
UZBEKISTAN LEADS CENTRAL ASIAN DIPLOMACY IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

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On April 1, Uzbek media reported that the government was sending humanitarian aid to neighboring Afghanistan to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19. A train laden with aid, including medical masks, personal protective equipment, thermal imagers, as well as flour, oil, rice, soap, and clothes was dispatched from Angren to pass through Tashkent, Termez, and planned to arrive in Mazar-e-Sharif.

At a time of such serious crisis across the world, in many ways normal international politics has stopped. Bilateral visits and multinational forums have been postponed and cancelled. What avenues for diplomacy remain are narrowly focused as governments the world over concentrate on their own domestic situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But diplomacy, like life, finds a way.

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