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Ambassador Eric invites businessmen to invest in Kyrgyzstan

Wearing face masks made mandatory



NCOC for following SOPs, says Asad Umar



Briefs

Black box decoding on 2nd

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The Pakistani investigators involved in the Karachi plane crash probe will also fly to France along with the foreign experts where the work on the flight data and cockpit voice recorders will begin on June 2, investigators said on Saturday. "The mission on site (of the crash) is about to be completed," BEA, the French air safety investigation authority for civil aviation, said on Twitter. It added that Pakistani investigators would fly to France along with the French team.

Global virus cases 6 mln

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Confirmed coronavirus cases in the world jumped past six million on Sunday as South America continued its battle against the pandemic. South American countries are bracing for difficult weeks ahead as the disease spreads rapidly across the region, even as much of the world exits lockdowns that have wrecked economies and stripped millions of their jobs.

NCOC for following SOPs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday sought to engage market associations for the implementation of COVID-19 guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit. Chairing a meeting at NCOC, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said that the shopkeepers should strictly implement "no mask, no service," policy.

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Chinese lad devotes 3 years to improving rice production in Pakistan

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Curfew imposed

US race protests escalate

DNA

WASHINGTON: Curfews were imposed in major US cities on Sunday as clashes over police brutality escalated across America with demonstrators ignoring warnings from President Donald Trump that his government would stop the violent protests "cold." Minneapolis, the epicenter of the unrest, was gripped by a fifth consecutive night of violence with police in riot gear firing tear gas and stun grenades at protesters venting fury at the death of a black man during an arrest in the city on Monday.

Los Angeles, Chicago and

Atlanta were among two dozen cities ordering people to stay indoors overnight as more states called in National Guard soldiers to help control civil unrest not seen in the United States for years.

From Seattle to New York, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding tougher murder charges and more arrests over the death of George Floyd who stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

In Los Angeles, officers fired rubber bullets and swung batons during a testy standoff with demonstrators who set fire

to a police car.

Police and protesters clashed in numerous cities including Chicago and New York, with officers responding to projectiles with pepper spray while shop windows were smashed in Philadelphia. Trump blamed the extreme left for the violence, including widespread looting and arson in Minneapolis, saying rioters were dishonoring the memory of Floyd. "My administration will stop mob violence. And we'll stop it cold," he added, accusing the loose-knit militant anti-fascist network Antifa of orchestrating the violence.

– (More stories on Back Page)

Drying out of the Aral Sea

UN discusses steps taken by Uzbekistan

The resolution emphasizes the importance of the relationship between water and the environment

DNA

TASHKENT: A high-level event on the theme "Accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Water Supply, Sanitation and Climate Action" was held at the UN in a video conference format, Dunyo news agency reported. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN, Bakhtiyor Ibrahimov, acquainted

the conference participants with the comprehensive measures taken by the government of our country to mitigate the harmful effects of the Aral Sea crisis on the environment and the livelihoods of the population living in the region.

Particular attention was paid to the activities of the UN Multi-Partnership Trust Fund for Human Security, established on the initiative of the President of our country, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, for the Aral Sea region, as well

as the prospects for mobilizing additional financial resources for the effective implementation of projects and programs of socio-economic importance.

The event, which was attended by representatives of UN Member States, environmental experts, was part of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/226, "Mid-term comprehensive review of the International Decade of Action: "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028".

Record 88 corona deaths in single day

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan confirmed 88 more deaths from novel coronavirus during last 24 hours as the nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 1,483.

According to the Nation-

al Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 3,039 new coronavirus cases surfaced during the past twenty-four hours, taking the nationwide tally to 69,496.

Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

and Balochistan.

According to the latest figures, 27,360 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 25,056 in Punjab, 9,540 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 4,193 in Balochistan, 2,192 in Islamabad, 660 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 234 in Azad Kashmir.

Ambassador Eric Beishembiev invites businessmen to invest in Kyrgyzstan

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Kyrgyzstan offers a market of over 180 million people for Pakistani products and local businessmen should come forward and avail the opportunity, said Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan Erik Beishembiev. In a meeting with the business community at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Saturday, the ambassador said that his country greatly valued relations with Pakistan and hence it sought further di-

versification and strengthening of bilateral ties.

"Both countries are rich in mineral resources and have highly skilled human resource, which gives us excellent opportunities for developing industry and agriculture besides attracting foreign investment for joint production and supply of goods," he said.

Beishembiev said that Kyrgyzstan was interested in the development of short transportation links through its territory between Central Asia, China and Pakistan with access to the Gwa-



dar and Karachi ports.

He added that railway links as well as roads, which are being constructed under the Chi-

na-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), could be utilised for the corridor.

The envoy highlighted that at present, short highways connected China with Kyrgyzstan through two Kyrgyz border mountain passes ie Torugart in the north and Erkeshtam in the south. Speaking on the occasion, LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoyed friendly and cordial relations.

"The meagre bilateral trade volume shows that our business and economic relations have not

been adequately developed," he said. "Very few items are being traded between the two countries and they mainly comprise of pharmaceutical products." The two countries have been talking about exploiting untapped trade potential in Central Asian Republics but so far, the efforts have not borne fruits, the LCCI president added. He said that lack of knowledge regarding each other's markets and absence of regular bank-to-bank channels between the two countries hindered progress.

(Picture on Page 2)



MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing a press conference. – APP

PM chairs NCC meeting today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has summoned a meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) to decide whether to further ease or tighten the Covid-19 lockdown in view of a spike in infections and fatalities. The meeting will not take place on June 1 (Monday) instead of Sunday. PM Khan will chair a meeting. All chief ministers, federal ministers and relevant authorities will attend the meeting that will take stock of the ongoing coronavirus crisis and will work out a future strategy in view of a sudden increase in infections and fatalities in the country.

Shibli calls for precaution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday emphasized on the need of prevention to contain spread of coronavirus in the country. In a tweet, the minister said the formula that prevention is better than cure will have to be adopted to defeat coronavirus pandemic. "We will have to prove that we are a responsible nation, not a crowd", he remarked.

Rs. 3,000 fine to be imposed

Wearing face masks made mandatory

Civil admin will visit markets, mosques, bus stops, offices and streets to check whether or not people follow the Government-prescribed guidelines

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: The government has declared wearing of masks mandatory at public places, markets and in public transport in federal capital to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In a tweet, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat said any-

one who is seen without a face mask will be prosecuted under Section 144 and charged with Section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). He said the civil administration will visit markets, mosques, bus stops, offices and streets to check whether or not people follow the government-prescribed guidelines, wearing masks in particular.

A notification has also been issued in this regard. "Warning people against failure to wear masks when stepping out, the deputy commissioner said a judicial magistrate can levy a fine of up to Rs3,000 or send a violator to prison under Section 188 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)," the DC Islamabad tweeted.

Virus cases increase in Afghanistan

The ministry also reported eight COVID-19 deaths and 25 recovered patients in the last 24 hours

DNA

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Sunday reported 680 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 1,112 samples tested in the last 24 hours. The ministry also reported eight COVID-19 deaths and 25 recovered patients in the last 24 hours.

Kabul leads with 371 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 624 samples tested in the last 24 hours. The positive cases were reported in Kabul (371), Herat (111), Balkh (75), Samangan (33), Takhar (21), Nangarhar (18), Baghlan (11), Kunar (6), Logar (7), Parwan (2), Bamiyan (2) and Daikundi (1).

Virus claims 36 more lives in Punjab

LAHORE: During the last 24 hours, coronavirus claimed 36 more lives in Punjab, pushing the death toll to 475 in the province from the deadly virus. According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Sunday, the virus affected 534 more citizens in the provincial capital during the last 24 hours, and the registered number of cases reached 12,213 with the new infections. Also, 952 new cases of COVID-19 were registered across the province, which increased the number to 25,056 cases. The Health Department confirmed that 19 cases were registered in Nankana Sahib district, eight in Kasur, 86 in Rawalpindi, four cases in Jehlum, four in Attock. – APP

ANF arrests peddler

KARACHI: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Sindh on Sunday arrested an accused in a raid and recovered hashish from his possession. According to an official, ANF Police Station Korangi conducted a raid near Murtaza Chowrang Industrial Area Landhi and arrested Ali Khan s/o Muhammad Ghani and recovered 4.600 kg Hashish from his possession. A case has been registered and further investigations were underway. – APP

Briefs

DPO Attock reviews police investigation process

ATTOCK: District Police Officer Attock Syed Khalid Hamdani paid a surprise visit to Ringo Police Station. According to the details, DPO Attock Syed Khalid Hamdani paid a surprise visit to Ringo police station. He reviewed the performance and duty chart of other staff in the police station including the front desk. He reviewed the cases under investigation and ordered to rectify them as soon as possible. He also inspected the genealogy cameras in the police station building and remittances. He also checked the records of the police station, treasury, arms cache and cleanliness of the police station. Muharram police station informed the DPO about the sequential details of the accused in custody. He said that the officers present in the police stations should treat the people with kindness and perform their duties with utmost honesty and duty. He also stressed that while performing his professional duties, it should be ensured that the solution of the problems of the citizens should not be delayed. He further said that the officers and officials who have misbehaved with the citizens deserve any concession. No, therefore, everyone who comes to the police station should be listened to with full attention. Protecting the lives and property of citizens by cracking down on criminals is a top priority for Attock police. – DNA

Attock police recover cannabis

ATTOCK: Attock police in various operations against criminals, Friday arrested six accused, seized 06 kg 465 grams of cannabis while cracking down on drug dealers, seized 438 kites with several strings while cracking down on kite sellers. According to a press statement issued by City Attock police team, drug dealer Muhammad Mushtaq son of Abdul Malik resident of Choi East Mohalla Karbala Attock city was nabbed and recovered 1200 grams of cannabis from the city and registered a case against the accused. A case has been registered against the accused for exporting 1100 grams of cannabis from Hazro District Attock. The team registered a case against the drug dealer Afraz Khan son of Saeed Khan resident of Shino Khel Tehsil and District Kohat for exporting 2123 grams of cannabis kidney. The team of Lythana City Attock took action against the kite sellers. 300 kites and chemical strings from Swabi district of Lahore Ali Raza Noor, son of Noor Mohammad Minhas, resident of Chungi No. 3, Attock, recovered 138 kites and registered a separate case against the accused. – DNA

ML-N leader terms Aug 14 a day of historical significance

ATTOCK: Former Federal Minister and Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said that August 14, 1947 is a day of historical significance in terms of geographical change in the subcontinent India came into being because despite living together for many centuries, nations with different ideologies could not unite, so despite gaining a separate homeland, this fire of hatred could not be extinguished due to which Pakistan. He said in a statement on Saturday that in a situation where India has maintained its monopoly in the region, it has always needed to strengthen its defense system to counter India, which is many times larger than India. The then Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif decided to detonate the atomic bomb and rejected criticism from all sides, global pressure and the offer of billions of dollars. On May 28, 1998, a nuclear explosion at Chaghi made Pakistan the first nuclear power in the Islamic world and the seventh in the world. ? ??? ??? Undoubtedly, the credit goes to Mian Nawaz Sharif who blew up and protected the country's borders regardless of any consequences and made the country defensively invincible. This is a chapter in the history of Pakistan which in any case Also can not be ignored. He said that he also greets other Pakistanis who love their homeland immensely even while living abroad and celebrate every national day in full. – DNA

Attack on Zulqarnain's chamber condemned

ATTOCK: Former General Secretary Supreme Court Bar and senior President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Raja Muhammad Zulqarnain's chamber vandalism and theft is a state repression. The incident took place immediately after Raja Zulqarnain's anti-government speech. These views were expressed by PML-N Lawyers Forum Punjab President Rana Zafar Iqbal Advocate and PML-N Lawyers Forum Attock senior leader Malik Saeed Advocate High Court in a joint statement condemning the incident in the chamber of the most senior lawyer. Malik Saeed Advocate High Court said that the respect and acceptance given to the PML-N leadership by the members of PML-N Lawyers Forum in the courts in recognition of their democracy is not being digested by the exploitative government Immediately after Sanaullah Khan presided over the function of PML-N Lawyers Forum Punjab at Lahore High Court Bar Association, this heinous act was carried out under the auspices of the state. Freedom of expression is restricted under the patronage of the PML-N, indicates the position of the Lawyers Forum. He further said that the real culprits of the incident should be brought to book otherwise the PML-N Lawyers Forum would be compelled to take direct action. – DNA

Pakistan much advanced in nuclear technology: experts

The experts informed that nuclear technology in the country is being used for peaceful purposes in diverse sectors including medicine, agriculture, industry, pollution control, water resources management, safe and sustainable electricity production, etc

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can be compared with any developed country in terms of its nuclear expertise, knowledge and capabilities, and is completely qualified to become an active and productive member of the strategic export control regime of the world. This was stated by senior officials and experts in-

cluding Kamran Akhtar, Director General, Arms Control & Disarmament (ACDIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ansar Pervez, former Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr Naeem Salik, former director of Arms Control & Disarmament Affairs (ACDA), Strategic Plans Division (SPD) at a webinar organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) to mark the 22nd

anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests. They were of the unanimous view that Pakistan is one of only 13 countries in the world that are effectively using nuclear technology to meet a variety of their own socio-development needs but are also capable of sharing its nuclear knowledge and expertise with other countries for peaceful purposes. They also commended

the role of research institutions like Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS) in this regard. One of the most remarkable achievements in the nuclear technology field in Pakistan's agriculture, they said, was the development of more than 100 new crop varieties, which has added approximately Rs1200 billion to our national exchequer so far. Whereas, eight hundred

thousand cancer patients are treated every year by hospitals using nuclear medicine. The experts informed that nuclear technology in the country is being used for peaceful purposes in diverse sectors including medicine, agriculture, industry, pollution control, water resources management, safe and sustainable electricity production, etc. The speakers claimed that Pakistan's nuclear

programme has not only ensured its national security and regional peace but also helped pursue 12 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote socio-economic development. The speakers maintained that the whole country is really proud of its nuclear scientists and engineers who have played the central role in the development of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

DNA



LAHORE: President LCCI, Irfan Iqbal Shaikh presents a souvenir to Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, Eric Beishembiev during his visit to LCCI. – DNA

141 corona cases registered in Attock

DNA
ATTOCK: The District focal person for COVID-19 Dr. Asif Arbab Ni-azi confirmed registration of eight new more cases reported in the district on Saturday have brought Attock's total to 141 and Four death. According to data updated and shared by the district Corona Cell DHA, Dr Asif said that 5,820 people have been tested in the area so far. He said the number of suspected patients screened has reached 2,195, of which 1,877 have tested negative and the results of 177 people have not been received.

Pak to suffer for the lack of leadership, no lockdown

ADNAN YOUSAF
ISLAMABAD: Speakers of an international virtual seminar on "Combating Covid-19: Learning from China" said the government was confused in taking appropriate decisions at the right moment of time. They also urged the people to follow the preemptive measures, stay at homes and keep yourself virus-free by physical distancing and washing your hands. This was the first and only solution adopted by the Chinese to defeat the Covid-19 infections. Secondly, the Chinese government practiced its writ in letter and spirit in hundred per cent harmony with the stakeholders. The flawless and strict command and control could bring the desired results.

The participants opined: Contrary to China, Pakistan government has been confused on preemptive measures and lockdown strategies besides locking horns with the provincial governments. Public also reacted to the lockdown in the face of economic breakdown despite huge food and financial charity. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN jointly organized the virtual seminar on Friday. Devcom-Pakistan and DTN director Munir Ahmed hosted the discussion. The panel of experts included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Chinese professor from Xi'an (China) Dr

Shan Wang, geopolitical analyst from Beijing (China) Malik Ayub Khan, Dr Zahoor Bazai, Nima Gurang from Pokhara (Nepal) and Dr Amena Hassan. Senator Mushahid Hussain said the failed to provide desired leadership and timely decisions to handle the situation. Contrarily, the government locked horn with the provincial governments on variety of strategies. Federal government was not in favour of complete lockdown from the day one that hampered the situation. Lack of clarity and shortfall in the healthcare system were the other drawbacks. The best lesson from the China's fight against Covid-19 is the leadership and timely decision making. The people of China followed the government

instructions in letter and spirit. He also condemned the western propaganda against China for spreading the virus. Delaying the lockdown and going for the herd immunity was the blunder of the leadership in the US, UK and other western countries for which they are facing the brunt now. Devcom-Pakistan and DTN director Munir Ahmed said we all believed in faith on Allah without taking preemptive measures for which we facing the consequences now. The total cases have risen to more than 65,000 in a couple of weeks from 12000 patients. Hospitals have told the government and the public that they have no more beds for the infected ones. Situation would turn more miserable in next couple of weeks.

CDA begins progress work

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started process for initiating development works in sector E-12/2 and E-12/3. Tenders for development works of both sub-sectors have been invited through national newspapers. NITs for development works in sector E-12/2 and E-12/3 have also been issued. Sealed bids under "Single Stage Two Envelope" procedure from Firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid registration Certificate in Category C-3 or above have been invited. Under this project, construction of Road Network, establishment of water supply system and provision of sewerage system in both the sectors would be ensured.

Snap checks carry out in Attock

DNA
ATTOCK: On the direction of DPO Attock Khalid Hamdani, snap checks were carried out at various places across the district to make Attock district safe, while police were placed on high alert at the entrances and exits of the district. In view of the orders issued by District Police Officer Attock Khalid Hamdani, snap checking was carried out at various places in the district while police was alerted at the entrances and exits of the district.

Progress in S&T crucial for dealing corona

Corona pandemic was seen as a grave blow on national and global development affecting progress of all sectors in the short and long-run and need for necessary scientific solutions was underscored

FIAZ CHAUDHRY
ISLAMABAD: "Corona pandemic has seriously affected the national and global development upsetting progress of all sectors in the short and long-run. Progress in Science & Technology is the key to mitigate the aftermath of this crisis", Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman of Prime Minister Task Force on Science and Technology, Pakistan, expressed these views at a meeting held at COMSATS Secretariat to discuss the future prospects of Science and Technology in Pakistan. The meeting that deliberated on state of S&T in Pakistan and its role in national development seemed to be in agree-

ment that Human capacity and technological resources of scientific bodies working in Pakistan should be aligned with the global trends in S&T in order to achieve progress and development in the country. Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director COMSATS; Dr. Akram Sheikh, Co-Chair and Distinguished Senior Fellow at Global Think Tank Network (GTTN), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTEC & Director of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Karachi (COMSATS Centre of Excellence); Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, Vice Chancellor of Haripur University, Dr. Aslam Baig, Distinguished National Professor at the National



Centre for Physics (NCP), Dr. Kauser Abdulla, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Distinguished Professor and Dean of Postgraduate Studies at Forman Christian College, Lahore; Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Professor of Biotechnology at Qauid-e-Azam University, Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, Secretary General

of NASIC; and Mr. Parvez Butt, Former Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were also present during the meeting. During the meeting, Dr. Junaid Zaidi highlighted the need for investment in emerging technologies and centering upon contemporary sciences and knowledge. He urged adopting

creative and innovation-led mechanisms as means to overcome barriers to economic growth and national development. Further, Dr. Zaidi emphasized the need for capitalizing and building on existing capacities, potential, and infrastructures to strengthen scientific culture in the country. The discussions during the meeting revolved around various issues of the growth in science and technology in Pakistan along with the potential role of scientific institutions in the development and progress of the country. Corona pandemic was seen as a grave blow on national and global development affecting progress of all sectors in the short and long-run and need for necessary scientific solutions was underscored.

The participants also discussed the following in the context of improving S&T Infrastructure of Pakistan: KPIs and routine evaluation of S&T institutions; mainstreaming the use of technology/IT in Ministries; funding issues for important S&T interventions and R&D; importance of STI, industrialization and digitalization in national development. Recommendations were made during the meeting regarding the structure of STI system in the country in view of the emerging needs and development-related challenges in the region. Industrial growth aided by S&T solutions and R&D was considered important for aiding Pakistan achieve economic and financial stability.

Covid casualties

THE Odaily number of new infections of coronavirus in Pakistan is going into thousands. This is not an entirely unforeseen scenario. Experts in medical science and doctors have been crying hoarse for at least the past two months for us to take the disease seriously. They have urged the government to enforce its SOPs and make sure that the spread of the virus is contained.

They have also been calling on people not to consider Covid-19 as a drama of sorts, as many on social media have been propagating. With nearly 1400 deaths in Pakistan, it should be evident enough for everyone to believe the doctors. But it seems that the pandemic has not only brought human casualties in its wake, there have been some other casualties too, which the government and the people have precipitated with their lax responses to the virus. These casualties will result in many more deaths if we keep our refusal to face them.

Sanity appears to be a major casualty in the country as people are losing their minds and tempers at the same professionals who have been trying to protect them. Doctors, paramedical personnel, and janitorial staff are the ones who are at most risk, as they are treating thousands of people on a daily basis. They are putting their own lives in danger so that the people infected with novel coronavirus can be saved.

But all sanity appears to be lost not only to the patients who refuse to accept their medical condition, but also to those who accompany the patient. Clinics and hospitals have been attacked, emergency rooms ransacked, and even doctors and nurses maltreated by those who accompany patients. The recent display of violence at Civil Hospital in Karachi is a case in point.

This behaviour is the result of the failure of our state to provide security to medical establishments. There is an urgent need to deploy security to maintain law and order around hospitals, and to enforce the SOPs in cities especially in congested areas.

This is a war-like situation and many countries have declared a state of emergency. The same needs to be done in Pakistan.

The government has been taking it pretty lightly prompting the people too to respond with non-seriousness in this matter. Now there is even talk about allowing all public transport to operate.

It is a matter of grave concern that despite such a big number of infections every day, the authorities can even think of allowing public transport. This is no laughing matter and should be dealt with utmost care and consideration. The government must heed the pleas of doctors, provide them full security, and avoid such steps that will result in a precipitous rise in casualties.

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Locust attacks

AS this newspaper has highlighted many times earlier, locust attacks are increasingly becoming a nightmare for local farmers and people alike. Though the locust swarms have already entered Pakistan and are wreaking havoc in many districts, an even more severe locust attack is expected after a month. As if the impact of coronavirus was not devastating enough, now the locust problem has added to the woes of an ill-prepared National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

If not handled properly and in time, it may develop into a severe crisis that will destroy fields with much-needed food supplies both in India and Pakistan. If India and Pakistan fail to cooperate with each other and don't make coordinated efforts, locusts will impact food security in this region. These short-horned grasshoppers have already invaded agricultural fields in Balochistan, Sindh, and South Punjab and have triggered a risk of famine in the region.

Desert locusts are not a new phenomenon in this region and have been invading for decades, but despite this usual occurrence, India, Iran, and Pakistan fail to pool their resources and technical expertise right at the outset when the swarms start developing. In this matter, India and Pakistan should be playing a leading role as they have the most resources in aircraft and preventive sprays.

Perhaps, it is the perennial ill will between the two countries that prevents coordinated efforts other than just informing each other. Ideally, Pakistan should have reacted promptly, and India should have offered its aircraft to Pakistan to spray the fields and kill the locust. Whenever they came, locusts devoured large quantities of crops and this time is no different. In Pakistan they are reported to have already swarmed over 60 districts in all four provinces, starting from Balochistan. The speed of swarms is reported to be around 150 kilometres a day so it should not have been that difficult had we allocated enough resources and rented or requested more aircraft for spraying.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has also been warning Pakistan that nearly forty percent of the country's fields will become breeding grounds for these insects if timely actions are not taken. The estimated financial loss to the country may be around 600 billion rupees. From here, the swarms are moving towards the Indian capital New Delhi, and western Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

Now, in addition to tackling the current locust crisis, the countries of this region need to reflect about the miseries of their citizens caused by such invasions and compounded by the inability of India, Iran, and Pakistan to join hands and act swiftly before another swarm hits the region in July.

COVID-19 Crisis: An unprecedented push For SDGs action

Huma Balouch



Whenever the world experienced a health crisis, it provided an opportunity for creating major changes. For instance, all spheres of political leadership in the global system interact, reinforce, and implement adaptive decisions at much faster pace in response to humanitarian emergencies

THE current financial market turmoil, crude oil prices slump and temporary truce in all armed conflicts around the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic chaos makes it clear that the intrinsic value of health sector goes beyond its contribution to human development. The catastrophic impact of COVID-19 crisis and the highest one-day death toll being reported in developed countries starkly spotlights the centre of gravity on the health related issues that receive a lot less attention than economic sector, but are equally or perhaps even more crucial from a long-term development perspective for developed as well as developing countries. The massive educational, business, industrial and

other workplaces closures hinge strongly on the premise that no one is left behind in terms of health is crucial as a precondition and driving force for inclusive economic growth and development, poverty alleviation and universal access to education. In view of inadequate responses to the Millennium Development Goals to overcome the challenges of a changing climate and weather extremes, conflict, inequality, hunger and malnutrition, water insecurity, rapid urbanization and disease outbreaks that left us all more vulnerable, several countries learned their lessons and responded far more rapidly to United Nations' universal call to action for SDGs.

As actions which may contribute to one of the SDG targets may also have an impact on other targets, SDGs are quite clearly more interdependent and integrated. Such recognition is especially crucial as some overarching issues, such as pandemics, can affect multiple targets simultaneously and exponentially. For instance, the ranking of some of the countries with leading positions according to their GDP (PPP) per capita drops significantly in the Human Development Index when economic dimensions of health inequality is taken into account. Likewise, the relationship between the role of health equity and growth in ICTs adoption also works both ways around. Such interlinked nature of SDGs and its explicit health-related targets provide a new context as there is a health component affecting achievement of many of the targets such as attaining gender equality, reducing poverty and improving education, not just those under SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). Following the UN Sustainable Development Summit, held for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and in response to the global emergence of more than thousand epidemic events in more than hundred countries in just 15 or so years, some hopeful signs were seen during 2016-2017, when UN Secretary-General's Global Health Crises Task Force (in 2016) and WHO-World Bank joint Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (in 2017) were established to mobilize and strengthen collective national, international and multilateral action for global health security and emergency preparedness.

But despite considerable economic upheaval caused by viral outbreaks, and clearly identified mechanisms and policy solutions by the relevant health panels, an overwhelming majority of countries failed to make a fundamental shift in their health policies and were unprepared for the next devastating pandemic outbreak. SDGs provided both an obligation and an opportunity to the leaders to rethink development systems and approaches to overcome problems to collective action in the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Whenever the world experienced a health crisis, it provided an opportunity for creating major changes. For instance, all spheres of political leadership in the global system interact, reinforce, and implement adaptive decisions at much faster pace in response to humanitarian emergencies.

The current situation suggests a clear need to adopt a coordinated approach which may not focus solely on overcoming the crisis but ensure effective short and long-term initiatives with engagement of all political stakeholders, civil society actors, private sector and public institutions to better design the frameworks and responses to make the best use of the synergies between different goals as well as to manage aftermaths of pandemics. One such capacity that is now more relevant than ever is of the digital and mobile technologies in healthcare delivery system.

Calls for concerted action for strengthening the institutional foundations to support developing countries in their efforts to harness S&T for their sustainable socio-economic uplift came following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992.

One of the earliest and thoughtful contributions made in this vein was by Pakistani Nobel Laureate, Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam, who gave the idea of establishing an Intergovernmental platform, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), for providing visionary leadership to developing countries for utilizing and mobilizing STI as an integral component of strategies for promoting sustainable development.

At its inception as a high level forum of regional co-operation in S&T, represented by Heads of State/

Government, COMSATS assumed an advocacy role for sensitizing the relevant government machinery in its 27 Member States for investing in STI for development and encouraging the decision-makers to strongly interact with the scientific community to incorporate relevant mechanisms and policies in their activities and development agenda.

A platform for the latter was also made available in the form of a network of 22 renowned International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence. COMSATS is mandated to facilitate achievement of sustainable socio-economic development in the South long before the realization of 2030 Global Agenda.

The major initiatives of COMSATS that laid solid foundations for STI development included, inter alia, establishment of high-quality educational institutions (COMSATS University) and Infrastructure (COMSATS Internet Service); International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs) for promotion of cutting-edge research using multi-, Inter-, and transdisciplinary approach; COMSATS Telehealth program (CTH) pioneer in using ICTs application for providing healthcare in community-based settings; COMSATS Centre for Climate & Sustainability (CCCS) a broad coalition of academic and research institutions and organizations working on environmental risks to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and various group training courses and workshops for technologists and practitioners from its Member Countries for building and strengthening education and research capacities.

To join and support COVID-19 response efforts and to carry on the momentum of progress towards achieving SDGs, COMSATS aims to give better insight into wide range of social, economic and environmental determinants of health, bring the regional- and national-level discussions with a multi-sectoral approach on mitigating the socio-economic impact of this crisis and alongside improving capacities and skills of personnel working across health and health-related disciplines.

Huma Balouch, is Senior Assistant Director at COMSATS Secretariat, working to promote and map awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among COMSATS' Network

America's withdrawal from the WHO is unhealthy

Cornelia Meyer



The WHO has myriad constituents; member countries, other contributors, or collaborators such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The organization values its prized access to national governments and their health data and research facilities

US President Donald Trump suspended US involvement with the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 19, and threatened that the US would withdraw completely unless the WHO undertook "substantive reforms" within 30 days.

The president did not even wait 30 days. Last Friday he said the US would "today be terminating our relationship with the World Health Organization and redirecting those funds to other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs."

But what does "today" mean? The US was a founding member of the WHO in 1948, when Congress passed a resolution later approved by the organization allowing for the US to leave with a year's notice. Terminology matters in international law, which leaves the president's announcement somewhat imprecise.

There are other implications. The US gives more money to the WHO than any other contributor. In 2019 the organization's budget was \$5.6 billion, of which 17 percent was "assessed" country contributions and 80 percent was voluntary. The US paid \$419 million, of which \$119 million was assessed and \$300 million was voluntary. And the damage from the US withdrawal, whatever form it takes, goes beyond finance; it matters to the world at large.

The WHO has myriad constituents; member countries, other contributors, or collaborators such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The organization values its prized access to national governments and their health data and research facilities, which explains why it errs on the side of diplomacy and criticizes member countries behind closed doors rather than in public.

The damage from the US withdrawal from WHO, whatever form it takes, goes beyond finance; it matters to the world at large.

Cornelia Meyer: After withdrawing, the US could still collaborate in open programs in which the WHO participates. The only program that is bespoke to the organisation is polio eradication, which nobody can deny is a worthwhile and important mission.

Other than through its programs, the WHO collaborates with 82 US research institutes, 21 of which are based at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Canceling that collaboration would have a devastating impact, given the pre-eminent US position in medical and pharmaceutical research.

It is true that, like other UN institutions, and indeed the UN itself, the WHO would benefit from reform. However, all in all, the world needs the WHO and the WHO needs the pro-

ess of America's research and development capability. One could also argue that the US needs the network and access to public health issues and emergencies that the WHO provides, especially as it withdraws more and more from the multilateral global architecture.

Last, and probably most important, we have to be aware that the next battle against COVID-19 will not be fought in the hospitals of New York or Chicago. It will be fought in Kano, General Santos and Manaus. The virus is rapidly moving to the southern hemisphere, where health-care systems are less developed and there is no funding, especially in developing countries. When it takes hold there it will affect the weakest of the weak with little or no access to medical care. It will affect people in slums where hygiene measures and social distancing are either inaccessible or impossible.

The world at large will find out that we are all our brother's keeper, when the virus rebounds from the southern hemisphere to the streets of New York and Paris. We all have an interest in organizations such as the WHO being able to do their work with cooperation from every country.

Cornelia Meyer is a business consultant, macro-economist and energy expert. Twitter: @MeyerResources/ Courtesy Arab News

Briefs

Unrest sweeps US as protest continue

DNA

MINNEAPOLIS: Violent protests erupted across the United States late Friday over the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of police, with murder charges laid against a Minneapolis officer failing to quell seething anger. Demonstrators clashed with police for a fourth straight night in the midwestern city of Minneapolis, where fires raged and there was widespread looting as well as sustained cat-and-mouse clashes between protesters and police. US President Donald Trump ordered soldiers prepare to deploy to the city, Minnesota National Guard Major General Jon Jensen confirmed early Saturday. The state has become the epicenter of violence since George Floyd died there in an arrest by an officer who pinned him to the ground for several minutes by kneeling on his neck.

This is not a protest, this is chaos, says Keisha

DNA

ATLANTA: Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms on Friday evening denounced vandalism in her city as "chaos" after demonstrations over the death of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police turned violent. "What I see happening on the streets of Atlanta is not Atlanta. This is not a protest. This is not in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. This is chaos," an impassioned Lance Bottoms said at a news conference. "A protest has purpose. When Dr. King was assassinated, we didn't do this to our city," she said. "If you want change in America, go and register to vote. ... That is the change we need in this country." The protests had started as peaceful Friday afternoon when crowds gathered in the city's famed Centennial Park. But by 6 p.m. ET, protesters began moving toward the front of the Center, where police had gathered.

SC fixes BRT case for June 3

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has fixed the Peshawar BRT case for hearing on June 3 and has formed a three-member bench in this regard, Dunya News reported on Saturday. Justice Umar Atta Bandial will head the bench which includes Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Qazi Amin. The bench has been constituted on the request of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. The Peshawar High Court (PHC) had ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct Interrogation of the BRT project after which the KP government moved the apex court.

Chinese lad devotes 3 years to improving rice production in Pakistan

The turning point appeared when Dai Yingnan, as representative of his university, had an opportunity to talk to Yuan Longping, "Father of Hybrid Rice"

DNA

BEIJING: "Agriculture in Pakistan still relies heavily on manpower, and my goal is to promote advanced agricultural technologies and hybrid rice in this country to improve rice production and alleviate the burden of farmers." A Chinese young man Dai Yingnan said. Wearing a Pakistani costume of long robe matched with a farmer straw hat, Dai Yingnan strode barefoot through a patch of hybrid rice field, observing the status of the crop. That is the image of Dai Yingnan who has been promoting the plantation of hybrid rice in Pakistan for 3 years, reports Gwadar Pro on Saturday. Born in a village of Liaoning Province in northeast China,

the post-90s boy had personal experience of growing corn and rice with his parents when he was little, and therefore had a deep understanding of the hardship of farmers. The turning point appeared when Dai Yingnan, as representative of his university, had an opportunity to talk to Yuan Longping, "Father of Hybrid Rice". "When I was confused about the prospect of agronomy, the esteemed man told me that 'agriculture that sustains the life of people is the foundation of a country. At the same time, It's a slow-growing industry that requires the accumulation of time and people devoted to it.' He encourages us to find truth in fields." Dai recalled. After graduation in 2017, Dai got an offer from Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture



Company with Yuan Longping serving as Honorary Chairman and was later assigned to Pakistan to promote hybrid rice. "I never thought I would love this work until I was stranded at home for almost half a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I really miss the farmlands in Pakistan." Dai said. Carrying out research and promoting the plantation of hybrid rice in Pakistan is never an easy job. Dai had to select one type

of seed that is most suitable for the local environment out of thousands of seeds, which demands years of experiments. One of the best ways to find the right seed is to plant hybrid rice in test fields. And it needs careful observation and detailed records on the growing process of the plants from sowing, blooming, to harvest. One missing or false record would lead to failure of the experiment that usually

costs at least half a year. Pakistan's torrid weather is another bigger challenge for the young chap growing up in a cooler place in China. The temperature in Pakistan in summer can reach nearly 50, partnered with fierce sunlight and strong dust. When walking in rice fields, anyone will be sweating and unkempt. "After three years of touring between cities of Pakistan for the experiment, I get suntanned and look 10 years older than my peers." Dai quips. Since April 2018 Dai began to make short videos to record his life and work in Pakistan and shared one or two per day on Chinese social media platforms. So far, He has posted more than 500 videos, attracting around 165,000 followers. "Pakistani people are immensely hospitable." Dai

highlighted. "Once a farmer invited me to have dinner at his home for thanking me to provide guidance on the plantation of hybrid rice and when I sat down at the table, I found a pair of chopsticks specially prepared for me. I was very touched by their thoughtfulness at that moment, because I knew they had to buy the chopsticks for me from a town away from here." In October, the harvest month every year, the yield of hybrid rice is apparently higher than the locally grown rice, and even twice in some places by comparison. "I used to invite local farmers to share the joy of harvest when we reap the hybrid rice because I have a feeling of accomplishment when I see smiles on their faces," Dai said with a beam of happiness.

Pak tied up with China to build years old dam project

DNA

BEIJING: Forty years after it was first envisaged, Pakistan tied up with China once again to build the multi-billion dollar Diamer-Bhasha dam, reports Gwadar Pro on Saturday. The report stated that Prime Minister Imran Khan has already issued directions for immediate start of construction work on the dam. The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) awarded a contract valued at around USD 5.8 billion to a joint venture of Power China and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) for the construction of the diver-

sion system, main dam, and Access Bridge for the 4500MW dam, as well as the 21MW Tangir hydropower project. Power China has long been engaged in the core business areas of water and electricity and has established itself as a leading enterprise in the hydropower industry both in China and abroad. Particularly following the "Belt and Road Initiative", Power China has actively participated in some key overseas projects, such as the Pakistan's Qasim coal-fired power plant. Power China is one of the world leading companies in dealing with Water conservancy, hydropower planning, design and new

energy development. It also deals with Thermal power and power grid. They have expertise in Smart city, modern transportation and infrastructure construction. They have also been working for Equipment manufacturing and leasing. Over 17,000 Chinese workers are expected to land up in the sparsely inhabited Bashar region of Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) Province. These workers will stay for almost eight years until the dam construction is completed. On the other hand, The FWO is a military engineering organization, and one of the major science and technology commands of the Pakistan

Army. Commissioned and established in 1966, the FWO includes active duty officers and civilian scientists and engineers. Since its establishment, on the orders of the civilian government of Pakistan it has been credited with the construction of bridges, roads, tunnels, airfields and dams in Pakistan. "China and Pakistan conduct the economic cooperation in order to promote the economic development and improve the well-being of the local population." This was recently said by the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian on the construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam project, the report added.

Sindh Private to reopen from June 15

DNA

KARACHI: All Sindh Private Schools Association on Saturday announced to open schools from June 15, media reported. Haider Ali, the chairman of the private schools association said that the schools would be opened in the line of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government in the wake of coronavirus outbreak, Masks and sanitizers can be provided to the schools while thermal scanning device can also be arranged for the schools, he added. Mr Haider Ali said that students would be called to the schools in two shifts to ensure social distancing.

KC, EU laud EU body's concern over IOK situation

As pointed out by United Nations Special Procedures, this clearly represents a violation of international human rights standards

DNA

BRUSSELS: Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) has praised concerns raised by European Parliament's Subcommittee on human rights over the violations of human rights of the minorities in India. In her letter addressing Mr Amit Shah, the Indian Minister of Home Affairs, Ms Maria Arena, the Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) has expressed grave concerns over the severe situation of human rights specially rights of the minorities in India. Expressing concerns, she said, it is in this context that we are closely following the protection of human rights defenders in India and wish to express serious concerns about the recent arrests of Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha by the National Investigative Agency. As pointed out by United Nations Special Procedures, this clearly represents a violation of international human rights standards.

First cargo ship reaches Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Lieutenant General (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa says first bulk cargo ship "MV Manet" carrying wheat and urea of Afghan Transit trade reached Gwadar this week. In a tweet on Saturday, he said a dream come true for local economy as it will stimulate host of business activity. Back in the month of April, Adviser to PM on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood had said that Gwadar Port has been



made operational for the Afghan Transit Trade. Announcing the positive development via his twitter handle, Abdul Razak Dawood had said the Gwadar Port has been operationalized for Afghan Transit Trade under APTTA 2010.

The adviser had said that the move fulfills long standing request of the business community and the shipping industry of the country and it will also pave the way for generating business opportunities & employment both in Gwadar and

along the highways. In January this year, the Gwadar port started handling transit cargo destined for Afghanistan. The war-torn country has relied on Pakistani land routes and the two ports of Karachi and Port Qasim for international trade after a bilateral agreement, known as the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA), was signed with Islamabad. CPEC is a collection of projects currently under construction at a cost of more than \$50 billion. The major portion will be spent for enhancing energy capacity of the country and almost \$12 billion on infrastructure-related projects.

Five tested positive for COVID-19 in Nagar

DNA

GILGIT: Five members of a family have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ghutas area of district Nagar Gilgit Baltistan, Deputy Commissioner Nagar Mohammad Shahrulh Cheema confirmed here on Saturday. The family had recently returned from Karachi. Deputy Commissioner urged people to cooperate with the administrations in order to avoid further spread of the virus.

Chinese firm to provide legal services to Chinese citizens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zhongao Law Firm, a first Chinese-funded law company has been established to provide legal services and assistance to the Chinese enterprises and citizens in Pakistan. China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. Pakistan is not only an active responder to the Belt and Road Initiative, but also co-builder of its flagship project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) However, due to the dif-

ferent political systems, cultural and legal systems of China and Pakistan, in terms of economic and trade exchanges and cultural exchanges, overseas Chinese and Chinese-funded enterprises urgently need legal persons who understand the laws of China and Pakistan and can effectively communicate with the parties of China and Pakistan to provide legal services, Cheng Deyong, senior partner and legal representative of "Zhongao Law Firm" told Economic Daily-China Economic Net

Uzbek Govt, businessmen join hands against COVID-19

The WB estimates that the impact of coronavirus infection through declining household incomes and remittances will increase poverty in 2020. Pandemic Risk Groups At the same time, direct state aid cannot always reach all objective groups, mainly the groups of people whose income plummeted due to coronavirus and lockdown measures

DNA

TASHKENT: Dr. Muhsinjon M. Kholmukhamedov Center for Economic Researches and Reforms Until mid-March, residents of Uzbekistan - a doubly landlocked state - experienced the coronavirus epidemic with some degree of surprise: the epidemic, which originally found in China, circled the center of Asia and began to spread in Europe. On March 15, Uzbekistan officially announced the detection of the first case of coronavirus infection in a citizen who arrived from France. 2 months passed and during this time the number of infected COVID-19 on May 19, 2020, has reached 2802 people, of which 2314 (82.6%) - recovered, and 13 - died. The mortality rate in Uzbekistan re-

mains extremely low - 0.46% of the total number of cases. In the fight against coronavirus in Uzbekistan, the best features of the Uzbek society were manifested: general support of the population and quickly mobilized government apparatus. On the other side, the introduction of restrictive measures against the pandemic paralyzed both formal and informal economies, which left most of the country's population without a subsistence. Social protection systems are crucial to safeguarding the poor and vulnerable during coronavirus pandemic and crises hit. As of May 8, 2020, a total of 171 countries (12 more since last week) have planned and adapted 801 social protection measures in response to COVID-19. Social assistance transfers keep remaining the most widely used class of inter-

ventions (60.7% of global responses, or 487 measures). These are complemented by significant contribution in social insurance and labor market-related measures (supply-side measures). In addition, 246 (30.7%) of COVID-related measures goes to cash transfer programs. Together with wage subsidies, countries are strengthening their active labor market programs, particularly intermediation services and skills training. Graph.1. Key measures taken by the Government of Uzbekistan in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Uzbek government is also announced 3 packages of social assistance measures and labor market interventions by the Government of Uzbekistan[1] (GraphA1) . Social Security Priority As a result of quarantine, economic activity of 196 thousand enterprises were significantly dropped, and about

95 thousand individual entrepreneurs suspended their activities. The World Bank estimates that the impact of coronavirus infection through declining household incomes and remittances will increase poverty in 2020. Pandemic Risk Groups At the same time, direct state aid cannot always reach all objective groups, mainly the groups of people whose income plummeted due to coronavirus and lockdown measures. First of all, this concerns the informal economy and labor migrants. Accounting for the incomes of citizens employed in these sectors is very difficult for some objective reasons, which further creates difficulties in classifying them into the support group. Even in the most developed countries of the world, the shadow economy is at least 7.5% of GDP. According to UNDP estimates in 2019,

the size of the shadow economy in Uzbekistan varies between 40% and 50% of GDP. Furthermore, according to the international non-governmental non-profit organization BUYUK KELA-JAK, the size of the shadow economy in Uzbekistan reached 50% of GDP in 2019. On the report of World Bank, the total number of employees in Uzbekistan in 2019 amounted to 13.2 million people. Of these, 7.9 million informally employed (59.8%) and 5.3 million formally employed (40.2%). The ratio of formal and informal employment by type of activity in Uzbekistan* (thousand people) * As of the 1 st January 2020 This implies that more than half of the economically active labor force of the country is not covered by social insurance, which makes them more vulnerable to the consequences of pandemic.