



We are not afraid of Opp's threats of protests: Sarwar

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Hydroxychloroquine ineffective against mild COVID-19

Pakistan to grant 3rd consular access to Kulbhushan

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Indian spy and agent of intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was involved in several terrorist activities in Pakistan, will be granted third consular access.

According to details, Indian government has been officially informed about the third access. On July 16, 2010, Indian Charge d'affaires reached the Foreign Office as New Delhi accepted Pakistan's offer to give second consular access to Jadhav. The place where the agent was kept had been declared as sub-jail.

Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said first consular access under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 was earlier provided by Pakistan on second September last year. She said the mother and wife of commander Jadhav were also allowed to meet him on December 25, 2017.

Aisha Farooqui said two consular officers of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad were provided unimpeded and uninterrupted consular access to Commander Jadhav.

Govt must answer why Kulbhushan is being given relief: Bilawal

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Zardari on Friday said that the government has introduced an illegal and unconstitutional ordinance to facilitate Kulbhushan Jadhav. He asked why the government wants to give relief to the Indian spy?

Addressing a press conference in Sukkur, Bilawal Bhutto asked why the Indian spy was being facilitated by the government. Has he benefited from the relief given to him or not? Bilawal asked. The government will have to answer why the opposition was not taken into

China welcomes resumption of Pak-Afghan trade

The Business Report

BEIJING: China has applauded resumption of trade relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan after both the countries overcame impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing a media briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying said China wants to see better relations between the two sides and economic growth of Islamabad and Kabul. She said we will like to play a constructive role in this regard. Pakistan has opened five key routes with Afghanistan for bilateral and transit trade over the past weeks to help war-ravaged Afghanistan boost trade. Pakistan had closed all trade routes with Afghanistan in March due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Three martyred, 7 hurt in Afghan border firing

BAJORE: As many as three citizens were martyred and seven others were injured in district Bajore in firing from across Afghan borders.

As per initial reports two sepoys have also sustained injuries during the firing.

The injured were shifted to nearby health centre and arrangements are underway to handover bodies of martyred to their family members. —Online

Oil tanker owners call off strike

KARACHI: After invitation for talks from the Petroleum Division, the Oil Tankers and Contractors Association called off their strike on Friday.

The association was protesting for an indefinite period from Thursday against the increase in income tax, provincial service and toll taxes. The office-bearers of the association have been called to Islamabad for a meeting on July 20, to resolve the issue.

The Petroleum Division has ensured to communicate their due demands to the concerned authorities. It may be noted that supply of petroleum products remained suspended across the country due to the strike of the Oil Tankers and Contractors Association. Oil Tankers Association on Wednesday had announced that it would discontinue supply across the country to protest an increase in income and toll taxes. "There is no business and they have increased the tax," association's



ISLAMABAD: SAPM on National Security Division and Strategic Policy Planning Dr Moeed Yusuf calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pak among lucky states seeing drop in virus cases: PM

■ Lauds arrangements for repatriation of stranded Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Minister Imran Khan has said Pakistan is among the fortunate countries where COVID-19 cases in hospitals, especially in intensive care units (ICUs), and death rate have gone down, unlike its unfortunate neighbour India.

The Prime Minister took to Twitter on Friday to shed light on the situation in Pakistan amid the coronavirus pandemic. He said, "This positive trend has been the result of our smart lockdown policy and the nation observing the government's SOPs."

The Prime Minister urged the nation to continue observing standard operating procedures (SOPs) to sustain this positive trend. He said that Eid-ul-Adha must be celebrated with simplicity so as not to repeat what happened last Eid when standard operating procedures (SOPs) were ignored and hospitals choked.

He also ordered strict implementation of the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs). Pakistan has started to observe a decline in the number of cases on a daily basis and death toll, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

A day ago, federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar denied that the country is reducing its daily number of tests, saying that the increase in positive cases is slowing across the country. Sharing statistics, the

minister said that on a daily basis, the country is now reporting nearly half the number of new cases as compared to the middle of June. Likewise, provincial and federal government ministers have seconded the Prime Minister regarding his statement on the results of the smart lockdown.

Parts of the country have been under the smart lockdown strategy, introduced by the government last month, in order to ensure cases drop and businesses are back on their feet. Meanwhile, coronavirus cases in India exceeded one million on Friday, official data showed. With over 600 Indians dying daily, lockdowns are being re-imposed across the country of 1.3 billion following an easing of restrictions in recent weeks on hopes the outbreak was under control.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed satisfaction over the progress and arrangements made for the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from abroad. He was talking to Special Assistant on National Security Moeed Yusuf who called on him on Friday. The Prime Minister said, "These Pakistanis in any nook and corner of the world are our responsibility and every effort will be made to fulfill this responsibility."

Dr Moeed Yusuf said over two hundred and twenty five thousand stranded Pakistanis have so far been brought back from sev-

enty countries. He said the promise made by the Prime Minister to bring back the stranded Pakistanis from abroad in these difficult times has been fulfilled.

PM launches monsoon tree plantation campaign in Kahuta

Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched the monsoon tree planting campaign by planting a tree in Kahuta. Advisor on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam and Minister of State for Environment Zartaj Gul were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan has a very small number of forests compared to the rest of the world. There were 30 national parks in Pakistan after independence, but we couldn't even protect them. He said that if tree plantation isn't taken seriously, the country could face a lot of damage.

He said that by planting trees, global warming can also be avoided. We have planted 300 million trees in the past two years and deployed forest rangers, our ultimate goal is to plant 10 billion trees, Imran said. He also stressed the need to maintain and protect trees, not just plant them. PM said that our new generation is better aware of the importance of trees and their protection. He said that schools will be mandated to teach Green Clean Pakistan to young stu-

Pak public, private sectors should revive tourism: WB

ISLAMABAD: World Bank (WB) has said tourism sector in Pakistan has been affected by coronavirus epidemic, therefore, both public and private sectors will have to take steps together to revive tourism sector.

This has been said by WB country director for Pakistan Illango Patchamuthu in his message and an article. He has said tourism sector in Pakistan has been badly impacted by coronavirus epidemic and now both the private and public sectors will have to take joint steps to revive it and steer it from the negative implications of COVID-19.

Tourism sector is of vital importance in Pakistan as Pakistan has clinched top position in the list of best spots for tourism in December 2019. He remarked thousands of Sikh Yatries visited Darbar Sahb and Baba Guru Nanak Janam Asthan in last year through Kartarpur corridor. Tourist family which visits Pakistan consists of five members per average. Government of Pakistan has taken multiple measures for promotion of tourism. Last year PM Imran Khan had announced several steps for promotion of tourism particularly provision of visa on arrival in Pakistan. He pointed out COVID-19 has caused

loss to the tune of over 300 billion dollars to tourism business all over the world and Pakistan is no exception to it.

FPCCI urges govt to provide relief to masses

Economic experts and business leaders on Friday lauded the PM Imran Khan's move to develop the construction sector but cautioned that focus on only one sector will not revive economic activities.

They said all the important sectors deserve attention but the government lacks economic experts who can take timely and correct decisions based on ground realities.

Speaking at a seminar organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Central Standing Committee on Insurance, former federal secretary finance Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, former provincial minister, and convener Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Mian Zahid Hussain, Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) committee Dr. Murtaza Mughal, Chartered Accountant Tariq Hussain and others said that the economy is without direction which is hitting almost every sector.

They said that the government has disappointed masses while instability, inflation, and anxiety is increasing in the masses. The government seems more interested in bashing the former rulers and less inclined to provide relief to the masses, they added.

The participants said that mafia has taken economy and masses as a hostage, the government promise to reduce prices but there is nothing on the ground and nothing has been done to deter the profiteers. The growth rate during 2017-18 was 5.8 percent but the consumption of petrol was less than what was consumed during the last month amid negative growth rate but the issue in which billions were plundered was hushed up.

Similarly, the consumption of cement has also raised many eyebrows but to no avail which indicate collusion in mafia and authorities. The speakers said that the wheat crisis has surfaced again and it is engulfing the whole country for which the mafia as well as the inefficiency and mismanagement of the rulers are to be blamed. —DNA

UN slaps sanctions on TTP Chief Wali Mehsud

WASHINGTON: The United Nations (UN) has slapped restrictions on Noor Wali Mehsud, Chief of proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Besides imposing travelling restrictions, assets of Noor Wali Mehsud have also been frozen. His name has also been added in Global terrorists list. According to media reports restrictions have been imposed on Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief owing to his affiliations with Al-Qaeda.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) under Noor Wali Mehsud launched several terror attacks in Pakistan. On the eve of 18th anniversary of September 11, 2001, US had declared Noor Wali Mehsud global terrorist. Noor Wali Mehsud was appointed as head of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in 2018. He is close aide of former Amir Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Baitullah Mehsud and he has held various key positions in Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the past.

Pak welcomes UNSC decision

Pakistan on Friday welcomes the designation of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader Noor Wali Mehsud by the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee on its ISIL and al Qaeda Sanctions List.

According to a statement issued on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said the sanctions are being implemented by Pakistan in compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and we hope that other countries will also follow suit.

She said TTP is already a UN-designated terrorist organization and is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks inside Pakistan.

Farooqui said Pakistan has defeated TTP through comprehensive security operations in the country. However, TTP continues to operate from outside Pakistan's borders with support from its third-country facilitators. The spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to pursue its policy of fighting against those involved in participating, financing, facilitating and perpetrating terrorism. —APP

Action against sugar mills as per law, says Shahzad

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Accountability Shahzad Akbar on Friday said the government will take action as per the law against sugar mills in light of the Sugar Inquiry Commission report.

He said this while addressing a news conference in Islamabad. He said as the Supreme Court has vacated stay order of Sindh High Court on the issue, the government will proceed into the matter. He said the government proceedings include punitive action against the responsible of the sugar crisis, reforming sugar policy and rationalizing sugar price.

He said the concerned departments will carry out their investigations into the matter. On the wheat flour issue, the Special Assistant said a 20 kilogram pack of wheat flour is

PSX records fresh gains, index up by 329.41 points

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday witnessed bullish trend as KSE 100 index closed at 37,330.85 points as compared to 37,001.44 points on the last working day, with positive change of 329.41 points (0.89%).

A total 466,058,521 shares were traded compared to the trade 402,589,774 shares during the previous day, whereas the value of shares traded during the day stood at Rs15.836 billion as compared to Rs16.066 billion during last trading day. As many as 386 companies transacted shares in the Stock Market, out of which 265 recorded gain and 104 sustained losses whereas the share price of 17 companies remained unchanged.

The three top traded companies were Harel petrol with a volume of 87,258,000 shares and price per share of Rs13.86, Lottee Chemical with a volume of 24,856,500 with price per share of Rs11.42 and Unity Foods LtdXPR with a volume of 22,147,500 and price per share of Rs11.91. The Philip Morris Pak recorded maximum increase of Rs128.95 per share, closing at Rs1879.95 whereas Sapphire Tex was runner up with the increase of Rs67 per share, closing at Rs979.

Sindh reports 111,238 cases, death toll reaches 5,505

KARACHI: Sindh has recorded the highest number of coronavirus cases at 111,238, taking the country's virus tally to over 261,169. A total of 5,505 fatalities have been reported so far.

Punjab has reported over 89,000 cases followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and Balochistan. According to experts, the infection rate in Pakistan has dropped because of the smart lockdown. Following this, the lockdown has been extended in all provinces till mid-August and July-end.

The government has, however, expressed its concerns of another wave of infections because of the upcoming Eid Azha. A special set of SOPs has been pre-

pared by the federal government so that the infection rate is controlled and the "previous mistakes are not repeated". The govt of each province has also prepared precautionary measures for people to implement while visiting cattle markets to purchase their sacrificial animal.

People aged above 50 and children are not allowed to visit. Sanitisation and hand washing facilities have been installed inside markets and no one is allowed to enter without masks. Violations will result in fines. On the other hand, a recent research by China confirmed that Patients with abnormally high blood sugar levels are more than twice as likely to die from COVID-19.

Experts see Covid-19 as opportunity for adapting to virtual learning

Experts see Covid-19 as an opportunity and emphasized for adapting to change and pay immediate attention on improving our technological infrastructure accordingly to avail the opportunities that After-Covid19 world offers in the field of learning and development.

The experts on learning and development from various national and international institutions said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue 'Learning and Development in a Virtual World beyond COVID19' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute

(SDPI) here on Friday. Regional Head Europe, Institute of International Education (IIE), USA, Dr Cheryl Francisoni, while terming the pandemic time as an incredible opportunity for the learning in the virtual space said that the learning and training now need to be aligned with this newly created space, said a statement.

"We need to adapt to new reality with the best use of technology." Dr Francisoni said. She added further that a culture of learning from each other needs to be created. Besides, making virtual learning more participatory and interactive and redressing the connectivity issues would be some of the important steps towards. —Agencies

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	261,169
ICT:	14,454
Punjab:	89,023
Sindh:	111,238
KP:	31,486
Balochistan:	11,385
AJK:	1,808
GB:	1,775
Recovered:	183,737
Deaths:	5,505