

Tanker carrying smuggled Iranian oil seized at port

KARACHI: Intelligence agencies and Customs officials in a joint operation have captured a large consignment of Iranian oil illegally brought to Karachi in a ship on Friday. A vessel of a private oil company was captured with 100,000 tonnes of Iranian oil cargo smuggled to Karachi. The ship was anchored at a SPM or a floating jetty of a private oil company. The govt agencies on an intelligence report acted promptly and now the ship carrying smuggled oil cargo has been in the custody of the Customs authorities. —APP

The Business

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Former PU Prof gunned down in Lahore

LAHORE: Former professor of Punjab University (PU) has been gunned down on Friday by some unidentified persons on Multan Road. According to DIG Operation Ashfaq Khan, former professor Ahmad Ali was on his way to farm house to see his sacrificial animals and in the meantime some unidentified persons attacked him. The attackers opened fire on him. He received bullet in his head and died on the spot. Police have registered the case and started investigation. —Online

Sugar prices up by Rs 100 per kg in Capital, Peshawar

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The sugar crisis continues across the country as the commodity is being sold for Rs 90 to 100 per kilogram at different markets and shops.

The price of sugar has reached Rs 100 per kilogram in Islamabad and Peshawar after the price of sugar increased by an average of Rs 4.08 per kilogram in one week, while in five weeks the price went up by Rs 11.34 per kg.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the people of Islamabad and Peshawar are forced to buy sugar at the highest price after the price of sugar in both the cities has reached Rs 100 per kg.

Karachi, Quetta and Rawalpindi are the second most expensive where the price of sugar is Rs 95 per kg. Besides, the price of sugar has reached Rs 92 per kg in Sukkur, Hyderabad, Gujranwala and Sialkot.

According to the statistics agency, the price of sugar in Lahore, Faisalabad and Sargodha, Larkana, Multan and Bahawalpur is Rs 90 per kg, while the average price of sugar in the country is Rs 91.92 per kg. The minimum price of sugar in the country is Rs 90 while the maximum price is Rs 100 per kg.

Envoy urges Pak community to back Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Charge D'Affaires at Embassy of Pakistan in Paris Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi Friday urged the Pakistani community to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) while celebrating Eid-ul-Azha.

As the community celebrated Eid on Friday, he greeted them and advised them to also observe health safety guidelines issued by the French government for protection against the coronavirus. He reiterated that the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people were being grossly violated by the Indian security forces, with even greater intensity after the military siege imposed in the region since August 5, last year.

He resolved that the government and people of Pakistan remained fully committed to the cause of Kashmiri people. "Pakistan will continue to extend diplomatic, political and moral support to the Kashmiris in their demand for self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of United Nations Security Council," Qazi remarked.

He said Pakistan would also remain the voice of conscience in the world for the rights of IIOJK people. —APP

Excise Dept sets new record of over Rs1.5b tax

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation department has achieved another milestone in revenue collection and set a new record after collecting over Rs1.5 billion tax during the month of July and deposited the amount to the national exchequer.

"It was a biggest achievement of the department as the target was achieved at what times when people were feared to step out of his home due to COVID-19," said Director Excise Bilal Azam while talking to APP on Friday. The department had introduced new methods of tax collection that eventually boost the revenue collection, as it was a top priority of the present government to promote tax culture among the masses, he added.

The director said, vehicle owner were submitting their token fee on National Database and Registration Authority's (Nadra) e-sahulat centres across the country without visiting excise office that helped increase in tax recovery. Similarly Excise had also started vehicle registration and transfer at door step in collaboration with NADRA for the convenience of the public that also lead to surge in revenue collection, he said.

Giving comparison of the last five year collection figures, Azam said that on July 2016, the collection of Excise Taxes was Rs153,102,927, on July 2017, the statistics were Rs295,508,874, in the same month of 2018, the figures of revenue collection were 355,532,610, in July 2019, the Excise Taxes was recorded as Rs833,379,986 and during the first month of the current fiscal year despite COVID-19. —Online



ISTANBUL: Turkish Muslims first Eid-ul-Azha prayers after the opening of the historic Hagia Sophia Mosque.

Civil-mily high-ups review Karachi's sewage system

KARACHI: Top provincial authorities of Sindh province along with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and military high-ups on Friday reviewed the emergency situation in the port city due to recent monsoon rains.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired the meeting, which was attended by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal, Corps Commander Karachi Humayun Aziz and provincial ministers.

During the meeting, the chief minister said that an advanced irrigation system should be used to drain the water and clean sewerage in the metropolis. He informed the session that the city received 63 to 86 mm rainfall within the duration of less than an hour, adding that the drainage system has a capacity to drain 25 to 30 mm water within 30 minutes.

The chief minister said that areas adjacent to the Green Line project faced problems as the water stops at the place due to slightly defected design of the project.

Soldier Bazaar nullah was choked by inserting boulders in the drain, provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah said.

Sindh's local government secretary Roshan Ali Shah informed the session that the Gujjar Nullah was overflowed, which was opened within a duration of four hours. Sindh Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah urged removal of illegal encroachments from all water drains for better drainage of water. Corps Commander Karachi said that the city's sewerage system would have to be opened with a modern system, adding that the FWO could join the government of Sindh in the work.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. General Muhammad Afzal urged for steps to halt sediments in the sewerage system.

Fawad backs decision to end PUBG ban Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry has hailed the decision of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to end the ban on popular online game, Player Unknown's Battleground (PUBG).

In a tweet on Friday, Fawad Chaudhry said that ending the ban on PUBG in Pakistan is a sane approach, adding ban is an extreme measure that must be exercised very carefully in future. Pakistan must work closely with tech companies to resolve issues, he further said.

Keeping in view the positive engagement and response of the company, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Saturday had lifted a ban on PUBG.

According to the details, a meeting was held between PTA and legal representatives of Proxima Beta Pte Ltd (PB). The officials of PB briefed the authority on response to queries raised by PTA with respect to controls put in place by PB to prevent misuse of the gaming platform.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) expressed satisfaction on measures adopted by PB so far and emphasized on continued engagement and a comprehensive control mechanism. Earlier on July 24, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had lifted a ban on online game Player Unknown's Battleground. —TLTP

China provides 12 drones to help Pakistan fight locusts

ISLAMABAD: China has provided 12 T16 high-tech farm drones to Pakistan to help combat swarms of locusts which are damaging crops across the country.

China will also send technical support staff to operate the drones and train local operators. The operator can control five drones at the same time without actually being on the field. T16 is one of the most advanced agricultural drones which can also dodge obstacles automatically.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Ministry for Food Security and Research on June 21 announced that they are looking to initiate a program against locust swarm infestation in the country with the help of the World Bank (WB).

According to a notification issued by the ministry on the matter, the World Bank has offered an amount of \$200 million to fend off and kill the locust swarms overwhelming agricultural land in Pakistan.

Additional \$150 million were also promised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help the country fight the critters. The project titled 'LEAFs' has been mullied upon by the ministry and a response will be given to the World Bank which is at the helm of the project after approvals.

KP, WFP launch female education support programme The Elementary & Secondary Educa-

tion Department (E&SED), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have launched an education support programme for adolescent girl students in newly merged districts.

The project was launched by the Provincial Education Minister Akbar Ayub Khan and WFP Pakistan Representative & Country Director, Chris Kaye here on Friday. "We are initiating this pilot project with the support of the World Food Programme, envisioning a large-scale provincial cash stipend programme where every enrolled child will be assisted with financial assistance," said the provincial minister.

He also shared that it is the priority of the provincial government to ensure that all out-of-school children are encouraged to attend school as more than one million children of age 4-14 years are out of school in the newly merged districts and 67 percent of the population is unable to read or write (with the figure rising to 87 percent for women). Speaking on the occasion, Kaye said, "An educated woman is aware of her rights and is less likely to be a victim of domestic or sexual abuse. An educated mother contributes towards the prosperity and well-being of her children, family and community."

He said, "The World Food Programme is proud to be working together with the

government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure that all children are well-nourished, healthy and can access quality education."

The pilot project aims to provide income support to families of adolescent girls so that they are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during COVID-19 and continue their schooling. Under this programme, nearly 21,000 girls between grade 6 and 10, enrolled in 288 government girls' high schools in all the seven newly merged districts and six subdivisions will be assisted.

Pakistan is home to 22.6 million children between the ages of 5 – 16 years who currently do not attend school (12.1 million girls and 10.5 million boys).

The Newly Merged Districts have a rich demography with the adolescent population being over 1.6 million, 48 percent of which are girls. Youth have the ability to drive the economy forward, if investment in health and education is continued for quality services.

The United Nations World Food Programme is saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development.

World Food Programme (WFP) works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future. —TLTP

27 coronavirus patients lost life in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: As many as 27 people have lost their life and 903 positive cases of coronavirus have been reported in Pakistan during 24 hours.

As per the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday, 903 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours taking the tally of patients to 278304. The number of fatalities has surged to 5951. Till now 120,550 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 92,873 in Punjab, 33,958 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 15,014 in Islamabad, 11,732 in Balochistan, 2,073 in Azad Kashmir and 2,105 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Pakistan has so far conducted 1,973,237 coronavirus tests and 20,507 in last 24 hours. 247,177 coronavirus patients have recovered in the country whereas 1,146 patients are in critical condition. According to NCOC, 210 patients are on ventilators in the hospitals across the country. —Online

FTO orders FBR to allow 12,000 filers to file returns

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has instructed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to allow 12,000 filers to file their returns under the Assets Declaration Amnesty Scheme -2019.

Those 12,000 filers could not file their returns due to the failure of FBR system in July 2019. Pakistan Tax Bar Association (PTBA) has commended the Federal Tax Ombudsman for the 'landmark' verdict whereby Federal Board Revenue is asked to allow the 12000 filers to file their returns under the scheme.

"Alhamdulillah Alhamdulillah: Allah Kareem has blessed us with great success in all cases of Amnesty Declaration with FTO," PTBA President Aftab Hussain Nagra said. "Congratulations to all of you."

I am grateful and obliged for the outright and tremendous support from my leaders Abdul Qadir Memon (Patron-in-chief PTBA), Naem Shah ASC, Rana Munir Hussain ASC, Qari Habib-ur-Rehman Zuberi SVP PTBA, Khuram Shahbaz Butt ((President LTBA), Farhan Shahzad (GS PTBA), Mohammad Zubair Memon (Former GS PTBA) Arshad Nawaz Maan (VP PTBA) Tanseer Bukhari (VP PTBA) along with hundreds of friends from all over Pakistan," the PTBA president highlighted.

PTBA Senior Vice-President Qari Habibur Rehman Zubairi, Patron-in-chief Abdul Qadir Memon thanking FTO and FBR members said that taxpayers trust can be restored by providing justice without any delay. They said that FTO has earned good name after the decision as FBR has admitted its fault which will repose taxpayers' confidence in FTO.

PIA arranges flights to repatriate Pakistanis

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Friday made arrangements to repatriate stranded Pakistani citizens from France.

According to details, the PIA will now operate chartered flights from Paris to Pakistan from August 15 to repatriate stranded Pakistanis in France. The move has been taken in the wake of European Safety Agency ban over PIA. The passengers can directly travel to Pakistan from Paris via chartered flights.

According to the spokesperson of PIA, the first special chartered flight will be operated on August 15 from Paris to Islamabad. Another flight for Paris will take-off on August 16 from Islamabad airport. As per schedule, a flight will leave for Islamabad from Paris on August 29 and another flight will fly to Paris from Islamabad on August 30. A day earlier on Thursday, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) announced plans to partially restore flight operations for the United Kingdom (UK).

The PIA flights will be partially restored from August 14 and passengers would be able to travel via direct flights to London, Manchester, and Birmingham. According to details, the national flag carrier has hired planes from European companies along with foreign pilots to facilitate the passengers. The decision was taken after fares for UK flights from private airlines saw an unprecedented hike in the wake of the ban on national flag



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted 9th Avenue Road due to Eid-ul-Azha Holiday.

Pakistan, China's Fujian Province hold trade moot

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China should focus on promoting direct business linkages between their entrepreneurs to further enhance bilateral trade and explore JVs in potential areas of mutual interest between the two countries.

This was stated by Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) while delivering his message to China. Pakistan Two-Way Trade Online Promotion Conference that was organised by the Department of Commerce of Fujian Province of China in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Organising such online video conferences between the private sectors of both countries was very important to

explore prospects for business matchings and trade promotion, especially at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has restricted international travels. Huang Dezhi, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Commerce of Fujian Province in his address said that Pakistan and China were strategic partners and the leadership of both countries was determined to further strengthen economic ties.

Fujian Province wanted to diversify cooperation with Pakistan to further expand bilateral trade. The CPEC was creating new opportunities for long-term cooperation between the two countries, he further said added Fujian was ready for increasing industrial cooperation with Pakistan in technology transfer to further develop its industrial sector. Speaking at the occasion, Dr.

Diyar Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou said that organizing online conferences between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Fujian Province of China in post-Covid-19 scenario was a good initiative to explore bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

He said Fujian was a gateway for southeast China and Pakistan could achieve beneficial results for its economy by strengthening cooperation with it. Pak-Fujian Province bilateral trade was around USD 1 billion, which could be further enhanced by more efforts from both sides. He said that China-Pakistan Joint Business and Investment Council should be activated to further strengthen trade and investment relations between the two countries. —Online