



New Pakistan will move forward under PM's leadership

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Australian PM suspends extradition treaty



Virus claims 61 lives in one day across country

LAHORE: About 61 deaths are reported to have occurred in a single day due to novel coronavirus in the country amid the report that 3359 persons have tested positive.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) the number of positive cases surged to 242,740 and total fatalities to 5,032 on Thursday. According to province wise details 100,900 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 84,587 in Punjab, 29,406 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,052 in Balochistan, 13,731 in Islamabad, 1,605 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 1,459 in Azad Kashmir.

Furthermore 1,955 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 1,637 in Sindh, 1,054 in KP, 124 in Balochistan, 142 in Islamabad, 31 in GB and 40 in Azad Kashmir. Patients are under treatment at quarantine centers of 462 hospitals where 7,295 beds are available. 1,491,437 coronavirus tests have been conducted so far including 24,333 in last 24 hours. The recovery cases have reached 145,311 and 2,193 patients are said to be in critical condition. —Online

Gold prices hit record high of Rs109,100

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold jumped by Rs800 on Thursday and was traded at Rs109,100 as against its trading at Rs108,300 the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Association reported.

Likewise, the price of 10 gram gold also witnessed an increase of Rs686 and was traded at Rs93,536 against its sale at Rs 92,850.

The price of per tola silver remained unchanged and was traded at Rs 1060 and that of 10 gram silver was recorded at Rs 908.78.

In international market, the price of per ounce gold also jumped \$12 at \$1812.

'Uzair occupied 14 mills on Zardari's order'

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed on Thursday claimed that Lyari gangwar commander Uzair Baloch had illegally occupied 14 sugar mills on the order of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari.

While speaking in National Assembly amid opposition's protest, Murad Saeed said that the extortion money was being sent to Asif Ali Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur. Uzair Baloch had confessed to police encounters, kidnappings for ransom and attacks on police station, he added.

I want to raise five questions on Uzair Baloch's confession and ready to hear opposition for two hours after that, he said.

The PTI leader said gangwar's commander had told that in 2008, he was made prisoners' head by PPP in the jail. He said Karachi is the economic hub of Pakistan and it is our responsibility to talk on the issues faced by it.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi had revealed that Sindh government tampered with Joint Investigation Team (JIT) report on Uzair Baloch to exclude certain names.

Holding a press conference with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz, Ali Zaidi claimed the report that was made public by the provincial government is different from the one provided to him. The document which I am having is signed by officers of IB, ISI and other high-level officials. It mentions during investigation, Uzair Baloch had disclosed that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Abdul Qadir Patel tasked him to kill Razzaq Commando. However, the report presented by Sindh government omits all these details, he added.

Ali Zaidi revealed, "The report unveiled by Sindh has 35 pages with signature of four people while the actual report has 43 pages and signature of six people." He also criticized the concerned authorities for not covering key information like "why Uzair Baloch committed the murders? who gave the order? and who had benefited from them".



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan visits E-ICU of Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Centre.

CJ Gulzar expresses surprise over fresh appointments

Railways secy, CEO and DSs must be terminated: CJP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday conducted hearing on a suo motu notice pertaining to losses incurred by Pakistan Railways.

Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed expressed surprise over Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's statement regarding new appointments. Railways has already 77,000 employees, where will the minister appoint one lac workers, the CJP asked.

Additional attorney general said that perhaps Sheikh Rashid made a mistake in choice of words. Justice Gulzar Ahmed reprimanded railways secretary and said he has failed in running the company.

Railways secretary, chief executive officer (CEO) and all divisional superintendents (DSs) must be terminated, the chief justice affirmed.

Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad while expressing wonder over railway minister Sheikh Rashid statement remarked Sheikh Rashid says 100000 recruitments will be made in Railway but where he will appoint 100000 employees when 77000 employees are already working in railway.

He further observed the money provided by China against ML-1 will be

taken by 100000 employees this way.

Reprimanding the secretary railway on the occasion CJP remarked " secretary Sahib railway is not being run by you. Railway secretary, CEO and all DS will have to be removed. Railway system is not as such that train could run on track. Bullet train is running in the world. No headway has been made on ML-1 project. Railway track has turned into death track for people. Railway infrastructure is not capable to work. Overhauling is needed in all departments of railway.

A two-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) presided over by CJP took up the case for hearing Thursday.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) told the court on the occasion it is government endeavor to curtail the strength of employees from 77000 to 56000. 100000 employees will be appointed for ML-1. Sheikh Rashid may have committed some mistake in selecting the words.

Secretary Railway took the stance before the court stations under ML-1 will be commercialized. There will be no crossing in ML-1. Over head bridges or underpasses will be built under railway track as per ML-1.

The court while directing the govern-

ment to take immediate steps to make the railway journey safe for the people and calling the record of ML-1 from planning division has adjourned the hearing of the case for one month.

LHC to form high-level commission to probe petroleum crisis

The Lahore High Court (LHC) Thursday conducted hearing on a case pertaining to petroleum crisis in the country and decided to form a high-level commission to probe the matter.

LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan said in his remarks that the federal government provided benefit of Rs 7 billion to petroleum companies by fining them Rs 40 million only.

The chief justice said that the principal secretary's report has nothing but evasive statements in it. Attorney General Khalid Javed Khan told the court that the government has nothing to hide and action will be taken against the responsible persons.

Justice Qasim Khan inquired that who should be included in the commission to probe petroleum crisis, to which the attorney general suggested the name of Federal Investigation Agency Director General (FIA DG) Wajid Zia to lead the

PM Imran warns of more coronavirus cases on Eid

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has appealed to people to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with simplicity cautioning that negligence shown on previous Eid entailed dire consequences and if the negligence is paraded on this Eid then corona cases are feared to escalate further.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said this while talking to media men after inaugurating Islamabad Isolation hospital and infectious treatment centre here Thursday.

PM stated establishment of hospital within the shortest possible time is highly appreciable. I congratulate the team on construction of hospital within record period of 40 days.

He underscored vital steps can be taken within the shortest period with political will. He held corona graph is dropping in Pakistan as compared to other countries. I appeal to people to celebrate Eid with simplicity. Negligence was shown on Eid-ul-Fitr which led to dire consequences. If negligence is shown on Eid ul Azha then it is feared corona cases may rise further.

PM called upon the people to pursue precautionary measures, adhere to SOPs strictly and avoid over-crowding.

PM directs Governor to resolve Karachi's electricity woes

Prime Minister Imran Khan, taking notice of widespread load shedding in Karachi, has directed Governor Sindh Imran Ismail and other officials to swiftly resolve issues of K-Electric.

According to details, Governor Sindh Imran Ismail, Federal Minister Asad Umar and Shehzad Qasim had a special meeting with the Prime Minister in which the situation of coronavirus in the province and other issues of public interest including K-Electric were discussed. Sources said that on this occasion, the Prime Minister directed the three officials to meet the K-Electric administration and resolve the issue of load shedding as soon as possible.

Govt will provide additional 200MW of power to K-Electric: Ayub

Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan, while addressing the National Assembly session on Thursday, said the federal government has taken steps to improve the power supply in Karachi in order to address the problems of the people of the provincial capital.

The federal minister said we are providing additional one hundred megawatt of electricity to the K-Electric more than the contract agreement signed with it.

Omar Ayub said 30,000 metric tons of

furnace oil and 100 mmmcf gas have been provided to the company. He said we will provide more gas to the K-Electric which will help it generate two hundred megawatts of power. The Minister, however, regretted the K-Electric did not upgrade its system over the years and it has constraints to take additional electricity from the national grid. He said the federal government will help K-Electric to build its capacity.

Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar lamented that the past governments did not pay attention to address the issue of load shedding in Karachi. He said the present government will implement in record time the project to improve power transmission and distribution system in Karachi.

Power supply restored in affected areas: K-Electric

Power supply has been restored in all areas of Karachi after it was affected due to the rains in the port city, K-Electric said in a press release issued on Thursday.

"Due to K-Electric's continuous efforts, power supply was restored in affected areas of Saddar, Nomaish Chorangi, Boat basin, Korangi, Nazimabad, PECHS and Bahadurabad Society, in a timely fashion," read the statement. —Agencies

Edu institutions to re-open from Sept 15

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to reopen educational institutions from September 15 with observance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) against COVID-19.

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood made the announcement in a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday. He said the federal government will formulate SOPs and share them with the provincial governments. He said the provincial governments will be authorized to close the institutions, which do not observe SOPs.

The Minister said the government will review the situation about the spread of coronavirus and implementation of the SOPs in August. Shafqat Mahmood said the educational institutions can open their administrative offices and call teachers before reopening of the institutions and practice the SOPs.

He said universities can permit their PhD students to do research at the laboratories with limited number. He said universities can also allow their students to reside at the hostels with maximum 30 percent occupancy from August.

The Minister said institutions can conduct examinations spanning maximum four days with SOPs from the second week of July. He said the government will monitor implementation of the SOPs. —Online

NA turns into fish market

Shazia throws headphone towards Saeed

ISLAMABAD: The Parliament turned into a fish market on Thursday when PPP Shazia Marri threw a headphone towards PTI leader Murad Saeed while he was speaking in the National Assembly session.

However, the headphone couldn't hit Murad Saeed, but provided an opportunity to the opposition to leave the session, reducing the number required to continue the National Assembly session. Despite the government benches trying to bring the opposition back on their benches, the quorum could not be completed and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri adjourned the session until Friday morning.

Earlier, Federal Minister of Power Omar Ayub Khan informed the Parliament session that the government is bound to provide 600 Megawatt electricity to K-electric and that the centre is giving 100 megawatt additional electricity to KE. Omar Ayub Khan said 100 Mmmcf gas is additionally being given to KE, adding that the K-electric system is not capable of bearing the burden of additional electricity. The power minister said it is the Sindh government's responsibility to take measures against human casualties incident taking place due to poor electricity infrastructure in the province. He said the government is going to provide 30 more Mmmcf gas in the coming days to K-electric to enhance its capacity to produce electricity.

Omar Ayub further said the government is going to provide a special relief package to the people of Karachi with the provision of additional gas to KE. —Online

Banks to revert to old timings from 13th

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has on Thursday restored the working hours of all banks to what they were before the outbreak of coronavirus.

A circular issued by the central bank said that from July 13, all banks will be bound to implement the new working hours.

According to SBP, all banks will be open from 9 am to 5:30 pm from Monday to Thursday and there will be a break for food and prayers from 1:30 pm to 2 pm on these days, while all banks will also be open on Fridays from 9 am to 5:30 pm but Friday prayers and lunch break will be from 1 pm to 2:30 pm.

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

Confirmed cases:	242,740
ICT:	13,731
Punjab:	84,587
Sindh:	100,900
KP:	29,406
Balochistan:	11,052
AJK:	1,459
GB:	1,605
Recovered:	145,311
Deaths:	5,032

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Thursday continued with bullish trend as KSE 100 index as it achieved highest raise of 2020 and closed at 36,142.17 points as compared to 35,694.89 points on the last working day, with positive change of 447.28 points (1.25%).

A total 467,486,611 shares were traded compared to the trade 317,691,871 shares during the previous day, whereas the value of shares traded during the day stood at Rs15.684 billion as compared to Rs13.022 billion during last trading day.

As many as 378 companies transacted shares in the Stock Market, out of which

249 recorded gain and 109 sustained losses whereas the share price of 20 companies remained unchanged.

The three top traded companies were Unity Foods Ltd with a volume of 40,652,000 shares and price per share of Rs11.75, Pak Elektron with a volume of 39,604,500 with price per share of Rs26.96 and TRG Pak Ltd with a volume of 38,452,500 and price per share of Rs35.65.

Nestle Pakistan recorded maximum increase of Rs100.84 per share, closing at Rs6800.84 while Hinopak Motor was runner up with the increase of Rs32.59 per share, closing at Rs467.16.

Unilever Foods witnessed maximum de-

crease of Rs90 per share, closing at Rs9500, whereas prices of Premier Suger shares decreased by Rs49.70 per share closing at Rs612.97.

Another report adds: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Thursday continued with bullish trend as the index closed at 36,142 points on the fourth business day, with positive change of 447.28 points.

According to details, owing to the reduction in interest rates and probabl facilitation of investors, the Pakistan stock market has been witnessing a surge during the last ten trading sessions. Even the recent terrorist attack on the stock exchange

building failed to discourage investors.

During the fourth trading day of the week, an increase of 250 points was recorded in the first hour after which the index crossed the level of 35,900.

The business continued its uptrend and the index recorded a high of 36190.70 points. However, there was a slight decline afterwards, as a result of which the index closed at 36,142 points after rising by 447.28 points at the end of trading day.

During the trading session, the index recorded an improvement of 1.25 percent while 333,335,470 shares were traded, which resulted in a profit of over Rs 1 trillion to the investors.