

PIA issues travel advisory for passengers of Gilgit, Skardu

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has issued traveling advisory for the passengers of Gilgit and Skardu to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. According to spokesman of PIA on Sunday, the National Flag carrier has declared the use of mask mandatory for the passengers coming or going to from Gilgit and Skardu. The spokesperson added that all passengers must wear face mask and adopt all precautionary measures. —APP

The Business

Lahore, Sunday, March 30, 2020 Shaban 05, 1441

Ban on public transport extended till April 5 in KP

PESHAWAR: Ban on public passengers transport has been extended till April 5 for safety measures of the masses following escalation in the cases of Coronavirus in the province. According to a notification of Relief and Resettlement Dept here Sunday, ban on inter district and intra districts passengers transport has been extended till April 5 to ensure social distancing of people in the wake of escalation of transmission of coronavirus. —APP

First coronavirus positive case in Sialkot district

From Our Staff Correspondent

SIALKOT: The Sialkot Health Department on Sunday confirmed first coronavirus positive case in Tehsil Daska.

According to an official, the coronavirus tests of a Daska-based man, Ameer Hamza, were found positive and declared him as the first confirmed coronavirus patient in the district.

Hamza had returned back to home in Daska from France a few days ago. The Health Department conducted his and his family's coronavirus tests. His test reports were found positive while his family members' reports were still awaited.

Hospital sources said Hamza and his wife were admitted to the Isolation Ward at Government Allama Iqbal Memorial Teaching Hospital Sialkot, while his family members and friends were quarantined at their homes in Daska city with due police security.

Sialkot Deputy Commissioner, Dr Nasir Mehmood Bashir visited the house of corona patient in Daska and briefed his mother and other family members about the sensitivity of the situation.

The woman assured the visiting official of her full cooperation for her son's medical treatment and safety of other family members.

Balochistan cuts short sentences of prisoners

From Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Balochistan government has announced to reduce the sentences of prisoners by four months in a wake of preventing coronavirus outbreak.

According to media reports, prisoners jailed for terrorism and heinous crimes will not get benefit from this move.

Earlier, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah had issued a nine-page written order asking for the release of some prisoners.

In the order, IHC has barred police from making any unnecessary arrests and has asked for the release of those prisoners who do not pose a threat to society.



ABBOTTABAD: Army and local men shift body of Major (retired) Ilyas for funeral, who died due to COVID-19 in CMH Abbottabad. —Online

Development of agriculture

Ministry of IT, FAO sign agreement

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of IT and Telecommunication and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations have virtually signed framework collaboration agreement to jointly work for the development of agriculture sector of Pakistan by using information technology.

Shoab Ahmad Siddique, Secretary IT & Telecommunication and Minā Dowlatchahi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative virtually signed framework collaboration agreement while sitting in Pakistan and Rome, Italy respectively, said press

release. As to control the spread of Coronavirus social distancing is imperative, Ministry of IT is performing all its function through use of ICT. Online signing of collaboration agreement with FAO is an example of performing official duty while ensuring social distancing. The FAO country representative in Pakistan signed agreement while she was located in Italy one of the worst-hit country by Coronavirus.

Speaking at the occasion, Shoab Ahmed Siddique said that agriculture is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy as it contributes around 20 percent in the overall gross domestic product (GDP) and is also a big source of employ-

ment. Low growth, water shortage, environmental concerns, volatile energy prices, rising expectations of consumers — these are some of the complex challenges the agriculture sector is facing today, in the face of diminishing production profit margins for farmers. He said Ministry of IT & Telecommunication would do everything to resolve these challenges through technology interventions by bringing innovative solutions for increased yield and profit margins for the farmers by diminishing the role of middlemen. Shoab Ahmad Siddique also expressed deep grief over loss of precious lives due to Coronavirus in Italy and expressed sympathies for deceased families.

Call to extend export sectors' incentives

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Friends of Business & Economic Reforms (FEBR) has expressed dissatisfaction over the financial package announced by the government to cope with the challenges posed by coronavirus, saying it must have taken more steps to give maximum relief to the poverty-stricken people.

"However, we appreciate the PM's incentives for the export industry, demanding to extend the same benefits to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which was being affected seriously in the wake of coronavirus pandemic", observed FEBR President Kashif Anwar.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he added that the government should have brought down the prices of the petroleum products to at least Rs80 per litre by announcing cut of Rs30 per litre to provide some visible relief to the people. He said that the current relief was not enough keeping in view of magnitude of the crisis.

It is to be noted that the price of petroleum products has been slashed by just Rs15 as a breather for the public under a complete lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak in Pakistan. According to a notification issued by the federal finance ministry, after the cost reduction, petrol is available for Rs96.58 per litre. High diesel costs Rs107.25, while light diesel is being sold for Rs62.51 per litre.

He lamented that the government last month had jacked up the petroleum levy on POL products for pocketing at least additional Rs.5 billion through consumption of two major products petrol and diesel. The petroleum levy on diesel was increased by Rs7.05 to Rs25.05 per litre. The petroleum levy on petrol was increased by Rs4.75 to Rs19.75 per litre, which is very unfortunate.

He suggested that the government should have waived off the utility bills for local industry as making the manufacturers pay the gas and electricity bills in installments would ultimately add up to their financial burden.

Kashif Anwar said that keeping in view of rising number of coronavirus cases the government should provide protective gears to the medical staff and doctors besides taking steps to establish laboratories at least at the divisional level to conduct the tests of the suspected patients. He said that the power consumers who were using up to 300 units were not given any concession, which is a cheating with the poor consumers. The business community leader asked the PM to extend exporters incentive to also the SMEs sector.

He said that the small industries and traders had closed down their businesses in the province and were facing immense financial losses amid outbreak of coronavirus pandemic. He demanded of the government to include SMEs in the relief package.

NEWS PAPER ARE SAFE FROM CORONA VIRUS.

Newspapers are the most unlikely object to get affected with the COVID-19. There has never been a documented incident whereby the COVID-19 virus has been transmitted from a print newspaper, print magazine, print letter, or print package, according to the world's top doctors and scientists.

Source: Earl J. Wilkinson, Executive Director and CEO, International News Media Association (INMA), Dallas, Texas, United States.

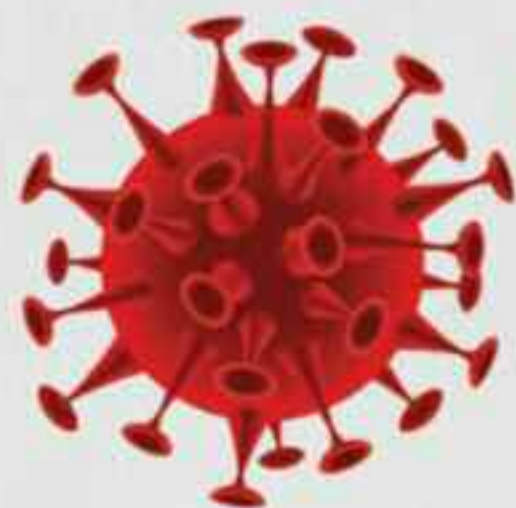
You can't catch coronavirus from newspapers, WHO confirms.

The World Health Organization has confirmed newspapers remain safe to read during the coronavirus pandemic.

The WHO has stated that the likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low, and therefore the risk of contracting COVID-19 through receipt of a printed paper is infinitely small.

A study from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), UCLA, and Princeton University scientists showed the coronavirus lasts longest on smooth, non-porous surfaces. For newspaper, which is much more porous than cardboard, virus viability is presumably even shorter.

A virologist at John Innes Centre George Lomonosovskii, stated, "Newspapers are pretty sterile because of the way they are printed and the process they've been through. Traditionally, people have eaten fish and chips out of them for that very reason. So all of the ink and the print makes them actually quite sterile. The chances of that are infinitesimal."



During the time of global pandemic, newspapers publications have stood firm worldwide and will make sure to provide credible news as always.

The Guardian
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

The New York Times
NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

The Washington Post
MARCH 27, 2020

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

人民日报
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

THE AUSTRALIAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

CPNE
Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors

Lockdown

Modi seeks 'forgiveness' from India's poor

The Business Report

MUMBAI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the nation's poor for forgiveness on Sunday, as the economic and human toll from his 21-day nationwide lockdown deepens and criticism mounts about a lack of adequate planning ahead of the decision.

Modi announced a three week-lockdown on Tuesday to curb the spread of coronavirus. But the decision has stung millions of India's poor, leaving many hungry and forcing jobless migrant laborers to flee cities and walk hundreds of kilometers to their native villages. "I would firstly like to seek forgiveness from all my countrymen," Modi said in a nationwide radio address.

The poor "would definitely be thinking what kind of prime minister is this, who has put us into so much trouble," he said, urging people to understand there was no other option.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in India rose to 979 on Sunday, with 25 deaths. The government announced a \$22.6 billion economic stimulus plan on Thursday to provide direct cash transfers and food handouts to India's poor. In an opinion piece published on Sunday, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo — two of the three winners of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019 — said even more aid for the poor is needed.

Global coronavirus death toll surges past 30,000

The Business Report

ROME: The global death toll from the Covid-19 crossed 30,000 as US President Donald Trump pulled back on putting the hard-hit New York region under quarantine.

Up to one-third of the world's population is under lockdown as the virus leaves its devastating imprint on nearly every aspect of society: wiping out millions of jobs, straining health care services and weighing heavily on national treasuries for years to come.

Globally, the death toll has surged past 30,000 and officials in some countries say the worst still lies ahead. But in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus outbreak first struck, officials took tentative steps back toward normality, partly reopening the city after more than two months of near total isolation for its population of 11 million. Trump decided late Saturday against imposing a broad lockdown on New York and its neighbours after a strong pushback from local political leaders and warnings of the panic it could spark. "A quarantine will not be necessary," Trump tweeted, about eight hours after he stunned the New York metropolitan region, the epicentre of the US coronavirus outbreak, with a proposal to place it under quarantine to prevent residents from leaving.

Instead, he was asking federal authorities to issue a "strong Travel Advisory" against movement to and from the area. Trump's reversal came on the same day the US death toll topped 2,100, more than doubling in just three days. Of the 2,147 deaths, more than a quarter — 672 — were in New York City.

Health officials say they fear New York may follow the deadly path charted by Italy, with health professionals exhausted and hospitals desperately short of protective equipment and ventilators. The United States now has the highest number of confirmed COVID-

19 cases in the world, at 122,666, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University.

One of the deaths announced Saturday was that of an infant in Chicago who was younger than one year old, marking an extremely rare case of juvenile death in the global pandemic. Italy and Spain Compared to the US, European nations have been harder hit on a per capita basis, with 20,059 deaths.

Italy on Saturday announced 889 new deaths, pushing it past the 10,000 mark.

Spain, which has the world's second-highest death toll, added 832 deaths for a total 5,812. Madrid toughened a nationwide lockdown, halting all non-essential activities, though officials said the epidemic in the country seemed to be nearing a peak.

Russia, which has reported relatively low levels of the virus, said it would close its borders Monday in an attempt to slow the pandemic's spread. More than 640,770 cases of the novel coronavirus have been officially recorded around the world since the outbreak began late last year, according to an AFP tally.

Variations in testing regimes — and delays in providing sufficient tests in some countries — mean the true number is likely far higher.

In France, which has seen close to 2,000 deaths, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe warned the "battle" was just beginning. The first two weeks in April would be even tougher than the past fortnight, he said.

The British toll passed 1,000 on Saturday. Elsewhere, Iran announced 139 more deaths and India sealed off a dozen Punjab villages that had been visited by a guru now known to be infected and a possible "super-spreader". Sri Lanka and Qatar recorded their first deaths and Turkey hit 100 fatalities.

South African police resorted to rubber bullets in Johannesburg to enforce social distancing on a crowd queuing for supplies

Second Pak shipment of citrus arrives in China

The Business Report

BEIJING: The second shipment of citrus imported from Pakistan has arrived in Dalian, a major sub-provincial port city in Liaoning province of China.

"A container of 40 feet containing around 27 tons of kinnow imported from Pakistan has arrived in Dalian," Adnan Hafeez, Partner-You Lian Feng Food Trade (Dalian) Co. Ltd told APP here on Sunday. He informed that third shipment was on way and was likely to reach in first week of next month.

The import of Pakistan kinnow was started with the arrival of first shipment

at port of Dalian. The fresh golden oranges from Pakistan were put on display in the markets for the consumers from March 5. According to details, the protocol for qualitative procedures of citrus export between Pakistan and China was signed back in 2005, but due to strict requirements, no trader actually succeeded to implement it.

Previously, in 2016, a company tried to import, but failed due to non-fulfillment of cold treatment. Adnan Hafeez said his team had been working on the technical formalities of this project since September 2018 but was not able to import citrus owing to technical issues. Moreover, the

processing units which had a licence for China were afraid to meet the high standards of China as well.

He informed that after almost two years of hard work, his company finally finalized all the arrangements and the first shipment of Pakistani citrus was exported from Pakistan in third week of January and cleared from Dalian Customs on February 22. He acknowledged support of Dalian Custom authorities who played a vital role in guiding his company about the procedures. He expressed the confidence that Pakistani citrus would get a very good response in China, one of the largest markets in the world.