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Impartial accountability of the corrupt elements vital: CM

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US, Australia seek mily cooperation in face of China



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## WB recognises Pak efforts to stabilise economy

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Country Director of World Bank in Pakistan Patchamuthu Illangovan paid a farewell call to Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Wednesday.

Patchamuthu Illangovan thanked the Prime Minister for his support during his stay in Pakistan. He recognized Pakistan's efforts towards stabilization of economy and overall reform process including response to Covid-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated the partnership with the World Bank and wished the out-going World Bank country director success for his next assignment.

MNAs Amir Dogar and Ihsanullah Tiwana also separately called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday.

### Outgoing WB country director pays a farewell call on PM

Patchamuthu Illangovan, the outgoing Country Director of World Bank in Pakistan paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Minister for Economic Affairs and Development Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar and senior officials were present. Illangovan thanked the Prime Minister for his support during his stay in Pakistan. He recognized Pakistan's efforts towards stabilization of economy and overall reform process including response to Covid-19 pandemic. —DNA

## Opp APC balloon will deflate after Eid: Shibli

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz has said that opposition's All Party Conference (APC) balloon will stand deflated after Eid-ul-Azha, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government has taken concrete steps to get the economy out of whirlpool.

Shibli Faraz while talking to media on Wednesday in Lahore has said that the best judges of our performances are the people of Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Insaf government's prime focus is on the real problems of the people. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's team is under the leadership of PM Imran Khan, under his leadership there will only be the politics of integrity and honesty in Naya Pakistan. Naya Pakistan is moving forward under the leadership of PM Imran Khan, whereas the rule of merit is PTI's government's hallmark.

He said it is Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's clear stance that Financial Action Task Force (FATF) rules are for the country, whereas NAB rules on which the opposition wants to bargain are for their personal interests.

## Blasphemy accused shot dead in Peshawar court

The Business Report

PESHAWAR: An elderly man was killed during the hearing of a blasphemy case against him at the Peshawar Judicial Complex on Wednesday.

A lawyer, who was present in the courtroom when the incident happened, said that a case had been registered against the deceased under blasphemy laws. The accused was brought to court from Peshawar Central Jail.

"During the hearing of the case, the complainant said that the accused was an Ahmadi and asked him to recite the Kalima-e-Tayyaba," she said, adding that the complainant then fired at the elderly man and killed him. Peshawar CCPO Mohammad Ali Gandapur and SSP (operations) Mansoor Aman visited the courtroom where the man was killed. Gandapur said the shooter was "arrested on the spot".

## Newspapers Eid holidays

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has announced that the member publications of the APNS will observe two closed holidays on account of Eid-ul-Azha on Saturday (August 1) and Sunday (August 2).

Consequently, there will be no morning newspaper on Sunday (August 2) and Monday (August 3) and newspapers will publish their normal editions on Tuesday, August 04, 2020. Whereas the evening newspapers not appearing on Saturday (August 1) and Sunday (August 2) may bring out their issues on Monday (August 3), if they so desire.

## CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	277,063
ICT:	14,963
Punjab:	92,452
Sindh:	120,052
KP:	33,845
Balochistan:	11,654
AJK:	2,055
GB:	2,042
Recovered:	244,883
Deaths:	5,915



ISLAMABAD: Patchamuthu Illangovan, the outgoing Country Director of World Bank in Pakistan pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

■ Government tries to bring country out of FATF grey list

# NA adopts anti-terror (Amend) Bill amid opposition protest

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) has on Wednesday approved the Anti-Terrorism Act amendment bill tabled by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan while the opposition tore up copies of the agenda.

According to details, the National Assembly passed "The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020" and "The United Nations (Security Council) (Amendment) Bill, 2020" with a majority vote amid sloganeering from the opposition benches. This legislation is related to fulfilling certain requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in order to bring Pakistan out of grey list.

The legislation is aimed at empowering the federal government to direct authorities in Pakistan to implement various measures, as per the UN Security Council resolutions including the freezing and seizure of assets, travel ban and arms embargo on the entities and individuals, who are designated on the sanctions list of the United Nations.

UN Security Council Resolution 1373 requires member states to implement counter terrorism measures, especially countering the financing of terrorism through their domestic laws. This obligation is implemented in Pakistan through

Anti-Pakistan Act, 1997.

Minister for Communication and Postal Services Murad Saeed said there will be no compromise on accountability and no NRO will be extended to anyone. He said it is regrettable that the opposition parties want NRO and are doing politics for extending support to an important legislation meant for national interest of the country.

Ruckus was created earlier in the NA as well when Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi tried to give clarification following PML-N leader Khawaja Asif's allegations. The foreign minister said nobody will address the house if he is not allowed to speak. The opposition disappears when Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services addresses the NA, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said.

### Govt invites opposition for support on FATF issue

Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi has invited the opposition to support the govt on FATF related legislation in the national interest, delinking it with their demands for amendments in the NAB laws.

He was addressing a news conference along with Advisor on Interior and Accountability Shahzad Akbar and Parliamentarian

## Senate refers bill to committee

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Wednesday referred the bill to amend the laws related to anti-terrorism to Standing Committee on Law and Justice for deliberation.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan introduced the Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (Amendment in sections 2, 110 and insertion of section 11000 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997) and the United Nations (Security Council) (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The minister requested the chair for immediate tabling of motions to pass the bills for fulfilling the international obligation as these legislative proposals were also passed by the National Assembly on July 29, 2020. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020 aims to fulfill obligation of the Financial Action Task Force to exclude Pakistan name from the grey list while the United Nations (Security Council) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 aims at ensuring effective implementation on the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. —DNA

# SBP issues revised plan to promote Islamic Banking

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Keeping in view the significant potential of Islamic Banking Windows (IBWs) in enhancing the share and outreach of Shariah compliant financial services and increase in financial inclusion, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued on Wednesday revised instructions for banks to expand the scope of operations of IBWs.

IBWs can now offer all types of financing products to their customers including Corporates, SMEs, Agriculture, Housing, and Consumers. However, this facility is subject to the condition that respective IBW branch shall be converted into full-fledged Islamic banking branch within three years. At present, Islamic banking products and services are being offered by full-fledged Islamic banks, Islamic banking subsidiaries and Islamic banking branches of conventional banks after getting approval/license from SBP.

Conventional banks can open IBWs, which are dedicated counters in conventional branches, after getting permission from SBP; however, these were not allowed to offer any financing products.

With 1,400 IBWs of 11 banks currently operational in the country, their potential to improve access to finance will increase significantly. Further, it will contribute towards increase in financial inclusion through provision of Shariah compliant financing facilities to vast majority of population.

The revised instructions also incorporate different amendments or additions to existing regulations and include policy formulation on IBWs, submission of annual IBWs expansion plan, physical setup & display requirements for IBWs, opening & closure of IBWs, their fee structure, and revisions in reporting requirements. These revised instructions will supersede all previous instructions issued on IBWs by SBP from time to time.

It is expected that this new policy measure will contribute towards achieving the targets set under National Financial Inclusion Strategy for Islamic banking, which envisages attaining a share of 25% percent in total assets and deposits of the banking industry and 30% share in total branch network of the industry by the end of 2023.

RCCI inks MoU with EO to improve networking

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Entrepreneur's Organisation (EO), Islamabad inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote and carry out collaborative activities in furtherance of common interest of the organisations.

Saboor Malik, President, RCCI and Shaukat, President EO Islamabad signed and exchanged the documents at a ceremony held at Chamber House Rawalpindi here on Wednesday which was also attended by senior vice president Noshawan Khalil Khan, Vice President Hamza Sarosh, Khalid Qazi EO Board Member, amongst others.

Speaking on the occasion, Saboor Malik, President, RCCI, said, "RCCI has always envisioned providing services to the business community and has already initiated many projects for the improved networking and promotion of entrepreneurship.

Shaukat said that the MoU will help in developing linkages among the entrepreneurs and provides a platform for peer-to-peer network exclusively for entrepreneurs.

Under the agreement, RCCI and EO Islamabad will share and assist in communication coordination and information sharing necessary to provide support to entrepreneurs. Both organisations will ensure networking, liaison with public-private entities for visibility.

Both parties will promote Women Business Incubation Center and Women Entrepreneurs training programmes in the

## Scaled back Haj pilgrimage begins in Saudia

The Business Report

MECCA: The annual Haj pilgrimage performed by Muslims from around the world has begun in Saudi Arabia, dramatically scaled back because of coronavirus.

International visitors have been banned from making the journey to Mecca, to try to curb the pandemic. Only 10,000 pilgrims are expected, as opposed to about two million usually. The vast majority normally come from abroad, but this year the only foreigners allowed to attend are those who reside in the kingdom.

Those taking part were subject to temperature checks and virus tests as they began arriving in Mecca at the weekend, AFP news agency reports. Worshippers will also have to quarantine before and after the pilgrimage. Face masks will be mandatory at all times.

## Gold price jumps Rs250 to Rs122,250 per tola

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold jumps Rs250 on Wednesday and was traded at Rs122,250, against Rs122,500 on last trading day, Karachi Sarafa Association reported.

Likewise, the price of 10 gram gold also witnessed increase of Rs214 and was traded at Rs105,238 against its sale at Rs105,024. The price of per tola silver decreased Rs30 and was traded at Rs1,470 and that of 10 gram silver was recorded at Rs1,260.28. In international market, the price of per ounce gold increased by \$25 and was traded at \$1,955 against \$1,930, Karachi Sarafa Association reported.

Gold imports fall by 12.01pc in FY2020

The gold imports into the country decreased by 12.01 percent during the fiscal year 2019-20 as compared to the imports of the last year. Pakistan imported gold worth \$11.627 million during July-June (2019-20) compared to the imports of \$13.214 million during July-June (2018-19), showing decline of 12.0 percent, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

## Tailors, laundry shops exempted from lockdown

LAHORE: Tailors, dry cleaners and laundry shops in Punjab have been exempted from the smart lockdown imposed by the government earlier this week.

According to a notification issued by the government, the shops will be allowed to remain open from 6am till midnight on Eidul Azha. Currency exchange companies and fertilizers companies have also been granted permission to remain open. "On Eid, people living abroad usually send money to their relatives," said Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Secretary Muhammad Usman.

Fertilizer companies, on the other hand, were given permission as farmers might need pesticides for an emergency in the fields.

"All the businesses allowed to remain open will be strictly obliged to follow the government's SOPs," Usman said. —DNA

## Soldier martyred in terrorists firing at Bajaur border

BAJAUR AGENCY: A soldier has been martyred in firing by the terrorists on security forces at a border post in Bajaur district.

Pakistan Army's Lance Naik was martyred on Wednesday in firing from across the border by terrorists. The martyr was identified as Lance Naik Samiullah. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a check-post of security forces was targeted from Afghanistan and Lance Naik Sami Ullah got martyred in the attack.

A fresh incident of firing on Pak-Afghan border from across the border by terrorists has taken place. This incident has occurred a few hours after an Afghan soldier returned to Afghanistan on completion of his treatment in Pakistan. Afghan military authorities had requested Pakistan army on July 14 in connection with treatment of their soldier. Upon it Afghan soldier was provided medical treatment facility in CMH Peshawar. On completion of his treatment Afghan soldier left for Afghanistan via Tourkham. —Online

# Tania Aidrus, Dr Zafar resign over Opp criticism

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Pakistan Tania Aidrus and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza announced on Wednesday that they were resigning from their posts, says in media reports.

Their resignations come after the opposition lambasted the government after it made public the details of the assets and dual nationalities of 20 advisers and special assistants to the prime minister. Aidrus said she was re-



signing from her post due to recent criticism levelled against her and the government because of her dual citizenship.



In a tweet, Aidrus said: "Criticism levied towards the state as a consequence of my citizenship status is clouding the purpose of Digital Pakistan". "In the greater public interest, I have submitted

my resignation from the SAPM role. I will continue to serve my country and the PM's vision to my best ability." She also attached a picture of her resignation letter addressed to the premier.

Shortly after Aidrus announced her resignation, Mirza took to Twitter to do the same. He said that he had come to Pakistan on the personal invitation of the premier after leaving the World Health Organisation (WHO). "I worked hard and honestly. It was a privilege to serve Pakistan. I am satisfied that

I leave at a time when Covid -19 has declined in Pakistan as a result of a grand national effort.

He added that he had made the decision over the "negative discussion about the role of SAPMs and criticism of the govt". "Pakistanis people deserve better healthcare. I have worked sincerely to contribute to this cause. Pakistan will Inshallah emerge out of Covid-19 with a stronger healthcare system." It has yet to be confirmed whether the premier has accepted the resignations. —Online