



LAHORE ▼ P3

CM orders to ensure province-wise availability of flour bags

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad

INTERNATIONAL

▼ P7

Saudi King Salman admitted to hospital for medical checkup



PAGES 08 | Rs 20

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Zil-Qad 29 1441 Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Promotion of E-commerce vital to strengthen economy: Alvi

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chaired a meeting on E-commerce to review the action plan with regard to implementation of E-commerce policy in the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin ul Haque, Advisor to PM on Commerce, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Secretary to the President, Mr. Tariq Najeeb Najmi, Secretary IT & Telecom, Mr. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Additional Secretary Finance, Dr. Arshad Mahmood, Chairman FBR, Mr. Muhammad Javed Ghanni, Member (IT), M/o IT&Telecom, Syed Junaid Imam, Chief executive officer (CEO) National Information Technology Board (NITB), Syed Shabaha Ali and Joint Secretary, M/o Commerce, Ms. Aisha Humaira Moriani.

While addressing the meeting, the President said that promotion of E-commerce was highly essential for strengthening economy of the country. He said that E-commerce offered huge opportunities for small and medium enterprises that connected them with Pakistani Online markets and international markets through global E-commerce platforms. Highlighting the importance of E-commerce, the President said that it provided access to distant markets, reduce cost of doing business and create employment opportunities.

Ministry of Commerce briefed the meeting about the E-commerce initiatives and their role in economic development of the country. It informed that the country had potential to increase its GDP by US\$36 billion and create 4 million jobs by 2025 by using digital financial services. The participants were apprized that E-trade in the country had crossed over Rs. 100 billion. In order to promote E-commerce, the meeting underscored the need for tax incentive packages and availability of IT infrastructure and quality of services in the country. The President asked National Information Technology Board (NITB), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Ministries of IT and Commerce to expeditiously complete work on their respective pillars.

Rupee down 97 paisas against US dollar

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee weakened by 97 paisas against US dollar in the interbank on Monday to close at Rs 168.30 as compared to the last closing of Rs167.33.

However, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of Dollar in open market were recorded at Rs167.15 and Rs167.85 respectively.

The State Bank of Pakistan reported that in interbank, the price of Euro appreciated by Rs 2.34 to close at Rs 192.90 against the last day's trading of Rs190.54. The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs 1.57, whereas an increase of Rs 1.88 was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 211.76 as compared to its last closing of Rs 209.88. The exchange rates of Saudi Riyal and Emirates Dirham increased by 26 paisas each to close at Rs 44.87 and Rs 45.81 respectively.

Indian firing across LoC wounds boy: ISPR

From Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing across the Line of Control (LoC), targeting the civilian population in Baghsar sector, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations on Monday.

The Army's media wing issued a statement according to which a 20-year-old-boy received critical injuries in cross-border firing from Indian troops. The boy was evacuated to a nearby hospital to receive medical attention.

On Friday, two women were left injured after Indian Army resorted to unprovoked firing in Rakchikri and Baroh sectors along the LoC. The Indian Army has committed ceasefire violations at least 1,697 times in 2020 alone, the ISPR added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs meeting of the Finance & Economy Think-Tank.

More subsidies to the poor in different sectors priority: PM

■ Directs Advisor on Finance to undertake complete review of subsidies provided by the government

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday chaired a meeting of the Finance and Economy think-tank to consider various economic issues and directed for carrying out a comprehensive study in different sectors to extend maximum possible subsidies to the poor and deserving people.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Hammad Azhar, Senator Shibli Faraz, Omar Ayub, advisors Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Abdul Razak Dawood, Dr Ishrat Hussain, Special Assistant Dr Sania Nishtar, and Nadeem Babar. Former Finance Minister Shaukat Tareen, Sultan Ali Alana, Dr Ijaz Nabi and Arif Habib participated in the meeting via video-link, PM office media wing in a press release said.

The purpose of the economic think-tank was to consider different important economic issues, submit its recommendations and formulate future strategy in this regard.

During the meeting issues pertaining to power, gas, fertilizers, utility stores, exports, housing, Ehsaas, budgets of National Highway Authority and the grant of subsidies, came under discussion. Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said the main objective of the provision of subsidies by the government, was to extend support and relief to the poor and deserving people.

He stressed that complete study of the whole system of subsidies should be carried out to ensure that its effects not only could trickle down to the deserving people in a transparent manner but it should also cater to the needs of maximum people.

For further improvement in the provision of subsidy in each sector, the prime minister directed the Advisor on Finance to undertake complete review of the subsidies provided by the government and set up a cell in this regard which should submit comprehensive recommendations.

The PM also emphasized upon seeking help from the Ehsaas cash programme database for provision of subsidies to the poor and deserving people in areas like power, gas and utility stores. He also appreciated the swift and transparent transfer of cash under the Ehsaas programme in the coronavirus pandemic situation.

PM resolved to extend all out cooperation to overseas Pakistanis

Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his government's resolve to extend all out cooperation to overseas Pakistanis in every possible way. In a social media post, he said every Pakistani residing in any corner of the world is responsibility of the government.

According to official data, around 250,000 stranded Pakistanis were brought

home from around 70 countries after they were stuck up there following the suspension of the flights operations following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Opp divided but pretends to be united: Shibli

Federal Minister for information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Monday said the opposition was totally divided because opposition parties had conflict of interests but they were pretending to be united.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the opposition parties had no plan and they were thinking from different angles and aspects. The minister said the cases were being proceeded in the courts against leaders of opposition parties and they were discussing about calling of All Parties Conference (APC). Shibli Faraz said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had shrunk from federation level to a province, adding statements of the Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were showing that he was not aware about the problems of the country. He said PPP had failed to grab the attention of the people except Sindh. The minister said on August 18th, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was going to complete its two years and the government would present its performance and achievements till date before the public.

CPEC is guarantee of a developed Pakistan: Bajwa

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lieutenant General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that CPEC will revolutionize the construction and development in the country.

The ML-1 project will soon be completed and the network of highways will be laid. He said that the transport share of railways will increase from 4% to 20% and a large dry port will be set up at the site of Havelian and economic zones will be established. According to details, a meeting of the Senate CPEC Standing Committee was held under the chairmanship of Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday.

Briefing the meeting, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa said that the transmission system of the railways would be replaced under ML-1 project.



ECNEC has approved the 7.2 billion ML-1 project and railways transport share will increase from 4% to 20% after the completion of the project. He said that railway engineers would be trained jointly with Russia, Germany and Britain. The Orange Line train project will also be opened to the public soon. Replying to a question,

Chairman CPEC Authority said that border fencing with Iran was being done and 100 km fence would be erected soon.

Giving further briefing to the committee, he said that Rashkai SEZ would be inaugurated soon. Faisalabad and Dhabeji will also become special economic zones and Manshehra Thakot Motorway will also be opened soon, he added. Committee Chairperson Sherry Rehman and other senators expressed satisfaction over the briefing of the Chairman CPEC Authority and said that the project was moving in the right direction. Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Siraj-ul-Haq also paid rich tributes to Asim Saleem Bajwa. He said that despite the Coronavirus, the Chairman CPEC Authority did not leave any thrust for answers to any question. The senators from Balochistan also could not remain unimpressed by Asim Saleem Bajwa's interest in the construction and development of Balochistan.

Fatalities on descending trajectory as 31 deaths in a single day

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As many 31 deaths have occurred due to corona virus epidemic in a single day due to COVID-19 raising the tally of fatalities to 5599 in Pakistan.

According to National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) statistics 1,587 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours and the number of positive cases has surged to 265,083.

Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 113,007 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 90,191 in

Punjab, 32,086 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,436 in Balochistan, 14,599 in Islamabad 1,849 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 1,915 in Azad Kashmir.

Furthermore 2,083 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 1,993 in Sindh, 1,142 in KP, 132 in Balochistan, 159 in Islamabad, 43 in GB and 47 in Azad Kashmir.

Pakistan has so far conducted 1,740,768 coronavirus tests and 19,108 in last 24 hours. 205,929 coronavirus patients have recovered in the country whereas 1,552 patients are in critical condition.

Pakistan has confirmed 31 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the

number of positive cases has surged to 265,083. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,599 on Monday.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,587 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours.

Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 113,007 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 90,191 in Punjab, 32,086 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,436 in Balochistan, 14,599 in Islamabad 1,849 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 1,915 in Azad Kashmir.

Asad stresses speedy work on approved health schemes

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday emphasized that work on approved health sectors schemes needed to be expedited, so that residents have access to medical facilities closer to their homes.

The minister was chairing a meeting to review development projects being undertaken by the Ministry of National Health Services.

The Federal Health Secretary briefed the Minister on Islamabad Capital Health Strategy, as well as 200 Bed Hospital, Policlinic Extension and BHUs in the capital area.

Asad Umar directed that the ministry ensure effective and full utilization of funds available through Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2020-21. He directed the Secretary Health to organize monthly progress review meetings to ensure that Health Sector development portfolio was implemented in a timely manner. Special Assistant to PM on CDA Ali Nawaz Awan, Secretary Planning, Secretary Health and senior officials participated in the meeting.

KP CM assures full support to facilitate Afghan transit trade

From Our Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan has termed the promotion of bilateral trade with Afghanistan as an important component of the incumbent government's vision to boost international trade.

Talking to a delegation of the Executive Committee of Pak-Afghan Parliamentary Friendship Group that called on him here Monday, the chief minister assured that the provincial government will extend all out support to facilitate bilateral trade with Afghanistan as well as the Afghan Transit Trade with the aim to boost trade and other economic activities with Afghanistan.

The delegation was headed by Special Assistant to Prime Minister Arbab Shehzad. Special representative of Prime Minister for Afghanistan Sadiq Khan, Provincial Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Inspector General Frontier Corps, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Inspector General Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federal Secretaries Interior, Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Chairman FBR, representatives of Custom and other relevant civil and military high ups were also present on the occasion.

He has stressed the need to have an effective mechanism of coordination amongst the provincial government, relevant federal entities and other stakeholders in order to streamline all the matters related to Afghan Transit Trade and bilateral trade with Afghanistan and said that all the concerned entities need to sit together and devise a long term strategy to remove all the bottlenecks in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the executive committee of Pak-Afghan Parliamentary Friendship Group who called on him here on Monday and discussed with him various matters related to Afghan Transit Trade as well as bilateral trade with Afghanistan.

Matters related to the promotion of trade activities with Afghanistan in the light of decisions taken by the National Command & Operation Centre, better and efficient management at Torkham Terminal, capacity enhancement of Custom on Torkham Pass and issues related to the clearance of back lock in Afghan Transit Trade due to the prevailing Corona situation came under discussion on the occasion.

Dual nationals cannot become members of Parliament: Fawad

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on Monday while raising question on the cabinet members with dual nationality said that such people cannot become members of the assembly, how did they sit in the cabinet.

According to statement issued on Monday, he said that a person with dual nationality cannot become a member of the assembly.

The minister said that the government is going through difficult time because of the government, adding that the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have no stature or anything else. "The PML-N does not even know who is going to lead them," he added.

Chaudhry went on to say that former president Asif Ali Zardari had worked hard to make PPP only a party of Sindh province and now Bilawal is trying to make it a party of interior Sindh. Terming the opposition's all parties conference a "Halwa Party", he said that many political parties have no credibility in the general public.

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	265,634
ICT:	14,599
Punjab:	90,191
Sindh:	113,553
KP:	32,086
Balochistan:	11,441
AJK:	1,915
GB:	1,849
Recovered:	205,929
Deaths:	5,626