



ECNEC accords approval to two mega projects: Mahmood

# The Business

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EU recovery summit could end with no deal, says Merkel



## Bidding process for CPEC Western route underway: Asim

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Sunday said that bidding process for a part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Western Route- Zhob-Kuchlak (Quetta) road was underway.

In his tweet, he said the project was direly needed for the Balochistan people and it would open the doors of socio economic development of the local people.

Further he informed that as per plan, matter of Chinese Funding for Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob section of CPEC Western route was being processed to be included in upcoming meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC. He said on completion of this 210 km project, Islamabad-Quetta would be connected through expressway.

The National Highway Authority (NHA) has already invited bids from eligible firms for works packages of dualization of 298 kilometers Kuchlak-Zhob section of N-50.

The project will be completed in five packages including 65 km Zhob-Tangi, 65 km Tangi-Qila Saifullah, 50 km Qilla Saifullah-Nasai, 65 km Nasai-Khanozai, and 53 km Khanozai-Kuchlak.

## Accession to Pakistan Day observed in IOK

The Business Report

SRINAGAR: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world observed the Accession to Pakistan Day on Sunday (July 19), with a renewed pledge to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian occupation and complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan.

On 19th July in 1947, genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Aabi Guzar area of Srinagar.

The historic resolution called for the Accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in view of its existing religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan and aspirations of millions of Kashmiri Muslims.

The development had come almost a month before the creation of two sovereign states of Pakistan and India under the Partition Plan of the British Indian colony on August 14 and 15 respectively, the same year. As per the understanding behind the Partition Plan, the Princely States were free to accede to either of the two newly established countries. The decision of 19th July 1947 was a testimony to the fact that the people of Kashmir had linked their future with Pakistan.

## 'Non-elected members have no authority to sign decisions'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Accountability, Barrister Shahzad Akbar on Sunday said that non-elected members, were not enjoying authority to sign important decisions taken at cabinet level meetings.

Expressing these views in an interview with a private news channel program, he said that elected members in the assembly, had discretionary powers to sign the important matters and decision taken at cabinet level meetings. The Special Assistants to Prime Minister did not hold the executive powers so there was no harm to share advices on matters of public interest, he stated. In reply to a question about dual national holders in the assembly, he said the credit went to the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), government for not hiding anything from public. He added that incumbent government had presented the detail report about assets of the Special Assistants and Advisors to Prime Minister, before public.



ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Masood Khan addresses during seminar titled Kashmir Accession Day and Our Responsibilities at National Press Club. —Online

## Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day

# PM Imran reaffirms commitment to justice for Kashmiris

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday has said that Kashmiris right of self-determination is recognised by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

In connection with Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day, the premier said, "Under international law, we will continue to fight for justice for Kashmiris as they struggle against the brutal and illegal actions of the Hindutva Supremacist Indian government in IOJK. I know that justice will prevail."

"On July 19, we commemorate the historic occasion of Youm-i-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan, when Kashmiris passed a resolution for accession to Pakistan. We reaffirm our commitment to the Kashmiri people and stand with them in their struggle for self-determination, he added. On the other hand, Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observed the Accession to Pakistan Day on Sunday with a renewed pledge to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian occupation and complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan.

**Time for Kashmir's accession to Pakistan not far away: President**  
President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday said that the time was not far away when the sacri-



fices of the people of the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) would come to fruition and they would accede to Pakistan.

In his message to the nation on the Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day annually observed on July 19, the President said the Day was meant to reiterate the resolve of the Kashmiri people to get deliverance from the Indian oppression and accede to Pakistan.

The day is observed to commemorate the unanimous adoption of a resolution by the Kashmiri leaders for Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of All Jammu

and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the Aabi Guzar area of Srinagar on July 19, 1947. The president said the India had been illegally occupying the IOJK and making Kashmir people subject to inhuman torture.

He said Pakistan has been highlighting the Indian cruelties in the Kashmir at every international forum and even the voices were also being raised globally against the human rights abuses in IOJK.

The president said India had also been violating the UN Security Council's resolutions recognizing the Kashmiris' right to self determination. Indian government's actions to change the demography of the territory were also the violations of the said resolutions, he added. The president emphasized the international community to play its role for implementation of the UN resolutions.

**Qureshi reaffirmed unwavering support to Kashmir**

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has reaffirmed the unwavering support to Kashmiris in their just struggle for freedom. In a tweet on Sunday, he said despite decades of Indian occupation, the resolve of Kashmiris and immutable bonds to Pakistan stand strong. The Foreign Minister said on this day in 1947, true representatives of Jammu and Kashmir adopted a historic resolution for accession to Pakistan.

# Govt to start import of high grade fuel during current year

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The government has planned to start import of high grade petrol and diesel during the current fiscal year aimed at tackling the environmental issues and meeting requirements of high-tech vehicles in the country.

"To reduce the environmental impact through improved quality of fuel, high grade imports of petroleum products i.e. Petrol and High Speed Diesel is planned to be initiated during 2020-21," a senior official privy to petroleum sector developments told media-men, while referring to the Annual Plan 2020-21.

For the purpose, he said, a Euro-IV and V standard fuel testing laboratory had already been set up at the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) Islamabad, while more labs would be upgraded in due course of time.

In first week of last month, he said, Minister for Petroleum Omar Ayub Khan had formally inaugurated the Euro-IV and V standard fuel testing laboratory, which was in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's di-

rectives to ensure availability of high grade fuels conforming the latest vehicles and tackle environmental issues like smog & air pollution. Following the directives, he said, a strategy was being worked out by the Petroleum Division to start import of the Euro-IV & V fuel besides producing it at local level. Currently, Euro-II & III standard petrol and diesel were available in the country. He was of the view that with adoption of high grade fuel standards and their usage in high-tech vehicles would also help save foreign exchange due to their less consumption.

He said the laboratory would analyze new fuel standards, implemented by the government aimed at providing good quality high-grade fuels to motorists, adding "The lab will test the imported as well as locally produced fuels of the increased standards.

It will check that the fuels were matching the approved standards or not."

The official said it had earlier accorded approval to undertake a major up-gradation plan for the HDIP. "This is in continuation of the Petroleum Division's initiative to introduce international best practices in all its

organizations."

The plan envisaged up-gradation of all petroleum testing facilities at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Multan. During the current fiscal year, he said, Rs 55.47 million would be spent on up-gradation and ISO certification of Karachi Laboratories Complex to ensure provision of quality petroleum products across the country.

Answering a question, the official said, the product quality, for all importers, was tested by HDIP laboratories prior to unloading from oil carrying vessels. "For which, sampling of each imported product is carried out by the HDIP in the presence of importers' surveyors."

In case of any quality dispute, the official said, re-sampling was made by the third party surveyor in the presence of authorized representatives of concerned stakeholders including the HDIP. Elaborating, he said, the fresh sample was tested in the presence of nominated representatives of the importer and the HDIP by another independent laboratory, pre-approved by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, which was considered

## Asad Khokhar removed from Punjab Cabinet

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A day after Prime Minister Imran Khan's Lahore visit, Punjab Wildlife Minister Malik Asad Ali Khokhar has been removed from the provincial cabinet, says in media reports.

According to details, appointment of Asad Khokhar as provincial minister faced severe criticism and despite being a minister he was not awarded any portfolio for several months.

On the other hand, Asad Khokhar has said that he resigned from the ministry as he cannot perform his duties due to personal engagements.

## Virus: 204,276 patients recover so far: NCOC

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday said that 204,276 patients recovered from coronavirus so far with having figure of 1,721,660 tests conducted across the country.

It said that 1,579 new cases reported across Pakistan while 46 people died during last 24 hours taking the total death figure to 5,568 and 1,763 patients were critical.

The data released by the NCOC, 263,496 COVID-19 positive cases were detected across the country till date. It said that total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan at the moment were 53,652.

He said 112,118 cases were reported from Sindh, 89,793 from Punjab, 31,890 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14,576 from Islamabad, 1,807 from Gilgit Baltistan, 11,424 from Balochistan and 1,888 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

He said that so far 18,761 active cases were reported from Sindh, 22,278 from Punjab, 6,163 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,583 from Islamabad, 306 from Gilgit Baltistan, 2,894 from Balochistan and 667 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

He said that 1,974 deaths had been reported from Sindh, 2,079 from Punjab, 1,139 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 157 from Islamabad, 41 from Gilgit Baltistan, 131 from Balochistan and 47 deaths were reported from AJK.

He said that 91,383 patients had recovered in Sindh, 65,436 in Punjab, 24,588 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,836 in Islamabad, 1,460 Gilgit Baltistan, 8,399 in Balochistan

## Moeed denies dual citizenship allegations

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for National Security and Strategic Policy Planning Dr. Moeed Yousuf on Sunday denied various allegations surfacing about his assets and citizenship.

In a statement, he said: "False rumours are being spread against me.

I do not have the citizenship of any country except Pakistan. I have already submitted an affidavit to the government of Pakistan regarding my citizenship."

He added that since assuming his charge as SAPM, he did not visit to the United States.

Moeed said that he was not getting any income from USA neither owned any property worth billions or millions abroad. "I or my family do not have any property in any country except Pakistan," Moeed Yousuf added. Later in his tweets, he said: "I have not returned to the US since I took up my current responsibility, have no employment or income in the US.

Nor do I have any millions worth properties abroad as is being insinuated. I or my family have NO fixed property anywhere but Pakistan. Stop spreading lies."

# 46 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan has confirmed 46 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 263,496.

The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,568, says in media reports.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,579 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 Islam-

abad. Till now 112,118 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 89,793 in Punjab, 31,890 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,424 in Balochistan, 14,576 in Islamabad 1,807 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 1,888 in Azad Kashmir.

The COVID-19 has taken away 12 more lives in the province while the number of corona virus cases in the province reached to 89,793 after registration of 328 new cases till Sunday morning.

According to the spokesperson of the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, total number of deaths has

reached to 2079 in the province.

The health department confirmed that 133 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 3 in Nankana Sahib, 3 in Kasur, 1 in Sheikhpura, 12 in Rawalpindi, 3 in Jehlum, 1 in Chakwal, 19 in Gujranwala, 8 in Sialkot, 1 in Narowal, 31 in Gujrat, 1 in Hafizabad, 11 in Mandi Bahauddin, 18 in Multan, 1 in Khanewal, 26 in Faisalabad, 2 in Toba Tek Singh, 5 in Jhang, 4 in Rahim Yar Khan, 2 in Sargodha, 4 in Mianwali, 5 in Khoshab, 2 in Bhakkar, 2 in Bahawalnagar, 11 in Bahawalpur, 3 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 6 in Muzaffargarh, 2 in Rajanpur, 5 in Sahiwal, 9 in Okara and 4 new case of

COVID-19 has been reported in Pakpattan district during the last 24 hours till the filing of this news.

The Punjab health department has conducted 644,077 tests for COVID-19 so far while 65,436 confirmed cases have been recovered all together in the province.

The Punjab health department has also appealed the masses to opt SOPs for their protection and cover their faces with masks.

The people should wash their hands with soap several times in a day to protect themselves from COVID-19. Contact 1033 immediately on symptoms of coronavirus, the health care department requested the citizens.

## CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	264,593
ICT:	14,576
Punjab:	89,793
Sindh:	113,007
KP:	32,086
Balochistan:	11,436
AJK:	1,888
GB:	1,807
Recovered:	204,276
Deaths:	5,591