

Moeed advises passengers not to travel airports

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security Dr Moeed Yousuf on Sunday advised the passengers abroad not to travel to airports as the flight operation is suspended for two weeks.

Addressing a press conference, he said it had also been decided to temporarily suspend the international flight operations to Pakistan for a period of two weeks. "No passenger, private and chartered flights would be allowed to land in Pakistan for two weeks started from March, 21 to till April 4," he said.

However, the SAPM said the suspension would not be applicable on the diplomats, special and cargo aircraft.

"It was a difficult decision but it has been taken in the best interest of the people of Pakistan," he said.

He said the missions and embassies abroad had been advised to facilitate the people affected by the restriction, adding after two weeks, the condition to produce certificate of negative test result for the coronavirus would not be required from the passengers. Upon their arrival, he said the screening on all the airports would be further tightened.

Uniformity in approach needed for protection

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has suggested urgent need for uniformity in approach to adopt for protection of healthcare providers handling suspects as well as patients tested positive for coronavirus disease in the country.

PMA Secretary General (Centre) Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad, in a statement here on Saturday, said doctors, nurses, paramedics, technicians serving as the front line defenders of people against COVID-19 must be provided with necessary protective cover against the virus.

"A uniform policy must be developed through active consultation of all the stakeholders," he said.

He said the government, both at federal and provincial levels, must also provide personal protection equipments and gadgets to the doctors and paramedics on urgent basis. "This is crucial as their lives too are at risk," he said emphasizing that paramedics are backbone of the country's healthcare system. "In the present situation they are examining the patients at the cost of their life, even their families are also at risk," added the PMA secretary general.

He also requested all the paramedics, doctors to strictly follow preventive measures as per WHO guideline.

Dr Syed Qaisar Sajjad further recommended need to expand the quarantine facilities in the country adding that adequately equipped isolation wards must also be established with provision of ventilators, critically required facilities and equipments.

Dis-infection drive in progress with full swing

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: City's dis-infection campaign, with an aim to fight against coronavirus threat, is in progress with full swing across the city.

This was stated by District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Dr Kaleem Ullah while talking to APP here on Sunday. He informed that Rescue 1122 teams were visiting all important buildings, including hospitals, both government and private, roads, bus stand and many other crowded place and washing areas with chlorinated water. The chlorinated water is highly concentrated. Its concentration is five percents, he disclosed. He informed when chlorine is mixed in water then the water turns into antiseptic solution. Disinfection campaign is being run for two days.



HYDERABAD: People purchase vegetable and fruits from the stalls after CM Sindh announce complete lock down from 12 PM today till 15 days.

AJK to continue ban on inter provincial public transport

The Business Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) State Coordination Committee (SCC) Sunday decided to continue ban on inter-provincial public transport and hotels as preventive measures to prevent the spread of corona virus in the state.

Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan presided over the SCC meeting held on Sunday.

The committee also decided to train the management staff of the quarantine centers established throughout the state by Pak Army.

It was decided in the meeting that more resources would be provided to the food department to deal with any untoward situation during corona pandemic.

"Announcements through Mosques would be made to ask public to stay in their houses, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities. All deputy commissioners would present the latest situational report of their respective districts to the Prime Minister at 04:00pm daily. All government employees would continue to perform their official duties taking precautionary measures and sitting at three feet distance from each other in their offices", decided in the meeting.

A committee headed by secretary finance was constituted in the meeting to prepare a report of economic losses due to the corona pandemic.

On this occasion, the concerned authorities thoroughly briefed the prime minister on the latest situation of coronavirus in the state.

It was told in the meeting that trial service of corona tests has been started in the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences Muzaffarabad. Meeting also reviewed the screening and checking arrangements at all entry points of the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan directed the concerned authorities to immediately trace those persons who had recently returned to the AJK from abroad. "They, after their tests, must immediately be shifted in quarantine centers", he directed.

He also directed for further strengthening of the checking and screening systems at entry points. "All Deputy Commissioners must submit their performance report daily at 4:00pm", he added.

He also directed the concerned authorities to ensure availability of edibles and other basic necessities of life to

masses throughout the state.

Raja Farooq Haider advised to extend full cooperation to the workers engaged on daily wages besides providing them essential commodities on immediate basis.

He urged civil society, religious scholars and traders to help government to effectively deal with the corona pandemic.

Raja Farooq Haider Khan directed health officials to constitute LHWs, LHWs teams to visit door to door and help educate masses regarding corona pandemic.

He said no negligence will be tolerated regarding the hundred percent implementation of the government policies.

The video link meeting was attended by Minister Health, focal person on corona virus Dr. Najeeb Naqi, Minister State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Ahmed Raza Qadri, Chief Secretary Mather Niaz Rana, Divisional Commissioners, DIGs and Deputy Commissioners of all ten districts.

All pharma Cos should provide medicines for preventing COVID-19

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal on Sunday said all pharmaceuticals and distribution companies should provide coronavirus

or COVID-19 preventing drugs and medicines to the public.

In a meeting with Pharmaceutical Association representatives, Chairman NDMA said Pakistan was currently facing a difficult situation, a press release said. He added that it was not the time for making illegal profits rather saving human lives. "Nations collectively cope with issues in case of any calamity."

NDMA, he said was ready to provide all kind of support and assistance to pharmaceutical companies and distributors.

'Nation united in fight against pandemic coronavirus'

President of Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) Syed M Siddiq Hasan on Sunday said that in this hour of emergency, the whole nation stood united behind the Prime Minister Imran Khan and shunning all their differences.

He requested the citizens to follow the instructions of the government by staying home and avoiding all unnecessary movement for the sake of their own safety, according to a press release.

"Insha Allah, with our resolve to fight against this contagious virus keeping in view Quaid i Azam's golden words, 'Unity, Faith and Discipline', we will overcome this crisis," he concluded.

All markets, shopping malls and parks closed

SARGODHA: All markets, shopping malls and parks across the city were closed on Sunday in the Sargodha district on the orders of the Punjab government.

According to details, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus the Punjab Government has directed the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts across the province to be close all the shopping malls and markets in their districts for two days.

In this connection on Sunday all the markets and bazaar including Faisal bazaar, Katchery bazaar, Amin bazaar, Urdu bazaar, Karkhana bazaar and all the shopping malls in City were closed and tightened security arrangements were taken by the district administration and police contingent were also present in markets. —APP

Coronavirus: 3 hotels sealed for serving meal

SIALKOT: Salkot Assistant Commissioner Javeria Maqbul has sealed three hotels in Sialkot city for serving meals to people, in violation of the official ban.

Police also registered separate cases against the owners of the hotels and sent them behind the bars.

The AC also sealed a general store of Suleman JJ Karim in Ram Talaai locality of Sialkot and imposed Rs 50,000 fine for selling fake sanitisers. —APP

Bazars remain closed after govt notification

PESHAWAR: All bazars shopping centers, hotels and restaurants remained closed on Sunday after notification issued by government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in connection of coronavirus.

The provincial government notified to close all bazars from March 22 till March 24 for three days across the province.

In other notification the government also imposed ban on public transport that all inter-district public transport will remain suspended with immediate effect for a period of one week from March 23. The order would not applicable to intera-district (local) passenger transport in district.

These measures are taken to ensure social distancing as a strategy to save people after outbreak of coronavirus which has affected numbers of people in different areas of Pakistan. —APP

Three injured as roof of house caves in

KHANEWAL: Three persons including two kids sustained injuries as roof of house caved near Sabir chowk Kacha Khoh.

According to Rescue-1122, the construction work was continued at a roof of house that suddenly caved in.

As a result, three people seven years old Umair, 13 years old Malaika and 40 years old Arshad sustained injuries.

Rescue-1122 shifted the injured to Rural health centre Kacha Khoh. —APP

Pak scientist elected as chair of UNFCCC's consultative group

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Another proud moment for Pakistan after receiving huge admiration and praise at global foras for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures its first scientist Muhammad Arif Goheer has been elected as chair of Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Talking to APP, Head-Agriculture and Coordination, Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) – a research arm of the Ministry of Climate Change, Muhammad Arif Goheer said in the 24th UNFCCC conference of parties (COP24) held in Katowice, Poland, he was nominated by the Government of Pakistan and elected as a member representing Asia and Pacific region in the 24-member

group.

In February 2019, in the 1st Meeting of CGE held in Bonn Germany he was elected as the Rapporteur, based on the unanimous decision of nomination from CGE members, of Asia, and in the 3rd meeting held almost a month ago, he has been elected as the Chair of the CGE. His election as a Chair is a matter of pride for Pakistan, Mr Goheer noted.

He had a wide experience of research on climate change, agriculture and food security issues besides having a long expertise in the preparation of Green House Gas inventories.

He has the experience of working with World Meteorological Organization as member of Commission on Agricultural Meteorology. He was a fellow of International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA, Austria), Australian National University (Can-

berra, Australia) and LEAD-Pakistan. He has contributed to seminal National documents of Second National Communication, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the leading roles and has also represented Pakistan in the negotiations on climate change pertaining to agriculture and food security and adaptation & mitigation.

Arif Goheer has taken charge of the CGE as its chair at a very critical time when the world was looking for enhanced climate action, especially when there is a dire need to explain and capacitate the developing countries in reporting their emissions, planning and designing actions enabling the flow of support and reinforcement of global greening since the Paris Agreement could only work if transparency was in place.

The Consultative Group of Experts on

National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) was established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth session, in 1999, as an expert group to assist developing countries in improving their National Communications (NCs), and since COP 19, their Biennial Update Reports (BURs).

The CGE assists non-Annex I Parties by providing them with technical support and advice in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner to build the countries' capacity in meeting their reporting requirements to the Convention.

The CGE is composed of 24 members representing: five members each from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean; six members from Annex I Parties; one member each from three international organizations, and one observer representing

Sahiwal police arrest 37 most wanted gang members: DPO

By Atif Ishaq

SAHIWAL: Sahiwal Police claimed to have arrested 37 gang members including 16 gang leader. They have been involved in various illegal activities including robbery, theft and murder. Police also have recovered worth 15 millions and returned the same to the rightful owners. Police said the accused were involved in different cases in Sahiwal.

District Police Officer (DPO) Sahiwal Capt.(R) Muhammad Ali Zia said that directives have been issued to police officers to hasten their efforts to curb street crimes. Zia has said that police were using all available resources to protect life and property of citizens and that's the basic of police job.

DPO said that police arrested 5 gangs including 16 gang leaders for involved in illegal activities including theft, murder, illegal weapons and others cases.

While talking to the correspondent Ali Zia has said that police team under



the supervision of SP investigation, SDPO carried out different operations in Thana farid town SHO Zamman Watto, Thana galla mandi, Thana civiline, Thana city and other police stations on scientific basis to arrest all of these 37 from gang member involved in illegal activities in Sahiwal. Police has also recovered car, motor bikes, smart phone, Tractors, Stolen animals and illegal weapons from their possession. Accused were wanted by the police in

different cases, said DPO.

Talking to The Business DPO Capt.(R) Muhammad Ali Zia said that main focus of police department to resolving public complaints and take every possible step to provide maximum relief to citizens, that's the only way to build trust between public and police department. He said those police officials who are responsible in delaying the registration of cases and doing sluggish investigation would not be spared at any price and strict disciplinary action must be taken against them if any one fall in this category.

He said officers been directed to take action against those been found involved in crime of any nature. Zia directed to all officers strictly for launching crackdown on drug pushers and register cases on the spot against those involved in such heinous crime. Effective policing is only possible through cooperation of public and trust between them would be enhanced by resolving their problems, he added.



ISLAMABAD: People in queue to purchase face mask in a Chemist shop at the Blue Area.