



LAHORE

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CM grants permission for home isolation

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US Supreme Court to take on Trump taxes and presidential immunity



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305 stranded Pakistanis return via Torkham border

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Around 305 stranded Pakistanis in Afghanistan have returned to the country via the Torkham border.

They were received by Assistant Commissioner Shamsul-Islam and security officials at the border. The returned passengers were shifted to Quarantine center in Landi Kotal where their corona tests will be conducted. However, the confirmed coronavirus cases across the country rise to 29,465 after 1,991 new cases reported during the last 24 hours.

According to the national dashboard, 59 new cases were detected in Balochistan, 32 in Islamabad and seven recorded in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Punjab leads the tally with 11,093 cases, followed by Sindh with 10,771. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 4,509 cases have been recorded while 1,935 cases have been reported in Balochistan. Gilgit Baltistan has reported 430, Islamabad 641 and AJK has reported 86 cases so far.

PM proves with action nobody is above law, says Shibli

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Sunday Prime Minister Imran Khan had proved with his action that no one was above law in Naya Pakistan.

The minister, in a tweet, said the opposition had been in shock on the release of the sugar inquiry report as no other political government in the country's history had ever made such a report public.

The past rulers not only tried to hide their wrongdoings but also defended their illegal actions publicly, he added.

NAB probes against corrupts without political influence: Shafqat

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education, Professional Training and National Heritage Shafqat Mahmood Sunday said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) being an independent institution was effectively working to eradicate corruption from the society without political influence.

NAB was carrying out investigation of corruption cases against the bigwigs of the opposition parties including Pakistan Peoples' Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, he said talking to a private news channel.

The minister said there was no draft under consideration to make amendment in NAB laws to bring transparency in its system. He said the government was not registering the cases against anybody and it was also not using power to give relaxation to corrupts and plunderers.

Pakistan is 20th most affected country from virus

The Business Report

LAHORE: Pakistan climbed to the 20th spot on the global coronavirus ranking on Sunday after the nationwide tally of COVID-19 patients crossed 30,000 after Sindh reported 709 new cases.

According to the coronavirus tracker by John Hopkins University, the country is now ranked 27th with 648 deaths.

Earlier on Sunday, the national dashboard in its daily update had stated that 1,991 cases were detected in the country in the last 24 hours taking the national tally to 29,465. This was the biggest single-day jump since February 26 when the first case was reported.

Sindh leads the tally with 11,480 cases, followed by Punjab with 11,093.



KARACHI: A view of an empty Saddar Avenue presenting a deserted look during lockdown. —Online

People cannot be left without jobs for long, says Asad Umar

— Tells that decision of easing restrictions was taken to provide livelihoods to people

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Sunday said that the people cannot be left without jobs for a long time.

Addressing press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, he said that he was happy that national decisions were being taken with consultation, adding that big policy level decisions have been taken and now it is time for their implementation.

The minister said that the decision of easing restrictions was taken to provide livelihoods to the people.

Asad Umar Sunday urged upon every individual to take responsibility of adopting precautionary measures issued by the government and health departments to control the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"Apart from all efforts of health teams, administration and use of technology to contain the disease, the most powerful activist is every individual who has the responsible to not only save himself but to save the whole society and the country from the disease," Asad Umar said while addressing a press briefing here.

Appreciating the people's behavior, he expressed the satisfaction that majority of the people were following the precautionary measures issued by the government to prevent spread of COVID-19. Asad Umar who chairs the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on coronavirus, said it had become even more important to adopt precautionary measures when the government had decided to ease lockdown to provide the people opportunities of earning livelihoods.

He said the situation of coronavirus in the country was not out of control however in case of any emergency, the government was fully prepared to cope with the situation. The minister said the decision of gradual lifting of lockdown was unanimously taken to ensure that the daily wagers and small businessmen should not lose their

sources of income.

But on the other hand, he said, the numbers of COVID patients were also increasing. "The people cannot be left without employments for long time, therefore the government has adopted such a system through which the daily routine life could be ensured along with strict measures to control the disease," he maintained.

Asad Umar said the big policy decisions had already been taken and now the government was ensuring operational implementation on the ground. He said all provincial and federal government departments and armed forces were working together to implement this system.

He specifically appreciated the NCOC team who was working diligently since March 31 without any break. The minister informed that the Testing, Tracking and Quarantining system was being fully implemented. He said the number of tests in the country had increased from 473 tests on March 15 to over 31,000 tests on

May 9. "Now 70 laboratories across the country have the capacity of testing for corona disease which possess all necessary equipment required for the testing," he added.

During the briefing, Asad Umar also gave a presentation to show how the government was implementing the TTQ system.

He informed that smart lock down system had started working on ground. Under this system, he informed that with the help of technology, we got to know the number of cases in various areas of the country, and the health teams approach those areas and decide which streets or localities are to be sealed. He informed that in Punjab, 359 smart lockdown cases were enforced, while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the number of smart lock down was 177. He said at present 165 corona patients were on oxygen out of which 85 were on ventilators in various hospitals across the country while over 5,500 corona patients were admitted in the hospitals.

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Kulbushan case Pakistan fully complies with ICJ judgment, says FO

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday while rejecting "baseless and inaccurate" statements by Indian legal counsel in Kulbushan Jadhav case, said the country had fully complied with the judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement that they had noted the statements made in an online lecture on May 03, 2020 by Harish Salve, India's legal counsel in the Kulbushan Jadhav case.

She said Pakistan remained committed to continue complying with the judgment as the case proceeded further.

She said while suggesting that India might have to go back to ICJ, Salve had made certain statements which were contrary to the facts of the case.

"We firmly reject the Indian Counsel's baseless and inaccurate assertion that Pakistan has not complied with the ICJ's judgment in the case. Pakistan has fully complied with the judgment and remains committed to continue doing so as the case proceeds further," she stated. She said Pakistan had granted India consular access to Commander Jadhav and was processing measures for effective review and reconsideration as per the guidelines provided by ICJ in its Judgment.

"Being a responsible state, Pakistan abides by all its international obligations. It is regrettable that Mr. Salve has chosen to make statements which are inaccurate and misrepresent facts," the spokesperson added.

President, PM, COAS inquire after health of Asad Qaiser

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa called Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser on phone on Sunday and inquired after his health.

According to office of the Speaker, they expressed their best wishes for the Speaker and prayed for his early recovery.

Asad Qaiser told them that his health was getting better and he would soon be able to perform his duties as Speaker.

They also asked the Speaker about the health of his children. The Speaker National Assembly had tested positive for coronavirus and isolated himself at home to recover from the disease. Meanwhile, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani also phoned the Speaker and inquired after his health and wished for his speedy recovery. In the meanwhile, Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Sardar Dost Mazari has tested positive for the novel coronavirus on Sunday.

According to details, Sardar Dost Mazari tested positive for the coronavirus in government laboratory.

Sindh announces opening of markets from 6am to 5pm

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with small traders associations, announced to open shops and markets, except plaza and shopping malls, from today (Monday) morning under a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

"Now, the business activities would operate from 6am to 4 pm and there will be grace period of an hour to close the shops and return to their home - because the lockdown will start from 5 pm sharp," he said.

He expressed these views while addressing the smalls traders who met him here at Auditorium of Sindh Assembly Building, said a spokesperson to the CM Sindh on Sunday.



The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Dr Azra Pechuho, Saeed Ghani, Imtiaz Shaikh, Nasir Shah, Ikram Dharejo, Advisor Law Murtaza Wahab, Mayor Karachi Wasim Akhtar, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah, IG Sindh Mush-

taq Maher, Home Secretary Usman Chachar, Adl IG Karachi Ghulam Nabi Memon, Qasim Siraj Teli, and leaders of different organizations of the traders.

The chief minister announced that community markets/retail outlets, stand-alone/neighborhood shops, excluding shops situated in Malls and Plazas) would resume their business activities from 6 am to 4pm, from Monday to Thursday.

He said that he was well aware that the small traders were passing through a very serious situation because their businesses have been closed down due to coronavirus epidemic.

"I know your [traders] position, but I had one option either to save life of our people or allow the business

activities thriving at the cost of our lives," he said and added he chose to save life of the people at the cost of business activities. He said that the lockdown has produced good results which was also acknowledged by the traders community.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that it was not his unilateral decision to impose lockdown but the decision was taken with collective wisdom. "I am grateful to the federal government that they accepted his request and announced opening of business activities, except shopping Malls, Plazas, hotels and restaurants," from Fajir-6 am to 5 pm, he said.

The chief minister said that he was grateful to the trader's community who strengthened his government hands in implementing the lockdown.

FIQH-E-HANFIA

SEHR 3:37	IFTAR 6:48
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FIQH-E-JAFRIA

SEHR 3:27	IFTAR 6:58
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'PSX executes best risk management practices'

From Our staff correspondent

ISLAMABAD: BManaging Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Stock Exchange Farrukh H Khan said that the exchange had implemented best risk management practices to safeguard investors and ensure its smooth functioning.

The exchange had to activate Market Halt for nine times since its implementation in January this year, he said in an exclusive interview with a news agency.

"I can tell you that the market halt routine is a normal procedure in-line with international best practices to

safeguard investors and the overall market functioning," he remarked and clarified that it was not something to be alarmed or get anxious about.

He said that the Market Halt was activated eight times when the KSE 30 Index had a down-side movement of 5% and once when the Index moved upwards by 5%.

He said that the market halt procedure was necessary to avoid any



situation of instability arising in the market due to extreme volatility. The Market Halt is triggered when the KSE 30 Index reaches 5% in either direction and stays there for 5 minutes, whereupon the market is halted for a period of 60 minutes.

During this period, mark to market margins are collected and there is a cooling off opportunity for investors to assess the market and

think through their strategy. Hence such halts reduce the risk and help stabilise the market in times of extreme volatility, he told APP.

Talking about the situation in regional and current global stock markets amid Covid-19 pandemic, he said that the situation had resulted in fall of markets globally.

However, he said that the management of PSX took charge of the situation before lockdown, with having necessary precautions in place at the exchange to arrest

the possibility of spread of the virus, while making sure that business continuity plans are re-tested and in place.

"We initiated certain administrative measures early on prior to the lock down, including manual attendance system, checking the temperature of all visitors to PSX," installed hand sanitizers, reduced foot-fall and reduced attendance by 50% of staff at the Exchange by providing remote access to employees to work from home.

To a question, he said that at a time when markets were taking a downturn in the current crisis, there was an opportunity for long term investors to make an entry and hold long positions in order to reap the benefits of the attractive valuations now on

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN	
Confirmed cases:	30,334
ICT:	641
Punjab:	11,093
Sindh:	11,480
KP:	4,669
Balochistan:	1,935
AJK:	86
GB:	430
Recovered:	8,023
Deaths:	659