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'Corona politics' of opposition will not work now: CM

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INTERNATIONAL P7
Trump threatens to regulate or shut down social media companies

Govt focusing on attracting FDI, transfer of tech to SEZs: Razzak

ISLAMABAD: The Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood on Wednesday said the government was prioritizing development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and transfer of technology into the country.

"The SEZs are primarily focused on industrialization that result in export promotion, import substitution, transfer of technologies and employment generation, which are the primary targets of our government as well," Abdul Razak Dawood told this agency here.

The advisor said the establishment of SEZs was critical to resolving Balance of Payment Issues as "we tend to give priority to enterprises which are involved in export generation or import substitution" he said.

Talking about the criteria, the advisor said that only those economic zones are given status of SEZ which are successful in export generation and import substitution while at zone enterprise level, the admission into an SEZ is based on the economic viability of the business proposal.

Razzak Dawood said this economic viability was gauged through the expected employment generation, domestic raw material consumption, imported raw material, and local and imported machinery at the time of consideration of the zone entry application.

He said as more and more zone enterprises are coming into production the monitoring of these commitments has become indispensable, informing that instead of leaving it up to the developers or SEZs for that matter, the SEZ Secretariat at BoI was working to not only consolidate the data for gauging the actual benefits at zone enterprise level.



RAWALPINDI: Indian spying quadcopter shot down by Pakistan Army troops in Rakhchikri Sector along LoC. The quadcopter had intruded 650 meters on Pakistan's side of the border.

Indian spy quadcopter shot down

By Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: After China, Pakistan has also given a strong reply to India's cross-border transgressions and shot down its spy quadcopter near the Line of Control (LoC).

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), an Indian spy quadcopter was shot down by Pakistani troops in Rakhchikri sector. The Indian spy drone had entered a distance of 650 meters in Pakistani territory.

This is not the first time that India has unsuccessfully tried to spy on Pakistan with the help of quadcopters. In April this year, the Pakistan Army shot down an Indian spy drone for entering Pakistani airspace. This Indian spy drone had violated the LOC in the Sankh sector and came 600 meters inside Pakistani territory.

Last year, the Pakistan Army shot down three quadcopters, crushing the enemy's intentions. The first quadcopter was shot down on January 1, 2019 in Bagh Sector. A day later, India again tried to violate Pakistani borders in the Satwal sector, which was thwarted by the Pakistan Army.

Govt preparing 'Corona Budget' amid challenges

Hafeez vows to give maximum relief to masses in budget

Without enhancing trade, business relations with other countries, we could not progress

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Hafeez Sheikh has said the government is preparing 'Corona Budget' and vowed to provide maximum relief to the people in the upcoming budget.

According to media reports while talking to a private news channel, he said the government is facilitating the business community as it is playing an important role for boosting economic activities in the country.

The adviser said the government is facing the challenges of coronavirus and economy at the same time and it is making efforts to strengthen the national economy and combating COVID-19 effectively.

He said the government would introduce an agricultural policy in collaboration with all provinces and in this connection prices of fertilizer would be reduced to facilitate farmers.

To another query, he said the government would facilitate the construction industry in the coming budget and it has reduced 90 percent tax for Pakistan Housing Scheme.

He said objective of the government was to provide maximum relief to the people and make their lives easy.

Another report adds: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs Abdul Hafeez Sheikh Tuesday said the government was preparing 'Corona Budget' and trying to provide maximum relief to the people in the upcoming budget.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the government was facilitating the business community as it was playing an important role for boosting economic activities in the country.

He said without enhancing trade and business relations with other countries, the country could not progress. He said the government was trying to resolve issues of the people being confronted by them presently in the upcoming budget.

The adviser said the government was facing the challenges of coronavirus and economy at the same time and it was making efforts to strengthen the national economy and combating COVID-19 effectively.

He said the government would introduce an agricultural policy in collaboration with all provinces and added we

had to take important decisions for bringing improvement in this sector.

He said the government was trying to reduce the prices of fertilizer to facilitate the farmers.

Replying to a question, he said decreasing prices of electricity was a big challenge for the government but it was trying to provide some relief to the people in that regard and the government had already provided subsidies on electricity to 72 percent consumers.

He said the prime minister was paying special attention to energy sector. Oil prices had reduced at international level and it would be helpfully produce energy on low cost.

He said coronavirus had badly affected the national economy and there was a dire need to bridge the gap between the exports and imports and we had to increase our exports at large scale.

To another query, he said the government would facilitate the construction industry in the coming budget, adding it had reduced 90 percent tax for Pakistan Housing Scheme.

He said objective of the government was to provide maximum relief to the people and make their lives eas.

Govt spokesperson should accept 2017-18 figures: Tareen

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Jahangir Tareen has said that he would be grateful if the govt spokespersons acknowledge the farmer compensation figures from 2017-18.

Tareen said that he was the only sugar mill owner who paid the full price of sugarcane to the farmers during 2017-18 season.

In a statement released on social networking site Twitter, Jahangir Tareen retweeted the Prime Minister's tweet dated October 12, 2017. Imran had said in his tweet that Tareen is the only mill owner who paid full price of sugarcane to farmers while the Shehbaz govt had allowed mill owners to pay whatever they wished to farmers.

Rs29b subsidy given to sugar industry in 5 years
Special Assistant to

Prime Minister on Accountability Barrister Shahzad Akbar on Wednesday exposed former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's role of giving Rs. 20 billion subsidy to the Sugar Mafia, in his tenure.

"Commission's report is an indictment against Ex-PM Abbasi" Akbar addressing a press conference in Islamabad said, adding, total subsidy of Rs. 29 billion was given to sugar mills in last five years. Out of Rs 29b, Rs 2.4b subsidy was given by the incumbent Government of Punjab, Akbar said.

He exonerated the federal government of PTI in giving any subsidy on sugar in its tenure but only allowed to export the surplus sugar, adding, the investigation report of the sugar commission is comprehensive and an eye opener.

Seven plane crash victims identified via DNA tests

KARACHI: Seven more bodies of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane crash victims have been identified on Wednesday via DNA process.

The bodies have been identified during the DNA identification process at a Karachi University (KU) forensic lab. The authorities have approached the victim families so that they could collect bodies of their loved ones.

Overall 46 victims of the plane crash have been identified so far of which 37 of them were identified by the families. "Seven people have been identified using DNA process while two others were recognised through their national identity cards (NICs).

It is pertinent to mention here that Sindh Information Minister Nasir Hussain Shah said on Tuesday that the DNA tests of the victims of crashed PIA's PK-8303 will be completed within 10 days.

Nasir Hussain Shah, while addressing a press conference alongside the Sindh minister Saeed Ghani, said that the local administration had timely responded the crash incident as rescue activities were immediately begun at the site.

He said that the personnel of armed forces and Rangers had fully supported the police forces in the rescue operation. Shah said that Eidul Fitr was observed with simplicity due to coronavirus pandemic and PIA plane crash incident.

The minister added that the DNA reports will be handed over to the families of the victims within 10 days. Regarding the COVID-19 situation, Nasir Hussain Shah said that the public should continue following the precautionary guidelines for more days.

Airbus team extends stay for Karachi Air Crash probe

A team of Airbus, arrived in Karachi on Tuesday to assist the probe in recent air crash of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-8303, visited the site of the crash again on Wednesday.

A team of 11 French experts landed in Karachi on a special Airbus 338 on Tuesday morning and visited the location of the plane crash in Karachi. Except two survivors, all 97 passengers and crew members of the aircraft that crashed into a residential area near Karachi airport were confirmed dead.

However, no resident of the Model Colony's Jinnah Garden, where the plane crashed, was among the deceased. The Airbus experts Wednesday reached the plane crash location and expected to analyse the wreckage and collect samples with equipment.

Sindh demands removal of CEO PIA, CAA head

Sindh government has rejected investigation team formed by the federal government to probe Karachi plane crash and demanded removal of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and head of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

According to media reports while addressing a press conference with other provincial ministers, Saeed Ghani said that a dictatorship has been established within the PIA as those who raise their voice have been silenced by the administration. Sindh minister Nasir Hussain said the DNA tests carried out in forensic laboratory of Karachi University take some time, expressing the hope that all tests will be completed in 10 days.

He also assured that no negligence is being committed in treatment of the in-

SBP asks dealers to report place of remitter

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: In order to bring more clarity in the home remittances' data, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has strictly advised authorised dealers to report the original country of remitter while reporting home remittance data through International Transaction Reporting System (ITRS).

According to the SBP, it has been observed that authorized dealers report country of location of head offices of the money transfer companies while reporting data on workers' remittances instead of original country of the remitter.

For example, IME Malaysia may mobilise funds from UAE, however, all remittances mobilised by IME are reported from Malaysia which leads to improper position of country-wise statistics. Therefore, the SBP has strictly advised all authorized dealers to report the original country of remitter while reporting data through ITRS.

Keeping in view the developments required at Information Technology side and acquisition of data from money transfer companies, the authorized dealers will start data reporting according to original country of remitter from July 2020 onwards.

To produce the comparable data series the authorized dealers will also report the revised data from July 2019 to June 2020 by 15th July 2020, the SBP maintained.

Trump offers in India-China border dispute

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he had offered to mediate a standoff between India and China at the Himalayan border, where soldiers camped out in a high-altitude region have accused each other of trespassing over the disputed border.

"We have informed both India and China that the United States is ready, willing and able to mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute," Trump said in a Twitter post. The standoff was triggered by India's construction of roads and air strips in the region as it competes with China's spreading Belt and Road initiative, involving infrastructure development and investment in dozens of countries, Indian observers said on Tuesday.

Both were digging defences and Chinese trucks have been moving equipment into the area, the officials said, raising concerns about an extended standoff.

The Republican president in January offered to "help" in another Himalayan trouble spot, the disputed region of Kashmir that is at the center of a decades-long quarrel between India and Pakistan. This was after a similar offer was rejected in 2019, by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said last July he never asked Trump to help mediate over Kashmir. —Reuters

'Fascist Modi govt' threat to regional peace: Imran

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the "fascist Modi government" in India had become a threat to neighbouring States, putting region's peace in danger.

"The Hindutva Supremacist Modi Govt with its arrogant expansionist policies, akin to Nazi's Lebensraum (Living Space), is becoming a threat to India's neighbours," the prime minister said in a tweet giving reference of Hitler's policies justifying the German expansion in Europe based on racism.

Imran Khan said India

was a threat to Pakistan in shape of false flag operation, while other neighbours including Bangladesh faced the threat through Citizenship Act and Nepal and China through border disputes.

The prime minister said minorities in India were also under threat after being relegated to second class citizens. Imran Khan mentioned that India after illegal annexation of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir were subject to committing a war crime under 4th Geneva Convention and now also for laying claim to Azad Jammu and Kashmir. —APP

Corona cases soar to 60,074 with 1,239 deaths

ISLAMABAD: Confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan on Wednesday jumped to 60,074 after the country reported 1,441 new cases during last 24 hours.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO), 28 more deaths from coronavirus were reported in one day as the nationwide tally of fatalities now stands at 1,239.

As per breakup, 21,118 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 24,206 in Sindh, 8,483 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,536 in Balochistan, 1879 in Islamabad,

638 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 214 in Azad Kashmir.

So far 19,142 patients have recovered from the deadly virus, while 38,784 are still under treatment.

Pakistan has so far conducted 499,399 coronavirus tests and 8,491 in last 24 hours. The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 352,265 lives across the world and more than 5.6 million infections have so far been detected.

The United States has the highest death toll of 100,580 followed by Britain with 37,048 and Italy with 32,955, whereas in Brazil 24,593 people died of

the pandemic. Over 2.43 million infected people have so far been recovered from the disease.

Plasma Therapy: Four COVID-19 patients recovered in Hyderabad

Four more patients infused blood plasma of the patients recovered from COVID-19, have recovered to health at Civil Hospital Hyderabad, top official of the health facility said.

"Five patients of novel coronavirus underwent the passive immunization process at the hospital and four of them recovered to health," Medical Superintendent civil hospital Hyderabad said. A

patient, however died, despite undergoing the plasma therapy at the hospital, the MS said.

Talking on the tally of coronavirus patients in Hyderabad, the doctor said that seven patients of the disease have been under treatment at isolation ward of civil hospital, while 20 other patients being kept in isolation at homes, health official said.

It is to be mentioned here that clinical trials of the process is being carried out under the supervision of Sindh Blood

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN	
Confirmed cases:	60,074
ICT:	1,879
Punjab:	21,118
Sindh:	24,206
KP:	8,483
Balochistan:	3,536
AJK:	214
GB:	638
Recovered:	19,142
Deaths:	1,239