

Eid-ul-Azha

SOPs issued for cattle markets to control COVID-19, Congo spread

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The district magistrate, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trading and transportation in cattle markets across the federal capital in wake of COVID-19 pandemic and Congo spread.

Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad (MCI), District Administration, health department, Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination, was taking necessary measures to prevent and control spread of the communicable diseases, like Cholera, Typhoid Fever, Congo Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and Respiratory infections, a handout available with APP on Thursday said.

According to SOPs, the cattle markets should be established at designated points, at least two to five kilometer away from city limits. However the technical working group (TWG) recommended increase in number of cattle markets to manage the rush of traders and customers. The management of cattle markets must ensure controlled entry to the market

and the parking area would be marked for distanced parking. Only two people per vehicle would be allowed while the elderly and children would not be allowed to enter into the cattle markets. The markets should ensure provision of hand-hygiene facilities at entry points and multiple spots inside. No person would be allowed to enter without covering the face. Thermal scanning of staff and visitors at entry points by trained personnel should be ensured. Medical camps with adequate staff, equipment and personal protective equipment would be established at the markets. It further stated that Covid-19 was considered a zoonotic disease though its link with specific animals had not been established yet. The CCHF was a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus with a case fatality rate of 10 to 40pc. The veterinary clinic staff would examine any animal reporting these symptoms and if suspect for COVID-19 infection, would ensure immediate isolation of sick animal for further assessment. The information about sick animal and its caretaker would be passed to health department for assessment of health condition of caretakers and his

contacts. The general public was asked to wear light colored full sleeves and trousers for easy detection of ticks on clothes and bite protection. Regularly examine clothing and skin for ticks, if found, remove them safely and use approved repellents on clothing and skin. Food points would be established at dedicated places with only take away services and meal would be served only in disposable utensils. Waste Collection bins with lid would be installed at places near each cattle market for disposal of waste. The awareness messages would also be displayed in the cattle markets at conspicuous places. Announcements regarding preventive measures and SOPs should be a regular activity throughout the cattle markets. Announcements in local languages were advised. The local Administrations would arrange awareness sessions and seminars with cattle market managements and traders on preventive measures of COVID-19 and Congo Fever in their respective districts.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad, Hamza Shafiqat told APP that cattle markets would be set up in the federal capital 15 days



ISLAMABAD: A large number of citizens enjoy weather at the Fatima Jinnah Park. —Online

Ehsaas Emergency Cash

Rs152.395b disbursed among over 12,593,361 lockdown affectees

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Ehsaas Emergency Cash initiative has so far disbursed an amount of over Rs152.395 billion among over 12,593,361 lockdown affected persons under different categories.

The programme was initiated to disburse cash amount of Rs12,000 among those affected from the coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continued across the country.

According to the cash update received on July 09, a total of over Rs68.913 billion has been disbursed among over 5,693,981 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs45.272 billion has been disbursed among 3,753,957 families in Sindh. Over Rs26.120 billion has been disbursed among more than 2,151,472 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over Rs7.689 billion has been disbursed among 632,972 persons in Balochistan.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir over 2,502 billion have been distributed among 204,755 persons while Rs1.100 billion has been distributed among more than 89,994 people in Gilgit Baltistan. An amount of Rs 0.800 billion has been disbursed among more than 66,230 beneficiaries in Islamabad. The people who registered through 8171 or Prime Minister Labour Portal can find their eligibility by entering their Computerized National Identity Card number through the web portal.

The link to the portal is as follows: https://ehsaas.nadra.gov.pk/ehsaasTracking/.

Those persons whose parents or spouses are eligible but died can file an appeal through sending application with mentioning name and CNIC of the deceased and name of proposed deserving member of family and his or her CNIC number to the address: Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, F Block, Pak Secretariat.

CS reviews closure of Pak-Afghan border matters Chief Secretary (CS) Balochistan Capt (R) Fazil Asghar reviewed the situation arising out of the closure of Pak-Afghan border Chaman for resolving issues related of border on a permanent basis during chairing the meeting.

Additional Chief Secretary Home Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Industries Hafiz Abdul Majeed, Secretary Labor Bashir Khan Baazi, Commissioner Quetta Division Usman Ali Khan and officials of security agencies attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said the closure issue of the Pak-Afghan border would be addressed under the mutual understanding of both countries because the closure of the border was linked to the employment of local people which was affecting hundreds of families.

While the provincial government was taking steps for the welfare of local people, he said that every possible effort would be made to resolve the border issue on a permanent basis and provide the best facilities to the traders. The meeting also gave various important suggestions for resolving the issue on a lasting basis.

Minister for expediting development work on housing schemes

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Minister for Housing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amjad Ali Thursday said that housing sector was among the top priorities of the government and therefore no delay in housing schemes would be tolerated.

Presiding over a monthly review meeting of the department here, he asked the concerned quarters to expedite work on the ongoing schemes so that the people could be

benefitted from these schemes.

On the occasion, the meeting was informed that 78 percent construction work on Hayatabad High Rise flats have been completed and block A and B would be completed this month while the computer detailing of the said blocks would also be done this month.

It was informed that a survey for identification of land for Satellite Towns in Kohat, Bannu, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Swat, Mardan, DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, Tank Malakand and District Khyber

would soon be started.

The meeting was told that the work on Jalozai Housing scheme was 70 percent completed but due to corona lockdown the handing over of possession of plots was delayed and now it would be given in December this year.

The Minister directed the department to conduct balloting of Hayatabad High Rise Flats by July 20 while work on Jarma Housing Scheme Kohat, and other projects in Swat, Bajaur should also be expedited.

Global coronavirus cases rise to more than 12 million

LONDON: Global COVID-19 cases exceeded 12 million, according to a Reuters tally, as evidence mounts of the airborne spread of the disease that has killed more than half a million people in seven months.

The number of cases is triple that of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to the World Health Organization.

Many hard-hit countries are easing lockdowns put in place to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, while others, such as China and Australia, implement another round of shutdowns in response to a resurgence in infections. Experts say alterations to work and social life could last until a vaccine is available.

The first case was reported in China in early January and it took 149 days to hit 6 million cases. It has taken less than a third of that time — just 39 days — to double to 12 million cases, the tally shows.

There have been more than 546,000 deaths linked to the virus so far, within the same range as the number of yearly influenza deaths reported worldwide. The first death was reported on Jan 10 in Wuhan, China before infections and fatalities surged in Europe and then later in the United States.

The United States reported a



daily global record of 56,818 new COVID-19 infections on Jul 3, when global cases reached the 11 million mark.

The US recorded a total of 3 million cases on Tuesday, and accounts for more than a quarter of both global cases and global fatalities putting President Donald Trump's pandemic strategy under scrutiny.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro tested positive for coronavirus after downplaying the seriousness of the pandemic. The country has reported between 20,000 and 50,000 new cases daily since Jul 1. Brazil has more than 1.7 million cases and nearly 68,000 deaths.

The Reuters tally, which is based on government reports, shows the disease is spreading the fastest in Latin America. The Americas account for more than half the world's infections and almost half its deaths. Brazil and the United States account for around 45 per cent of all new cases since the beginning of July.

India — the country with the third-highest number of infections — is battling an outbreak of more than 20,000 new cases each day.

In countries with limited testing capacity, case numbers reflect only a proportion of total infections. Experts caution that official data likely under-represents both cases and deaths. —AFP

Forest fires under control, says Ukraine

KIEV: Ukrainian firefighters have brought under control forest fires that have killed five people and left dozens homeless, the interior ministry said.

Large-scale blazes erupted on Monday in the eastern Lugansk region and engulfed a village not far from the front line of Ukraine's war with Moscow-backed separatists.

On Thursday, interior ministry spokesman Artem Shevchenko told AFP the situation was "better" and that the fires had been localised but declined to give further details.

About 1,500 firefighters, rescue workers and National Guard are involved in an effort to put out smoldering forest floor spots. The number of hospitalised people has increased to 34 from 20, including 15 children, the interior ministry said.

On Monday, the blaze engulfed Smolyanyrove, a village just 20km from the frontline. More than 100



homes have been destroyed entirely in Smolyanyrove and another village, with dozens more damaged.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said on Wednesday the situation was improving during his visit to the disaster zone with President Volodymyr Zelensky. An AFP correspondent in Smolyanyrove saw animal corpses

and scorched buildings with their window panes melted and gardens burned. Some local residents believe the fire was started deliberately to hide illegal logging in the area. Police said it was considering three possible causes including extreme weather conditions, careless handling of fire, and deliberate arson. —AFP

EU lawmakers urge Japan to end parental child 'abductions'

BRUSSELS/TOKYO: The European Parliament urged Japan to comply with international rules on child protection and to allow for joint parental custody after a number of EU citizens were denied access to their children by Japanese mothers.

Unlike most countries, Japan does not recognise joint custody after divorce and children often lose contact with the non-custodial parent.

In a non-binding resolution approved late, EU lawmakers expressed concern over "children in Japan being abducted by (one) parent" and urged Tokyo to enforce domestic and foreign court decisions on the return of the child and on access and visiting rights. Frenchman Vincent Fichot and Italian Tommaso Perina who live in Japan and are being denied access to their children. "It is time for Japan to demonstrate integrity and good faith in the best interests of the children. It is time for all kidnapped children to come home," the two fathers said in a joint statement to Reuters. Emboldened by the growing number of foreign victims-turned-activists, more Japanese parents who have suffered similarly from the lack of joint custody have begun to speak up. —AFP

Floyd said officers would 'kill' him in new recording transcript



WASHINGTON: George Floyd said he could not breathe more than 20 times, called out for his children and late mother and said officers would "kill" him before he died in Minneapolis police custody, new evidence showed.

Floyd, a black man, died on May 25 when a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. His death has unleashed a massive wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality in the United States and inspired demonstrations across the world.

Video of his death went viral and showed Floyd shouting "I can't breathe" and calling for his mother as he suffocated. But transcripts of the police officers' body camera footage, filed Tuesday in Minnesota state court by Thomas Lane, one of the officers involved in Floyd's death, has revealed new details about his final moments.

When the officers first arrested him, Floyd begged them not to put him in the police car, telling them he was claustrophobic and in physical distress. As they tried to force him into the car, Floyd cried out that he could not breathe and was "going to die in here". Later, according to the transcript, he said, "Momma, I love you. Tell my kids I love them. I'm dead." He called for his mother and children several more times. Throughout his arrest, Floyd said "I can't breathe" more than 20 times. The officers can be heard telling him to "relax", and that he was doing "fine" and "talking fine". —Reuters

Launching of cheaper COVID-19 test in Greece soon

ATHENS: Researchers in Greece say they are close to launching a molecular test to detect COVID-19 which could provide a cheaper alternative to imported kits and uninterrupted access to supplies.

Greece currently uses diagnostic kits imported from a variety of suppliers abroad. The potential new test would use nasal swab samples, two researchers said, and could be available "in the coming future".

Both researchers requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the project.

Generally, tests both for the virus itself and for the antibodies the immune system produces to fight the infection are becoming more widely available, but they are not perfect. The tests can come back with false positives, false negatives or confoundingly ambiguous results. The researchers said their test had a more than a 90 per cent accuracy rate. Research centres and at least two publicly-funded Greek universities are involved in the project, launched in February, they said.

In an interview this week, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis called the research "great work". —AFP

Australian PM suspends extradition treaty, extends visas for Hong Kong citizens

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced measures to assist Hong Kong citizens start a new life in Australia, including extending visas by five years, after Beijing imposed a new security law on the Asian financial hub.

Morrison also suspended an extradition agreement with Hong Kong. Under the security law Hong Kong suspects can be sent for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts in mainland China. Morrison said the new national security law introduced last week in Hong Kong was a fundamental change of circumstances and Australia would suspend the extradition agreement.

"There will be citizens of Hong Kong who may be looking to move elsewhere, to start a new life somewhere else, to take their skills, their businesses," Morrison said.

He announced visa measures that would assist Hong Kong citizens already in Australia to stay. Hong Kong students who graduate in Australia will have the opportunity to stay for five years and apply for permanent residency after that time.

Hong Kong citizens on temporary work visas in Australia would also be eligible to extend these for five years, and later apply for permanent residency. Australia also made a pitch for international financial services, consulting and media businesses with regional headquarters in Hong Kong to relocate to Australia, and said it would offer incentives and visas packages to relocate staff. —AFP

Italy seizes German-flagged charity vessel

ROME: Italian authorities have seized a boat operated by a German NGO that last month rescued more than 200 people stranded at sea, because it did not comply with safety rules, the Coast Guard said. In April, Italy banned migrant rescue ships from docking in its ports until July 31 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It now transfers all those saved at sea onto large ferries which must wait off its coast. Sea-Watch 3, managed by German non-governmental organization Sea-Watch e.V., had moored in the southern Italian port of Porto Empedocle. —AFP

Advertisement in Urdu script for a business or service, featuring a portrait of a man and various text elements.