

J&K an internationally recognized dispute, says Fakhar Imam

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam said on Sunday that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized dispute.

Talking to APP, Syed Fakhar Imam stated that Modi government revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 which was clear violation of UN charter. Modi government deputed 800-thousand troops in the valley and they were subjecting local people to torture. The Jammu and Kashmir was one of the biggest regions in term of military presence.

He, however added, no one can deprive Kashmiris from their right to self-determination. Kashmiri's struggle for freedom will surely succeed. The Kashmiris are heading towards independence with every passing day, he remarked.

The federal minister also hailed Prime Minister Imran Khan for raising Kashmir issue at all global forums in amicable way.

About 95,000 Kashmiris have embraced martyrdom and their sacrifices will not go waste, said Fakhar Imam. Over 300-thousand citizens joined funeral prayer of Burhan Wani. The international

community should play role as human rights violations are on increase in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Women, kids and youngsters were facing brutalities of the occupied forces.

Increase in corona patients in Peshawar hospitals

An increase in the number of corona cases witnessed in all Peshawar hospitals and currently 319 patients are under treatment, an official of the health department said here Sunday.

He said 107 patients infected with coronavirus under treatment at Lady Reading Hospital and 29 patients are undergoing treatment at Lady Reading Hospital on 38 ventilators, the health official said.

He said 70 corona virus patients are undergoing treatment at Khyber Teaching Hospital and out of 25 ventilators allotted in Khyber Teaching Hospital, 13 patients are undergoing treatment.

He disclosed that 82 patients are undergoing treatment at Hayatabad Medical Complex including 21 patients are undergoing treatment on 38 ventilators in the hospital and 60 patients are undergoing treatment at Corona Nishtarabad Hospital. Six patients are being treated at Corona Nishtarabad Hospital on 18 ventila-

tors overall.

Magistrates asked to provide maximum relief to people

Deputy Commissioner Nabila Irfan directed the magistrates to utilize all their energies for providing maximum relief to the masses and ensure smooth delivery of quality and clean food items.

She stated this while presiding over an emergency meeting of the Price Magistrates here on Sunday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Ayesha Ghazanfar, Assistant Commissioners- Irfan Martin, Usman Akram, DO Industries Zeeshan Niaz, SNA Ali Sher and Price Magistrates also attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner said that implementation of price mechanism should be ensured at all costs, adding that maximum relief be provided to the people.

She said that prices of onion, garlic and tomato should be closely monitored.

The DC said that officials of the market committee should play their effective role in this regard. She said that responsibility of the district administration was to provide basic necessities to the citizens at affordable prices. The DC directed that cases against violators under Price Control Act be registered by arresting them on the spot.

NHA launches tree plantation campaign

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) Sunday launched an afforestation drive to enhance green cover along the motorways and highways under Clean and Green Pakistan program.

According to a news release, the initiative was taken in line with vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and directives of Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed. NHA General Manager Maintenance (Punjab-North) Ifthikhar Ahmed Sajid along with Maintenance Unit Lahore team planted trees at various locations in collaboration with M/s Izhar Steel Ltd.

The news release mentioned a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed between the NHA and the Field Sports Conservation Society for tree plantation along the Lahore Eastern Bypass at the NHA Regional Office, Punjab North. Tree plantation along Lahore Eastern Bypass Project was underway, it added. Furthering this activity, Member National Assembly Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Rahat Amanullah Bhatti from Muridke also planted tree at Lahore Eastern Bypass Project with co-operation of NHA and National Highways and Motorways police officers.

'People reject narrative of opposition parties'

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Deputy Secretary General (Punjab) Mir Omar Farooq Mayer said that people rejected the narrative of opposition parties in PP-38.

In a statement on the victory of Ahsan Saleem in PP-38 and Hafiz Hamid Raza in LA-36 Sialkot, Mir Omar Farooq said the victory in the Sialkot by-election was an expression of the people's confidence in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He said that corrupt mafia also suffered defeat in Sialkot.

He said the PTI proved by winning the seat of opposition party that only honest politics would pre-

Turkey evacuates panicked tourists by boat from wildfires

ISTANBUL: Panicked tourists in Turkey hurried to the seashore to wait for rescue boats after being told to evacuate some hotels in the Aegean Sea resort of Bodrum due to the dangers posed by nearby wildfires, Turkish media reported.

Coast guard units led the operation and authorities asked private boats and yachts to assist in evacuation efforts from the sea as new wildfires erupted. A video showed plumes of smoke and fire enveloping a hill close to the seashore.

The death toll from wildfires raging in Turkey's Mediterranean towns rose to six Saturday after two forest workers were killed, the country's health minister said. Fires across Turkey since Wednesday have burned down forests and some settlements, encroaching on villages and tourist destinations and forcing people to evacuate.

The Russian news agency Sputnik said more than 100 Russian tourists had been evacuated from Bodrum and relocated to new hotels.

In one video of the Bodrum fire filmed from the sea, a man helping with the evacuations was stunned at the speed of the fire, saying "this is unbelievable, just unbelievable. How did this fire come (here) this fast in 5 minutes?" He was not named in the video.



The minister of agriculture and forestry, Bekir Pakdemirli, said on Saturday that 91 of the 101 fires that broke out amid strong winds and scorching heat have been brought under control. Neighbourhoods affected by the fire in five provinces were declared disaster zones.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited some affected areas Saturday, inspecting the damage from a helicopter.

Speaking from the town of Manavgat, Erdogan announced that the Turkish government would cover the rents for people affected by the fire and rebuild their homes. He said taxes, social security and credit payments would be postponed for those

affected and small businesses would be offered credit with zero interest.

"We cannot do anything beyond wishing the mercy of God for the lives we have lost but we can replace everything that was burned," he said.

The wildfires broke out on Wednesday across southern provinces, injuring more than 300.

Erdogan said the number of planes fighting the fires had been increased from six to 13, including planes from Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran, and that thousands of Turkish personnel as well as dozens of helicopters and drones were assisting the firefighting efforts. —AFP

Rhino killings on the rise in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG: At least 249 rhinos were killed the first six months of this year in South Africa, the environment minister said partly pushed by the easing of lockdown curbs that increased movement of poachers.

South Africa is home to nearly 80 percent of the world's rhinos but their horns are prized in traditional medicine in Asia, and poachers have continued to mount an onslaught on the species.

The figure represents 83 more rhino killings compared with the same period in 2020. The bulk of the slaughter happened at the famed Kruger National Park where 132 rhinos were killed. "From January to the end of June 2021, 249 rhino have been poached for their horn in South Africa," said Barbara Creecy, the minister of environment, forestry and fisheries in a statement. —Reuters

100-year-old former death camp guard to go on trial in Germany



FRANKFURT: A 100-year-old former guard at the Sachsenhausen Nazi concentration camp near Berlin will face trial in the autumn, 76 years after the end of the Second World War, German weekly Welt am Sonntag reported.

The district court of Neuruippin admitted the charges of accessory to murder in 3,500 cases, and the trial is slated to start in October.

The defendant should be able to stand trial for 2 to 2 1/2 hours a day, a court spokesman told the paper.

The court was not available for comment at the weekend. The accused, who was not named in accordance with German media laws concerning suspects, was said to have worked as a camp guard from 1942 to 1945 in Sachsenhausen, where around 200,000 peo-

ple were imprisoned and 20,000 murdered.

While the number of suspects in Nazi crimes is dwindling prosecutors are still trying to bring individuals to justice. A landmark conviction in 2011 cleared the way to more prosecutions as working in a concentration camp was for the first time found to be grounds for culpability with no proof of a specific crime. —AFP



ISLAMABAD: A farmer collects honey from a rack of honeybees. —Online

COVID-19 claims 21 lives in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: As many as 21 patients have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in the district during preceding month of July, taking the total number of deaths to 456.

According to the official figures released by district health authorities, 111 more patients were tested positive for COVID-19 till

Saturday night, taking the tally of the coronavirus cases to 20621, of them 19288 had so far been recovered from the contagion.

Out of 841 PCR tests performed during the last 24 hours, 111 cases were reported as positive with 13 % positivity rate, the focal person Dr. Imdad Chana informed the APP.

More than 50% ICU and HDU beds in both LU hospitals of Hyderabad and Jamahoro are occupied by COVID-19 patients while 50 beds out of total 106 are vacant, the official report confirmed. According to Dr.

Chana, a sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccines is available in the district where the inoculation process was underway at 32 vaccination centres.

The 24 hour vaccination facility has also been provided to the people of Hyderabad at the Mass Vaccination Centre (MVC) established by district administration at Barkat Bhai Tennis Court near Niaz Stadium, Dr. Chana said. As per the official figures, 102482 vaccine doses are available in the district, of them 48738 Sinovac, 25252 Sinopharm, 20386 Moderna, 4310 Astrazeneca, 2941 Pakvac, 489 Cansino and 366 Pfizer BioNTech are available in all centres. As many as 293813 people have received first jab while 93506 were given second dose of the coronavirus vaccine till Saturday night, according to daily situation report, adding that 8956 people received first while sec-

ond jab was given to 1726 people during the last 24 hours.

Out of 884 active cases of COVID-19 in the district, 814 are isolated at their residences while 70 are admitted in different hospitals of Hyderabad and Karachi, report added.

Code of ethics to be Implemented strictly in Muharram

Special Representative to Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony and middle East Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashraf said on Sunday that a code of ethics would be implemented strictly to maintain peace during the holy month of Muharram. Chairing a meeting here at circuit house, he said the government had formulated a 14-point code of ethics, named as 'Paigham-e-Pakistan Zabita-e-Akhlag' for interfaith harmony and peace during the holy month. —Agencies

Millions of Americans risk eviction as COVID-19 cases spike

WASHINGTON: Millions of Americans could find themselves homeless starting as a nationwide ban on evictions expires, against a backdrop of surging coronavirus cases and political fingerprinting.

With billions in government funds meant to help renters still untapped, President Joe Biden this week urged Congress to extend the 11-month-old moratorium, after a recent Supreme Court ruling meant the White House could not do so. But Republicans balked at Democratic efforts to extend the eviction ban through mid October, and the House of Representatives adjourned for its summer vacation Friday without renewing it. Several left-wing Democrats spent the night outside the Capitol in protesting over their colleagues over the failure to act.

"We slept at the Capitol last night to ask them to come back and do their jobs. Today's their last chance," tweeted Congresswoman Cori Bush, who has herself experienced homelessness and was joined by fellow progressives Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley. With the clock ticking down to Sunday, the country was braced for a heartbreaking spectacle - families with their belongings at the curbside



wondering where to go. Protesters march against evictions in New York, in September 2020. One of those at risk is Terriana Clark, who was living out of a car with her husband and two stepchildren for much of last year, before finding a teaching job and an apartment in Harvey, Louisiana. Jobless again and struggling to pay rent after a bout of illness, the 27-year-old told The New Orleans Advocate she applied to a local assistance program four months ago, but is still waiting for help. —AFP

Frustration as Biden, Congress allow eviction ban to expire

WASHINGTON: Anger and frustration mounted as President Joe Biden showed no signs of reversing plans to allow a nationwide eviction moratorium to expire at midnight - one Democratic lawmaker even camping outside the Capitol in protest as millions of Americans were about to be forced from their homes.

Biden's decision announced days before the eviction deadline stunned many in Congress and exposed a rare divide between the president and his party, with potential lasting political ramifications. Lawmakers said they were blindsided by Biden's inaction, some furious that he called on Congress to provide a last-minute solution to protect renters that they were unable to deliver. Representative Maxine Waters the chair of the Financial Services Committee, said Saturday on CNN: "We thought that the White House was in charge."

One lawmaker, Representative Cori Bush, camped overnight at the Capitol in protest. "We are only hours away from a fully preventable housing crisis," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren during a floor speech in a rare Saturday session as senators labored over an infrastructure package. —AFP

Heatwave causes massive melt of Greenland ice sheet



COPENHAGEN: Greenland's ice sheet has experienced a "massive melting event" during a heatwave that has seen temperatures more than 10 degrees above seasonal norms, according to Danish researchers.

Since the ice sheet covering the vast Arctic territory, has melted by around eight billion tonnes a day, twice its normal average rate during summer, reported the Polar Portal website, which is run by Danish researchers. The Danish Meteorological Institute reported temperatures of more than 20 degrees Celsius, more than twice the normal average summer temperature, in northern Greenland. And Nerlerit Inaat airport in the northeast of the territory recorded 23.4 degrees on Thursday, the highest recorded there since records began.

With the heatwave affecting most of Greenland that day, the Polar Portal website reported a "massive melting event" involving enough water "to cover Florida with two inches (5cm) of water". The largest melt of the Greenland ice sheet still dates back to the summer of 2019. But the area where the melting took place this time is larger than two years ago, the website added.

The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest mass of freshwater ice on the planet with nearly 1.8 million square kilometers, second only to Antarctica.

The melting of the ice sheets started in 1990 and has accelerated since 2000. The mass loss in recent years is approximately four times greater than it was before 2000, say the researchers at Polar Portal. One European study published in January said that ocean levels would rise between 10 and 18cm by 2100 - or 60 per cent faster than previously estimated - at the rate which the Greenland ice sheet was now melting. —AFP

19 bodies reburied amid protests in search for victims

TULSA, Oklahoma: The bodies of 19 people exhumed from a Tulsa cemetery during a search for victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre were reburied during a closed ceremony, despite objections from protesters outside the cemetery.

"This is totally disgusting and disrespectful that those are our family members and we're outside the gate instead of inside that gate where they are," Celi Butler Davis, who said she is a descendant of a massacre victim, told KTUL-TV. Others protesting Friday's reburial called for a criminal investigation.

"The found remains - a skull with a bullet hole - that seems like you're just beginning to get somewhere" in investigating the deaths, state Rep. Regina Goodwin told KJRH-TV. Forensic anthropologist Phoebe Stubblefield has said a bullet was found with one set of remains that had trauma to the body, including to the head. Stubblefield said none of the remains have been confirmed as massacre victims, although forensic and DNA evidence has been collected. "We are not done, we have not stopped," Stubblefield told the crowd, saying a public report on the findings is likely during the fall. —AP