



HYDERABAD: Youngsters jump and bath in Phuleli Canal to get some relief from hot weather.

PNCA celebrates Eid online with veteran celebrities

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: While adopting the social distancing for Eid gatherings, PNCA invited various Pakistani celebrities for online meetup through video calls for its programme titled 'Eid Gup Shup' for art lovers.

This initiative was taken by Director General Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Dr Fozia Saeed.

She had creative and entertaining discussions with big names in entertainment industry such as Sania Saeed, Irfan Khoosat, Kishwar Naheed, Hina Bayat, Khalid Ahmad, Shahid M. Nadeem and actor Muhammad Qavi Khan.

Dr Fozia Saeed, while going live on Facebook official page of PNCA, discussed the ups and down of Pakistan's entertainment industry with these celebrities along with talking about their personal and professional experiences during on going pandemic of corona-virus.

Actress Sania Saeed said expressing her thoughts through arts has been the greatest pleasure of her life. She said government institutes such as PNCA and Lok Virsa hold extra re-

sponsibility for promoting artists with talent and make them strong to fight the cultural invasions.

She stressed that being a theater artist herself, she wanted to work in every regional language including Saraiki, Sindhi, Pashto and Hindku. "PTV used to produce dramas in all national languages and it used to encircle the big numbers of audience across the country", she recalled.

Writer and columnist Kishwar Naheed also talked about her decades of journey in literature. She said that our youth must learn to read. "Reading opens the mind's canvas and makes one think differently. This depicts the progressive approach of the society", she said.

Recalling the golden days of PTV, veteran actor Irfan Khoosat said that our content back in the days had more depth and always had a message within. "Drama series written by legendary writers such as Ashfaq Ahmad and Bano Qudsiya was the peak of drama writing in our industry", he said.

Another veteran actor Muhammad Qavi suggested the young generation of actors to struggle patiently.

"When you get everything at once,

it makes you numb creatively. our young generation has great talent all they need to practice is respect a patience", he added.

The celebrities appreciated this initiative by PNCA to keep the art and artists engaged in these times of social distancing. The live sessions of these discussion were held daily since first day of Eid.

JUI(F) leadership expresses condolence over demise of journalist due to coronavirus

Leadership of Jamaat Ullema-e-Islam (JUI)F have expressed their profound grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of Peshawar based journalist, Fakharudin Syed due to prevailing pandemic of corona.

In a condolence message issued here on Thursday, Amir of JUI(F) KP, Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman and Provincial Secretary Information, Abdul Jalil Jan while expressing grief over the death of Fakharuddin Syed also paid tributes to his dedication to journalism profession.

They said late Fakharuddin was very humble, friendly and well mannered journalist who always met people cordially with a welcoming smile on his face.

World HR bodies urged to take notice of IOK situation

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: APHC-AJK Chapter Member and Vice Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Employees Movement, Imtiaz Wani, has said that India is suppressing the Kashmiris' freedom movement through military might but will never succeed in its nefarious designs.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Wani in a statement has expressed serious concern over the continued cordon and search operations, killings and arrest of youth in occupied Kashmir.

He urged the world human rights bodies to take notice of the grim human rights situation in the occupied territory. He said that the entire world was facing fatal COVID-19 pandemic but India had created an atmosphere of fear in the occupied territory.

He said that India was committing atrocities to suppress the Kashmiris' voice but it was forgetting the historical fact not a freedom movement could be suppressed through use of brute force.

Wani also paid glowing tributes to the youth, recently martyred by Indian troops and reiterated the

Kashmiris' resolve to continue their liberation struggle till complete success.

He condemned the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists including APHC chairman, Syed Ali Gillani, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Aasiya Andrabi, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Butt, Dr Muhammad Shafi Shariyati, Dr Muhammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja Merajud-Din Kalwal, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Shahi-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Syed Shakeel Ahmed, Muhammad Yousuf Falahi and Abdul Ahad Parra. He appealed to the international human rights organisations to take cognizance of the plight of the Kashmiri detainees and press India to release them forthwith.

Motorway Police saves life of passenger, reunites mentally handicapped boy with family

The timely action of National Highways and Motorway Police has saved the life of the passenger who suffered a heart attack and reunited

the mentally handicapped boy with his family.

According to a press release issued here Thursday, Inspector Khalid Rahim and Inspector Noman, during routine patrol near Burhan, saw a vehicle parked on the side of the road and stopped for help.

Dildar Ahmed, aged about 55, was in critical condition in a state of semi-consciousness. Sensing the urgency of the situation, they provided him first aid and rushed the patient to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences by ambulance. Doctors said that he had a severe heart attack but survived due to timely action.

In another operation, while patrolling on the motorway near Bhaira, Motorway Police officers spotted a 12-year-old boy in a state of distress. When approached, it transpired that the boy was mentally handicapped and could not recall the name of his village. The Motorway Police announced in the mosques of the nearby area (Bhaira). This effort proved to be effective and the father of the boy was traced. The boy was handed over to his family.

DIG Motorway Ashfaq Ahmed appreciated and commended the of-

Four people died in rivers, streams of Haripur while swimming

From Our Staff Correspondent

ABBOTTABAD: Despite a ban on swimming in the dams, lakes and streams of district Haripur at least four people have lost their lives during the last two days of Eid-ul-Fitr vacation while swimming.

As the mercury increases above 35-degree people particularly youth from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Taxila, Hassan Abdal, Haripur, Abbottabad and other areas reached Khanpur dam, Ghazi Brotha, Bhutri dam and streams to enjoy the cool and deep water but unfortunately every year many people died while swimming. Asif Masood son of Masood resi-

dent of Tarlia Islamabad visited stream Haro at Khanpur along with his friends for a picnic and started swimming in the deep water of the stream where the fast pace of water could not allow to come out and lost his life.

His friends called Rescue 1122 Khanpur for help, the swimmers of the Rescue recovered the dead body of Asif Masood and handed over to the family after completion of medico legal formalities.

At the same place another person who also drowned in the Haro stream while swimming recovered by the Rescue 1122, through social media the boy was identified as Hamad Azhar resident of Supply Abbottabad.

On the third day of Eid Kashif son of Khalid resident of Golra Road Rawalpindi who was visiting Haripur along with his family and went to river Door at Qazian village for swimming where he was drowned by a flash flood and recovered by the locals.

At Ghazi Brotha stream a family of Afghan Refugee camp Haripur came for a picnic when 20 years old boy Ghulab son of Arifullah drowned in Ghazi Brotha stream. Rescue 1122 and local swimmers have tried all night to find his dead body but they failed. On 19th May Deputy Commissioner Haripur imposed a ban on swimming in rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes of the district Haripur.

COVID-19: US passes dire milestone of 100,000 deaths

WASHINGTON, DC: Unthinkable just four months ago, the United States surpassed the grim milestone of 100,000 coronavirus deaths, as the pandemic tightened its grip on Latin America.

With the European Union unveiling a massive recovery plan to step up its emergence from the crisis, the catastrophic US figure was a reminder of the devastation being wreaked across the ocean all over the hard-hit Americas.

Confirmed US deaths just before 2200 GMT stood at 100,047, with 1.69 million infections, according to the tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paused during a news conference to note the staggering toll of the "villainous virus," even as states cautiously re-open their shuttered, devastated economies.

"Little did we know we would be coming here almost at the exact time when our country would be registering 100,000 people dying from the coronavirus," Pelosi said. Joe Biden, the Democratic Party's presumptive presidential nominee, noted the grisly landmark by speaking directly to suffering families.

"To those hurting, I'm so sorry for your loss," the former vice president said via tweet. "The nation grieves with you." South America, especially its largest nation, Brazil, has raised fresh alarm. While many Western nations are creeping back toward some form of normality, the virus has continued its march in Latin America, which is outpacing Europe and the US in daily infections. "We are particularly concerned that the number of new cases reported last week in Brazil was the highest for a seven-day period since the outbreak began," said Carissa Etienne, director of the Washington-based Pan American Health Organization.

"Both Peru and Chile are also re-



porting a high incidence, a sign that transmission is still accelerating in these countries."

Brazil reported the highest daily deaths in the world for the fifth straight day, pushing its toll to 24,512, with infections soaring to more than 390,000. The virus is also fuelling a political crisis in Brazil, where right-wing president Jair Bolsonaro has downplayed the threat and lashed out at state governors who have asked people to stay home.

Europe meanwhile has slowly started reopening businesses as outbreaks on the continent slow, but Italy and Spain lack the firepower of richer European nations to rebuild their economies. The EU unveiled a historic, 750-billion-euro (US\$825-billion) recovery plan to get the continent back on its feet.

It follows other unprecedented emergency measures introduced around the world to rescue economies shattered by the disease, which has claimed more than 353,000 lives as infections top 5.6 million.

"This is Europe's moment," EU Commission chief Ursula Von der

Leyen said, urging solidarity.

"We either all go it alone, leaving countries, regions and people behind ... or we walk that road together."

The proposed package is expected to kick off tough negotiations, as backers try to win the support of some northern EU states that oppose paying out grants to nations already under mountains of debt. The proposal comes as the continent - which has lost at least 173,000 people to COVID-19 - grapples with the human tragedy and economic destruction.

Spain on Wednesday began 10 days of official mourning for the more than 27,000 people who died in the country, with all flags on public buildings at half-mast. The Iberian nation and others hit particularly hard, including Italy, Germany, France and Britain, have started easing their lockdowns, as people head to shops, sunbathe at beaches and run in parks after months of confinement. While desperate to kickstart their economies, especially the tourism sector, most governments in Europe are also trying to move cautiously, afraid of a second wave of infections. —AFP

Bali's tourism industry expected to reopen in July, says Indonesian planning minister

JAKARTA: Indonesia's most popular holiday destination Bali is expected to be ready to resume business in July, the country's national development planning minister said. Businesses in Bali have been shut down for the last two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in an economic slowdown of 1.14 per cent. This makes Bali one of the most economically affected regions in Indonesia, according to the government.

The plan to reopen Bali's tourism industry comes after the total number of COVID-19 cases reported on the island has been relatively low, at 420 as of Thursday. There are more than 24,000 cases nationwide. More than 300 people have so far recovered and four people have died in Bali. The fatality rate of the province is around 1 per cent, said minister for national development planning Suharto Monoarfa said at a COVID-19 task force press conference. Bali has a population of 4.2 million people. Last year, there were 6.3 million foreign visitors to the island. We are here to help! COVID-19 has affected all of us. Whether you

are looking for work now or further down the road, WSG can help get your career back on track. The minister said: "The Bali government has managed the situation relatively well. We expect Bali will be ready to open for business soon in July. "However, new health protocols must be followed when opening economic activities." He added that Bali seems to have contained COVID-19 due to a well-defined leadership structure, which involved traditional leaders in the community and guards who work voluntarily.

"They screen visitors who enter the villages, prevent large gatherings, monitor quarantine orders and make sure people follow the COVID-19 protocols such as wearing masks, and washing their hands frequently," Mr Monoarfa said. A traveller walks through nearly empty international arrivals terminal of Gusti Ngurah Rai airport.

A traveller walks through nearly empty international arrivals terminal of Gusti Ngurah Rai airport amid the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Bali, Indonesia,

US revokes Hong Kong special status as anger grows over China law

WASHINGTON: The United States has revoked Hong Kong's special status under US law, opening the way for the city to be stripped of trading privileges, as Washington accused China of trampling on the territory's autonomy.

The decision came as China's parliament was set to vote on a new Hong Kong security law, a move that has triggered renewed protests.

Under legislation passed last year to support Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters, the US administration must certify that the city still enjoys the freedoms promised by Beijing when it negotiated with Britain to take back the colony.

"No reasonable person can assert today that Hong Kong maintains a high degree of autonomy from China, given facts on the ground," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, adding the trade hub "does not continue to warrant" its special status.

The determination means that Hong Kong could lose its trading privileges, including lower tariffs than the mainland, with the world's largest economy.

President Donald Trump will ultimately decide which actions to take, said David Stilwell, the top State Department official for East Asia.

"The steps will be considered and they will be as targeted as possible to change behaviour," Stilwell told reporters, while acknowledging it was unlikely Beijing would change course.

He said the United States did not want to hurt the people of Hong Kong, adding: "This decision was made by the government in Beijing, and not by the US."

China's National People's Congress is expected on Thursday to take another step on the security law that would ban secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference - a step that Hong Kong activists say abolishes basic freedoms. "While the United States once hoped that free and prosperous Hong Kong would provide a model for authoritarian China, it is now clear that China is modelling Hong Kong after itself," Pompeo said. China's treatment of Hong Kong has provoked rare bipartisan support during the divisive tumult of the Trump administration and ahead of November's presidential election.

"The United States must take a stand against China's crackdown in Hong Kong," the campaign office for Democratic rival Joe Biden said, welcoming Pompeo's announcement.

The Hang Seng Index on the city's stock exchange was down 1.8 per cent around lunchtime. Hundreds of demonstrators with banners march along a downtown street during a protest against Beijing's national security legislation in Hong Kong. Joshua Wong, a prominent pro-democracy activist who has lobbied for trade sanctions, said Beijing could not expect foreign countries to ignore what is happening to such an important global trade hub.

"Hong Kong is not just a Chinese city, it's a global metropolis where the international community is a stakeholder," he told reporters. —AFP



Angry US protests, looting over police killing of black man in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS: Demonstrators gathered for a second night of protests over the killing in the US city of Minneapolis of a handcuffed black man by a policeman who held him to the ground with a knee on his neck.

As dusk fell, police formed a human barricade around the Third Precinct, where the officers accused of killing George Floyd worked before they were fired on Tuesday.

Hundreds of protesters, many

wearing face coverings, filled streets near the scene of the deadly encounter for a second day, some clashing with police in riot gear who fired tear gas into the crowds and lobbed concussion grenades.

People gather at the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct station to protest the death of George Floyd.

A man is injured after being hit in the head by an object at a protest at the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct station in Minneapolis,

Minnesota, U.S. May 27, 2020. REUTERS/Eric Miller

Demonstrators pelted police with rocks, water bottles and other projectiles. Local television news footage from a helicopter flying over the area showed dozens of individuals looting a Target store, running out with armloads of clothing and shopping carts filled with merchandise.

Minneapolis police chief Medaria Arradondo cautioned protesters to remain peaceful. —AFP