

Govt achievements and contributions in COVID-19-I

Abdul Latif

The world has experienced a new patient challenge in the shape of a virus named Corona-Virus(COVID-19). It has been analyzed that this disease was initially introduced in China, more specifically Wuhan. The outbreak of coronavirus has severely impacted the national and global economies. Different levels of enterprises have different issues on various stages. Particularly, enterprises are facing different difficulties such as a decrease in demand, supply chain disruptions, cancellation of export orders, raw material shortage and transportation interruption. Major victims of the COVID-19 outbreaks are the micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

Government's Achievements in Pakistan

The Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted the "achievements" of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government during the year 2020 amid adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on economy, health, education, development and social life of the citizens. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction over what he said the outstanding recovery of plundered wealth by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and called it "a result of the government's policy under which state institutions were working independently."

The PM made public a brief sketch on steps taken by the government in different sectors starting from health, especially to combat coronavirus that has claimed over 10,000 lives in the country.

An official statement said in the health sector the first ever National Security Council (NSC) meeting on public health was held, National Command and Operation Centre formed to serve as a nerve centre, Rs1.2 trillion Covid relief package was announced and Rs180 billion were disbursed through Ehsaas Emergency Cash.

Besides other economic stimulus measures, the construction industry was given a package to ensure employment for daily wage workers.

On the welfare side, Ehsaas Kafaalat programme for seven million women and two million special

persons, Ehsaas Amdan, Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarships and Ehsaas Nashonuma programmes were also launched.

In the health sector, Sehat Sahulat Card (Rs1 million health coverage for every family to get treatment at both public and private hospitals) for entire Punjab (end of year 2021), KP, including the merged districts (end of Jan 2021), AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and also for police, lawyers and transgender were introduced.

Indigenous production of medical equipment, including ventilators and cardiac stents, was made while the Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) was inaugurated in Islamabad, Medical, Surgical and Allied Services Block opened at Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar; groundbreaking of DHQ hospital Hafizabad and DHQ hospital Chakwal was conducted and a 250-bed Peshawar Institute of Cardiology was inaugurated.

Protected Areas Initiative and Clean Green Index awards were also included among the projects. Projects on development side included Naya Pakistan Housing for 20,000 housing units worth Rs100 billion, Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad, Bus Road Transport, Karachi Transformation Plan - Karachi Package.

The Government of Pakistan is especially hampered in its capacity to manage COVID-19 by the social, political and social setting of the country. Obstruction made by local area elements, nearby/strict convictions, political shakiness, financial fragilities, and an absence of trust in government and establishments, has made Pakistan battle with undeniably less irresistible sicknesses like polio. The battle against Ebola in Africa was exposed to comparable difficulties. Pakistan is currently confronting similar obstructions with Covid.

To counter this, mosques have been closed down in most Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia. Be that as it may, Pakistani policymakers have not received such rigid measures inspired by a paranoid fear of a reaction from the strict wing. They have so far just controlled congregational supplications on Fridays. It is regardless essential to

investigate methods of working with strict associations and pioneers to impact results and conduct.

The government of Pakistan has disclosed a PKR 1.13 trillion (\$6.76 billion) salvage and improvement bundle with a decent harmony between giving direct help to the defenseless and securing industry and organizations. The assignment is sizeable however its actual effect must be evaluated by how it is carried out. A portion of this will be subsidized by help from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank coming in throughout the following not many months.

Setting the correct establishment to launch the economy is imperative for the government. The monetary upgrade bundle contains an entire scope of financial measures (tax cuts, monetary help by means of utilities, fuel and transport appropriations, concessions and assessment discounts) to secure exporters and businesspersons. The public authority has additionally reported a different bundle worth PKR 100 billion (\$600.42 million) only for SMEs, which structure near 90% of all endeavors in Pakistan and create 40% of non-agribusiness business.

Using Cash Payments to protect the poor in Pakistan

A cash payment program will offer monetary help to more than 80 million individuals in Pakistan during the COVID emergency.

Unequivocal money moves have been discovered to be powerful and proficient approaches to give helpful help. Introductory reports show that the money has given some security to these weak families.

Our government dispatched its endeavors to control the spread of SARS-CoV-2, it additionally designated \$900 million to convey crisis money to the incredibly poor. This program is managed through Ehsaas, the national government's new destitution lightening program, in organization with all the combining units of Pakistan - regions and regions.

Ehsaas Emergency Cash payment introduced remarkable difficulties, regarding its scale, the required speed of organization, and the milieu where payment was to occur.

To be continued

Why drip irrigation not popular in Pakistan despite govt subsidies?

Syed Haris Ali

Farmers in Pakistan have always complained about the lack of support by the state in the last decade. Pakistan which was once dependent on the agriculture for most of its exports with GDP share of over 50 % in 1960s. Now the agriculture share in GDP has been recorded at 18.6 % in 2020. The decline in agricultural products and share in GDP has been associated with many problems.

Technology inclusion has always been on the top. The current government is dissecting the issue to increase the share of agriculture in GDP. The state tapped on this issue when the Punjab government announced its support for the farmers to inculcate technology in the agriculture.

Punjab Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP 2020-21) is aimed at improving the water shortage problem for the farmers by providing the subsidies to enhance the rate of installation of High Efficiency (Drip/Sprinkler) irrigation Systems (HIES). The government provided subsidy up to 60 % of the total cost of installation of HIES on land area of up to 15 acres.

This subsidy is available to all farmers within Punjab.

Another subsidy scheme intro-

duced by current government in 2019 that covers up to 80 % of the total system costs for installation of HEIS on the land area of up to 15 acres. This project was focused on the tehshils of Khushab and PindDadan Khan and is named as Command Area Development of Jalalpur Irrigation Project (CAD-JIP).

There are many factors that hinders the way of adoption of this method. Clogging in the emitters has been reported as one of the major problems. Since this technique is aimed at saving more water as a result small flows of water require small openings of the emitters. One of the causes of clogging is by the surface level sand particles that get stuck in the emitters and clog them. The emitter orifices are very small as a result frequent filtration and biological controls are required. Presence of designers is needed at all times to address the problem.

Another major problem that concerns the farmers is Salinity. Point-wetting/Strip-wetting is not always helpful as salt tends to accumulate near the emitters and do not reach targeted zone. Since many crops are sensitive of soil salinity this is the reason this issue concerns the farmers. On the other hand, it proved to be profitable for the production of processed tomatoes in saline land area. The root area of the plant tends to be smaller and distributed densely. The salinity results in anchorage and aeration problems for

some type of crops. It is also observed that some predatory insects tend to breed in area full of weeds near the fields. As a result, it has been reported that at some areas the drip irrigation requires higher number of pesticides. As a whole, the solid-set structure of this irrigation system demands enhanced filtration requirements that makes it costly. Even through the government offers high subsidy of up to 60 to 80 % for setting up the HEIS system still it is high cost for poor farmers of Pakistan. This makes drip irrigation suitable for row-crops, orchards and vineyards.

According to me the design of the drip irrigation plant for a farm is same as working on an art piece. Every farm differs in its requirement due to the difference in soil quality and type, water sources and quality, financial and capital capacity of the farmer, and crop type.

The drip irrigation is not simple and requires great management skills in addition to the tangible resources. Conclusively, this method has great benefits for enhancing the production of agricultural products in Pakistan. This will prove to be a very beneficial technique since Pakistan is facing a severe freshwater shortage. The strengthening of effectiveness of this technique is majorly based on the inclusion of farmers in all processes to yield better results.

The writer is Final Year Economics Student at LUMS.

KP food authority confiscates over 600kg substandard fruit pulp

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) Monday confiscated over 600 kg of substandard and expired fruit pulp from a factory in Haripur.

The operation was carried out along the directions of Director General

KP FS&HFA Shah Rukh Ali Khan. The field team during the raid imposed heavy fine against the owner of factory.

According to KP FS&HFA a number of food related businesses were also inspected in DI Khan, where production units of four bakeries were shutdown owing to the severe unhygienic condition. The bakeries were found in violation of

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), while they were also using expired items in the production of items.

Food Safety Authority also inspected various businesses in upper Dir area, wherein more than 60 kg of expired and substandard edible items were recovered.

A number of food businesses were served warning notices in Dera

Britain to send 1,000 more ventilators to India

LONDON: Britain will send another 1,000 ventilators to India, the government said on Sunday, stepping up its support as India's health-care system struggles to cope with a huge surge in cases of COVID-19.

India has reported more than 300,000 daily cases for more than 10 days straight, leaving hospitals, morgues and crematoriums overwhelmed.

The British government had previously agreed to send 600 medical devices, including ventilators and oxygen concentrators.

"This support will help urgently meet some of India's acute needs, particularly oxygen for patients," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said in a statement. "We are determined to help our Indian friends in their hour of need."

Top British health officials have also spoken to their Indian counterparts to offer advice.

Other nations, including the United States, Germany and Pakistan, are also providing support as the number of infections daily in India reached 392,488, with a total death toll of over 215,000.

The latest support from Britain comes ahead of a call between prime ministers Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi, scheduled for Tuesday, which will look at deepening



bilateral ties.

The meeting replaces an in-person visit Johnson was due to make in April, but had to cancel due to the surge in infections.

Modi's government is reluctant to impose a national lockdown, but nearly 10 Indian states and union territories have imposed some form of restrictions.

UK says Iran's treatment of Zaghari-Ratcliffe is 'torture'

Britain played down a report that dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe could be released from years of detention in Iran, after slamming her treatment as "torture".

The government said talks were still continuing, after Iranian state TV said she could be freed soon as

part of a wider prisoner release and the repayment by Britain of an old debt.

"We continue to explore options to resolve this 40-year-old case and will not comment further as legal discussions are ongoing," a Foreign Office spokesperson said, in reference to the debt.

The British-Iranian woman has been held in Iran since 2016. In late April, she was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and banned from leaving the country for a further 12 months.

Her husband Richard Ratcliffe said he had heard talk of a prisoner swap and payments, amid ongoing nuclear negotiations between Iran and Western countries. —Agencies

Biden's phased in spending plan won't fuel inflation: Yellen

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's massive proposed spending on infrastructure, families and education will not fuel inflation because the plans would be phased in gradually over 10 years, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said.

New economic reports have portrayed a surging recovery from the recession unleashed by the coronavirus pandemic. Americans' incomes soared in March by the most on record, boosted by US\$1,400 federal stimulus checks, and the economy expanded at a vigorous annual rate of 6.4 per cent in the first three months of the year, leading to concern over inflationary pressures.

Some economists, notably former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, have warned that the Federal Reserve's current ultra-low interest rates, along with the Biden administration's proposed US\$4 trillion in new spending, atop. —AFP

Controlled bushfire cloaks Sydney in hazardous smoke

SYDNEY: Sydney was enveloped in a thick bank of hazardous bushfire smoke forcing authorities in Australia's largest city to scale back controlled forest burning nearby.

Ferries were cancelled and the city's 5 million residents were told to stay indoors if necessary, as air pollution levels spiked. Levels of hazardous PM2.5 pollution - particles that can seep deep into the lungs and cause respiratory illnesses - were among the worst in the world at more than 190 on the air quality index. Australia's fire services regularly try to carry out "hazard reduction burning" outside summer months, clearing the forest floors of debris that can fuel wildfires. But they were forced to scale back plans for further burns on Monday as pollution reached hazardous levels and some union groups told workers to drop tools if the smoke was too much. With the latest floods, Australia is at the forefront of the climate crisis "Light winds and an overnight inversion helped settle smoke in low-lying residential areas," the fire service said. —AFP

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Saeed Barkat, Civil Judge, Sialkot

Suit for division of house Maqsood Malik VS Intezar Ahmad etc

Ad for: Ansar Ahmad, Abrar Ahmad (sons), Safia Begum W/O Naseer Ahmad, Nasreen Akhtar W/O Mohammad Akhtar (daughters), Fazal Nabi, Ali Sher (sons), Fatima Shabbir D/O Malik Shabbir Ahmad, Darkhsinda W/O Babar D/O Fazal Nabi, Iram Iftikhar D/O Iftikhar Ahmad, Malik Asad Iftikhar S/O Malik Iftikhar Alhamd, R/O 9/101 Mohallah Islampura, Post office Rangpura, Sialkot.

The court has called you again and again, but the implementation seems difficult, therefore this ad is being issued for you to appear in this court on 04-05-2021 at 8:00 am. Otherwise the action would be taken against you and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted. This ad is being issued with stamp and signature of this court.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Naveed Akhtar Lohan, Family Judge, Sialkot

Suit for dissolution of marriage Aaisha Afzal VS Wahab Naem

Ad for: Wahab Naem S/o Naem Muhammad, resident of House No 4/279, College Road, Sialkot City.

The implementation in this case is not being done properly, therefore this ad is being issued for you to appear in this court on 05-05-2021 at 8:00 am. Otherwise one-sided proceeding would be taken and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted. This ad is being issued with the signature and

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Muhammad Khuram civil judge Phalia

Suit for possession title for suit Muhammad Khan v/s Riaz Ahmad etc notice to Qamar Abbas s/o Sugra bi bi cast warraich resident kotli qazi tehsil phalia distt.Mandi Bahauddin Above mentioned titled in under court of undersigned.

Many time process has been issued against the above said respondent, but in vain. So the respondent are hereby in formed thought giving an ad. The appear before the court on the next date of hearing 04-05-2021 personally or thought their counsel, otherwise ex-party proceeding should be initiated against them and no excuses will be entertained.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Syed Irshad Hussain shah civil judge Phalia

Suit for Declaration title for suit Rabya bi bi v/s Shafiq ur rehman s/o hafiz Ghulam Rasool cast waryah resident phalia ameer tehsil phalia distt.Mandi Bahauddin Above mentioned titled in under court of undersigned.

Many time process has been issued against the above said respondent, but in vain. So the respondent are hereby in formed thought giving an ad. The appear before the court on the next date of hearing 04-05-2021 personally or thought their counsel, otherwise ex-party proceeding should be initiated against them and no excuses will be entertained.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Atif Nawaz Bhatti civil judge Kharian

Suit for Possession through partition title for suit Javaid Iqbal v/s Farooq Hussain etc notice to Muhammad Afzal Sajid hussain Muhammad Anwar sons of Muhammad Sharif Muhammad Waseem s/o Muhammad Sadiq cast jutt residents Bangyal Tehsil Kharian distt. Gujrat

Above mentioned titled in under court of undersigned. Many time process has been issued against the above said respondent, but in vain.

So the respondent are hereby in formed thought giving an ad. The appear before the court on the next date of hearing 08-05-2021 personally or thought their counsel, otherwise ex-party proceeding should be initiated against them and no excuses will be entertained.

3 killed, 27 hospitalised after boat capsizes off San Diego



SAN DIEGO: Three people were killed and more than two dozen others were hospitalised after a wooden boat capsized during a possible human smuggling operation just off the San Diego coast, authorities said.

Local lifeguards, the US Coast Guard and other agencies responded around 10.30am following reports of an overturned vessel near the peninsula of Point Loma, according to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Three people died at the scene and 27 people were transported to hospitals with "varying degrees of in-

juries," department spokesman Jose Ysea said. Ysea said when he arrived on scene near the Cabrillo National Monument there was a "large debris field" of broken wood and other items in the choppy waters.

"In that area of Point Loma it's very rocky. It's likely the waves just kept pounding the boat, breaking it apart," Ysea said.

He said it was possible, but not confirmed, that the group had been packed in a low-slung panga boat, a type of motorised vessel often made of wood used by smugglers to bring people illegally into the