

Governor orders probe into affairs of private varsities

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Pompeo to meet UK PM in heat of China standoff

PSX gains 49 points to close at 37,700 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed bullish trend as the index closed at 37,700.31 points as compared to 37,650.57 points on the last working day, with positive change of 49.74 points (0.13%).

A total 457,216,709 shares were traded compared to the trade 553,817,736 shares during the previous day, whereas the value of shares traded during the day stood at Rs19.523 billion as compared to Rs19.524 billion during last trading day. As many as 405 companies transacted shares in the Stock Market, out of which 149 recorded gain and 233 sustained losses whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top traded companies were TRG Pak Ltd with a volume of 28,642,000 shares and price per share of Rs39.25, Hascol Petrol with a volume of 25,928,500 with price per share of Rs14 and Hum Network with a volume of 17,503,000 and price per share of Rs10.21. The Bhanero Tex recorded maximum increase of Rs62.62 per share, closing at Rs897.62 whereas Nestle Pakistan was runner up with the increase of Rs50 per share, closing at Rs6800.

Raffhan Maize witnessed maximum decrease of Rs100 per share, closing at Rs7600 whereas prices of Indus Motor Co shares decreased by Rs67.73 per share closing at Rs1301.62. —APP

Gold price in Pakistan hits all-time high

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The gold price on Tuesday continued to rise to new highs in the Pakistani market as its retail price of 24 carat crossed Rs 113,500 per tola mark. The price hike is due to change in rates in the global market and depreciating rupee.

The 24 carat gold price was Rs 97,308 per 10 gram after increase of Rs 1,929.

In the international market, gold price increased by 12 dollars to reach 1,825 dollars per ounce. Rate of silver in Pakistan reached Rs 1,120 after increase of Rs 20 per tola. Gold rose to a nine-year high on Tuesday as expectation of higher inflation from increased stimulus overshadowed the resultant gain in risk appetite, while silver breached the \$20 level for the first time since September 2016.

Talks underway over hike in drug prices: Dr Zafar

KARACHI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Zafar Mirza has said that talks are underway with the pharmaceutical companies over hike in prices of medicine.

"Without notification from the ministry, medicine prices cannot be jacked-up", Dr Zafar Mirza said while talking to a private television channel. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) said that prices are reviewed every year after budget and talks are underway with the pharmaceutical companies in this context.

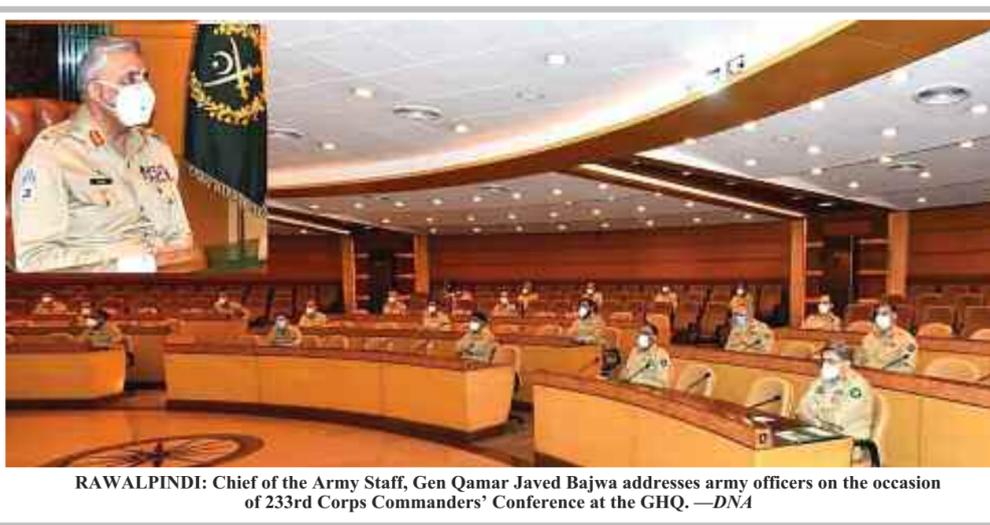
It was reported last week that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) had approved an increase in prices of medicines up to 10 percent. According to the notification issued on Saturday, the regulator had allowed pharmaceutical companies to increase prices of their lifesaving drugs by up to 7pc and other drugs by up to 10 percent.

The decision to raise drug prices had been taken in line with the consumer price index (CPI). Earlier in January, the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) had notified reduction in prices of 89 medicines on directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan after the federal cabinet reduced the prices in its meeting. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza said the prices of several life-saving drugs had also been reduced. Meanwhile, Dr. Zafar Mirza has said the testing capacity for coronavirus is being further enhanced in the country.

He said the death ratio of coronavirus patients remained low in the country due to better arrangements made by the govt in this regard. He said it was good thing that the number of COVID-19 positive cases have also declined. However, he said, the people should follow the standard operating procedure (SOPs) to combat the virus. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) said the govt would ensure the implementation of SOPs to control coronavirus. —DNA

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	266,627
ICT:	14,625
Punjab:	90,444
Sindh:	114,104
KP:	32,243
Balochistan:	11,441
AJK:	1,922
GB:	1,868
Recovered:	208,030
Deaths:	5,661



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa addresses army officers on the occasion of 233rd Corps Commanders' Conference at the GHQ. —DNA

Cabinet defers proposal to enhance PTV license fee

PM directs to pay all dues of media houses by next week

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has deferred the proposal to enhance license fee of Pakistan Television.

Briefing media, after the cabinet meeting, in Islamabad on Tuesday, Information Minister Shibli Faraz said this proposal was discussed in the cabinet in wake of financial difficulties being faced by PTV.

He said that the state TV is facing problems in paying pension to its around 3,000 pensioners. He said previous governments have brought the PTV to the verge of collapse by making political appointments in the organisation. He further said restructuring of PTV has been approved and the proposal regarding enhancing PTV license fee has been deferred till next week for detailed deliberations over the matter.

The Minister said the cabinet also appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan's decision making it compulsory for public office holders to declare their assets to ensure transparency and to increase people's confidence on their representatives.

Shibli said the PM also directed to pay all the outstanding amounts of media houses by next week. Regarding availability of wheat and wheat flour in the market, Shibli Faraz said the govt has allowed public and private sector to import the commodity to avoid any shortage. He said Sindh Government will be requested to waive off excise duty on import of wheat. The Minister said cabinet also approved Treasury Single Ac-

count Rules 2020, amendments in the Anti-Money Laundering Bill 2020, amendments in Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, and National Health Emergency Response Act 2020.

The Minister said a report regarding Ehsas Emergency Cash Programme was also presented before the cabinet. He said the Prime Minister appreciated Special Assistant on Poverty Allocation and Social Protection Dr Sania Nishtar and her entire team for transferring cash assistance to the deserving people in a transparent manner and beyond political consideration.

The PM paid rich tribute to the report. He said, "Ehsas Emergency Cash is ground-breaking, transparent, rule-based, apolitical and comprehensive; the program has provided relief to millions of households in the most difficult circumstances".

Authored by the Ehsas leader, Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, the report looks in-depth at what is the largest ever government spend on social protection in Pakistan, and outlines its methodology and lessons from real time evaluation. Commenting on the flagship report, Dr. Nishtar remarked, "Public accountability and transparency are the underlying motivation for this report. I believe that a culture of transparent and evidence-based decision-making is necessary to reform governance in Pakistan. Integrity, transparency and openness have to be ingrained in government in-

stitutions and processes in order for democracies to deliver for their people. The report shares the knowledge gained in designing and implementing a massive national program in real time, in a context of complexity and uncertainty, with speed." The comprehensive report details the design and implementation of the Ehsas Emergency Cash program. —DNA

Govt to bring two-year performance before the nation

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to bring the two-year government performance before the nation.

According to sources, the success of the federal government in national policies and foreign affairs will be made public. The issue of providing assistance to the needy under the Ehsas program will be brought to the fore. Sources said that the people would be briefed on the progress in economic targets, debt repayment, sugar and petrol crisis. With timely and correct decisions of the government, the issue of controlling the Coronavirus epidemic will be brought before the people.

EU to provide Rs3.6b for Pak rule of law support

ISLAMABAD: The European Union (EU) will provide 3.6 billion rupees for Rule of Law support to Pakistan.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Noor Ahmed and European Union (EU) Chargé d' Affaires Anne Marchal in Islamabad on Tuesday.

According to a press release issued in Islamabad on Tuesday, the European Union will provide total grant assistance worth Euro Twenty (€ 20) Million (PKR 3.6 Billion) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its newly merged districts (EX-FATA), as well as Balochistan. The RoL Programme will be implemented over a period of five (05) years (2020-2024). This programme will support Pakistan's efforts to improve the rule of law, access to justice, and delivery of timely justice in the two targeted Provinces, with a special focus on women, children and less privileged groups.

This programme will also provide technical assistance and capacity building to key government institutions in the security sector and the judiciary at federal and

provincial level. Under this programme, the police and judiciary will be supported in becoming more efficient, accessible for all, and faster in terms of procedures.

As part of the programme, software and IT solutions will be developed and made available, police and judiciary staff will be trained and model police stations will be established with dedicated desks for women. The programme will also help citizens to better understand legal matters, their rights and the functioning of the legal system. This will be done through free legal aid, alternative dispute resolution and mobilizing paralegals who will support citizens with legal know-how.

Women and less privileged citizens will benefit from this component of the programme in particular. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will implement the programme.

Ms. Anne Marchal commented: "This

programme aims to provide equal access to justice for all, which is a key policy of the European Union. I would particularly like to thank the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the line ministries involved and the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan that designed the programme in close cooperation with us. We are delighted to work with our Pakistani partners help improve the capacity of the police and judiciary to provide the services to the citizens they expect and deserve."

Noor Ahmed hailed European Union (EU) and Pakistan's long term partnership and appreciated the EU specific sectoral interventions in Health, Education, Good Governance and Rule of Law under the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP 2014-20). Commenting on Rule of Law Support, he mentioned that "it is essential for peace, social security, economic development and stability in the Provinces.

It will ensure that fundamental rights of the people are protected and supremacy of law is ensured where all are equally accountable before law, this will ensure speedy justice by creating legal certainty

Pakistan reports lowest number of coronavirus cases

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday reported 1,013 new coronavirus cases, the lowest in last four weeks and 40 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 266,092 and fatalities to 5,639.

According to the government's Covid-19 portal, 17,783 tests were conducted in last 24 hours, which led to the emergence of 1,013 new infections. Thus far, 208,030 patients have recuperated from the disease while 52,447 are undergoing treatment, of whom 261 are struggling for their lives on vents at various hospitals across the country.

According to the provincial tally of the cases, Sindh has reported 113,553 infections thus far, Punjab 90,444, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 32,243, Balochistan 11,441, Islamabad 14,625, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1,922 and Gilgit Baltistan 1,868. The number of Coronavirus cases across the world has crossed fourteen point six million while the pandemic has so far claimed more than 600,000 lives so far. The United States is the worst hit, where cases have mounted over three point eight million and death toll reached over 143,000.

In Brazil, over two million cases and more than 79,000 deaths have been reported so far. More than eight point seven million patients have recovered from the disease across the world. —DNA

16 killed, several others injured in heavy rains

LAHORE: At least 16 people lost their lives and several others sustained injuries in rain-related incidents in different parts of the province in Punjab.

According to details, roof of a house in village Dhoop Sariyan in Taandlianwala collapsed due to rain, killing seven members of an unfortunate family while injuring five others, who were shifted to hospital for medical aid. A similar incident occurred in a village on the outskirts of Faisalabad where roof of a house collapsed after heavy rain. Three people including two brothers and a sister lost their lives while four others sustained injuries in the incident. Two people including a woman also lost their lives in rain related incidents in Multan and Pakpattan.

Roofs of three houses collapsed in Kasur, killing three including two women, after heavy rains lashed the city. Meanwhile, a youth was killed in Multan in roof collapse incident and two others were electrocuted to death in Vehari. Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed grief and sorrow over loss of precious human lives in the incidents and directed to provide best medical facilities to the injured.

Masses are facing problems due to power outages, flooding of low lying areas and accumulation of water on roads and streets.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), monsoon currents are penetrating in upper and central parts of the

Commanders review readiness, threat spectrum

RAWALPINDI: The 233rd Corps Commanders' Conference was held at the GHQ Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa presided over the meeting. The GHQ forum reviewed operational readiness and evolving threat spectrum in context of external and internal security of the country. The COAS complimented efforts put in by all formations to maintain a high-level combat readiness, particularly in the wake of evolving regional security situation.

Taking special note of continued atrocities in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir as illegal actions of August 5, 2019 complete one year next month, the Corps Commanders' Conference paid tribute to brave Kashmiris for their legitimate struggle for freedom.

The COAS especially lauded efforts in aid of civil administration in fight against COVID-19 and locust. Stressing the need to exercise maximum care with respect to Eid-ul-Azha and Muharram to maintain the gains achieved in countering the pandemic, forum also appreciated efforts of doctors, healthcare workers, paramedics across the country.

He also expressed complete satisfaction with overall operational readiness of Army as the forum reiterated resolve to thwart any threat to Pakistan's security. —Online

SC for cases against those involved in pilots' licenses

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday directed to file criminal cases against officials who were involved in issuance of fake licensing to pilots.

According to details, Supreme Court has ordered authorities to immediately conclude action against pilots who hold fake licenses. The court also expressed dissatisfaction over reports of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). During the hearing of the case, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmed remarked that computers of CAA

are not secure and perpetrators of heinous crimes are easily getting salaries.

DG of Civil Aviation informed the court that government is brining reforms in the authority. CJP remarked that you are not capable of running CAA. On the other hand, The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has cancelled licenses of 28 pilots and suspended 93. An official notification regarding cancellation of licenses has been issued following approval by the federal government. Seven Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) pilots and a stewardess are among those whose licenses have been cancelled. CAA senior joint secretary told that

scrutiny of other pilots with suspicious licenses through forensic audit is ongoing. The Aviation Division stated that the purpose of this inspection is to protect those who are not guilty.

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