restructure the overall debt portfolio as Pakistan goes for the next IMF review this year. While behind the scene diplomatic efforts have started to strike a balance but Pakistan is not left with

many options but to renegotiate terms of bi-lateral debt with China. It is pertinent to note that most of Pakistan's deb consists of short-term loans with a debt to GDP ratio already touching 98 percent and expected to rise further. With a significant decline in tax revenue, the government will have to bank on more domestic resources to finance its development priorities. With a nosediving economy, Pakistan will be experiencing huge job losses in both urban and rural areas. Some estimates suggest that up to twenty million people are vulnerable to temporary unemployment as a result of Covid-19. Currently, over 40 percent of Pakistan's workforce is employed by the non-agriculture services sector where vulnerability to economic shocks is very high. In addition, a large number of

Pakistani work force is returning home from the Gulf countries due to an economic slowdown in oil producing countries. It will be great if CPEC could quickly structure a few public works initiatives that could immediately absorb some of the unemployed labor force in both the urban and peri-urban areas. It will take a much longer time for the private sector led rebound and immediate solutions will require a state intervention to create jobs. The key factor in this proposition is that the pressure on Pakistan's fiscal situation must be minimized through long term soft financing instruments. Such an undertaking will not only enhance CPEC goodwill among masses but will also help Pakistan mitigate external political pressures. The current structure of CPEC has too many small inter-

ventions in agriculture, social and industrial sectors. China must take cognizance of the fact that institutional capacity of the state has further eroded due to the high transaction cost of Covid-19 response. According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan is ranked 66th amongst high-burden-of-disease countries. Despite its heavy burden of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases, Pakistan's expenditure on public health is only 0.91 percent of its Gross Domestic Product. This offers a strategic opportunity for CPEC to invest in the health sector with a combination of subsidized as well as commercial investments to increase quality and access to health services. The best option would be to get in to joint ventures with established private groups for expansion of existing capacities.