



LAHORE ▾ P2
Steps being taken to protect citizens from fourth wave of virus: CM

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LAHORE ▾ P3
India conspiring against Afghan peace process: Governor

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Alvi advises student to request for retaking exams

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday, on complaint of a medical student facing denial by his institution to appear in examinations, said the aggrieved could invoke a relevant clause of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) that gave universities a prerogative to allow students as many retakes.

Complainant Sarbuland Khan had filed a representation with the President of Pakistan assailing the order of Wafaqi Mohtasib, which had upheld the decision of Mohammad Medical College, Mirpurkhas, on grounds that the case was

time. The complainant had mentioned that he had failed twice in the second year's paper of Biochemistry, and under the rules had four chances to pass the examination. However, he could not avail the third and fourth chances as the medical college did not intimate him timely and also had banned his entry into the institution.

He prayed before the President that if he was not given a chance to appear in the examination, then the medical college be directed to refund his paid fee Rs.1,500,000 with seven years interest. He also requested for rechecking of his Biochemistry paper, wherein he had failed due to lacking one mark only.



KARACHI: A view of closed shops of a market during partial lockdown was imposed to curb spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. —Online

"Aapka Wazir-e- Azam Aap Kai Sath"

PM says corrupt junta always ruined countries

From Our Staff correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday said that a corrupt society could not make progress whereas those countries made economic strides that had eliminated this curse from their societies.

The prime minister said there was rule of law in the prosperous countries. "Corruption at the low level did not bankrupt a country, it has always been the ruling elite that ruined the countries through their teeming corruption," he added.

He said in order to save their skins, the corrupt junta would first weaken the anti-graft bodies, resulting in the destruction of a country.

The UN Secretary General formed a fact-finding panel as to why the poor countries were mired in poverty, he said, adding, the panel submitted a report indicating that about 1000 billion dollars were being siphoned off from the poor countries to the rich countries through money laundering tactics by the powerful and corrupt ruling elite.

The prime minister was responding to public queries in a live Tv programme, "Aapka Wazir-e- Azam Aap kai sath."

-Terms government's efforts against corruption and for the rule of law as 'the biggest Jihad'

The prime minister further termed government's efforts against corruption and for the rule of law as "the biggest Jihad".

He said there would be no two separate sets of laws for the powerful and for the poor. The prime minister asked the people to fully cooperate with the government in this regard as they wanted to make the people free from the clutches of injustices.

"We want the country to stand on its feet. It should not seek loans or beg for assistance, and should not take part in the other's war in return for money," he added. The prime minister said they wanted the nation to become self-reliant.

"It is the fight for the future of Pakistan and fight for the rule of law. We are striving for the rule of law for the future of our generations," he stressed.

The prime minister said the powerful corrupt elements wanted NRO and wanted deal as the one extended by Musharraf. Such elements had been blackmailing that otherwise, they would pull down the government.

The prime minister referred to chaotic situation in South Africa where authorities took action over Zuma's corruption, their former ruler.

He opined that in the Western democracy, an accused could not resist accountability.

The prime minister responding to a question, further referred to British rule of Indo-Pak, as they took away about 24 GDP of Mughal empire with them swelling their coffins.

The two families had accumulated pelf through corruption. For the first time in the country's history, NAB had arrested the powerful people, he added.

Targeted lockdown likely in urban centres: Asad

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday indicated that to control spread of Indian variant of COVID-19, the government might impose lockdown in selected sectors of the country's urban centers.

The decision in this regard, he said would be made in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday (August 02). "We will present recommendation to the Prime Minister in the meeting where it would be decided that which sectors are being closed down and to what extent," Asad Umar said while addressing a press conference here after chairing the meeting of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC).

Asad Umar was flanked by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan. The minister said the Indian variant was spreading 60% to 70% faster than the British variant which itself was spreading 70% faster than the normal virus.

"It is highly transmissible and can be transmitted from the patient to all family members in no time." He said the situation in India, Bangladesh, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia and other regional countries was not good so far as spread of the disease is concerned.

For last few days, over 200 people were succumbing to the delta variant of COVID-19 daily while in Indonesia; the daily death rate remained 1600 to 1700 daily. East Asia situation is also not good. Therefore in order to control this variant, the minister asked the people to follow the guidelines.

"The biggest weapon against the pandemic is at the hand of common people who could help stopping the pandemic by following guidelines issued by the government," he added. Asad Umar said vaccination was the only way to get rid of this disease and the federal government was spending Rs 200 billion on vaccination.

He said Pakistan had set new daily records of vaccinations throughout the six days of this week.

The minister pointed out that the purpose of the presser was to brief that the success against COVID-19 was the centralised effort through the forum of NCOC.

NCOC is an apolitical forum and has equal regard for all federating units, he said adding NCOC will continue to follow the same strategy and pattern to cope with the contagion.

He said that pressurising Herschelle Gibbs not to participate in Kashmir movement, rather it will benefit it.

The minister said, by stopping international players for their irrational political objectives, Indian rulers will harm themselves.

He said that as there were millions of cricket fans in both India and Pakistan, cricket should be kept separate from politics. He said that Kashmir Premier League was important for Pakistan cricket and people wanted to see its match.

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Mutual ties will open new avenues for our relations: Al-Asoumi

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Arab Parliament, Speaker Adel Abdulrahman Al-Asoumi, heading a high-profile delegation of legislators from the Arab League, arrived in Islamabad on Sunday on invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

Senator Sana Jamali welcomed the delegation on arrival at Islamabad International Airport, said a news release of the Senate Secretariat.

On arrival, Adel Abdulrahman Al-Asoumi informed the journalists that this was his first visit to any non-Arab country after becoming President of the Arab Parliament and described it as a 'true reflection' of their fraternal ties.

He regarded Pakistan as an 'important Muslim country' and said "Our alliance and cooperation with Pakistan will be beneficial for the Muslim Ummah. Mutual cooperation will open new avenues for our relations."

During the visit, Al Asoumi said he, along with the delegation, would hold meetings with the political leadership of Pakistan in which the issues faced by Muslim Ummah and matters pertaining to their unity and harmony would be discussed at length. He expressed confidence that the visit would produce positive and far-reaching results, adding the exchange of delegations at the parliamentary and public levels would significantly boost their ties, trade and investment. The president said the vast opportunities, offered by Pakistan in the area of trade and investment, would be fully brought to use.

Pakistan declared cheapest country to live in: Farrukh

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday said that Pakistan has been ranked cheapest country to live in by the World Population Review in its annual report about the "cost of living for countries in 2021".

In a series of tweets, he said the report showed that the country's cost of living was 18.58 with 225.19 million population, followed by Afghanistan and India where the cost of living was 24.51 and 25.14 with population of 39.835 million and 1.39 billion, respectively.

The minister said the cost of living in Uzbekistan was 30.25, 30.69 in Nepal, 31.75 in Nigeria, 38.72 in Vietnam, 39.46 in Malaysia and 42.64 in Brazil.

He said the most expensive countries to live in were Cayman Islands and Bermuda where the cost of living was 141.64 and 138.22, respectively.

The cost of living in Switzerland was 122.67, while Norway had 104.49, he added.

Farrukh said the metrics used by the international organization to determine cost of living in each country included rent index, purchasing power, consumer price and grocery indices.

'Pressurising Gibbs not to participate in KPL condemnable'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday said that it was unfortunate that South African cricketer Herschelle Gibbs has been pressurised to withdraw from the Kashmir Premier League (KPL).

In a media talk, he said, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has used cricket for politics in the past as well which was strongly condemnable.

He said that pressurising Herschelle Gibbs not to participate in Kashmir will not harm Kashmir movement, rather it will benefit it.

The minister said, by stopping international players for their irrational political objectives, Indian rulers will harm themselves.

He said that as there were millions of cricket fans in both India and Pakistan, cricket should be kept separate from politics. He said that Kashmir Premier League was important for Pakistan cricket and people wanted to see its match.

Peace in Kabul not our weakness: Moeed

WASHINGTON: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Sunday said Peace in Afghanistan is not our weakness rather strength as the world owes to bring peace in the war-torn country and Pakistan would bear maximum impact as its affectee in case of any violence.

The NSA addressing a media conference at the Pakistani Embassy in Washington DC, said the purpose of this visit was to have a follow up of his engagement with the US NSA Jake Sullivan on 23 May in Geneva which was the first physical high level interaction with the Americans. Dr Moeed while elaborating the agenda of his official

visit said Afghanistan was the most immediate and important matter of discussion but it was agreed that Pakistan and US would work in multiple domains including climate change, health and covid, commerce and investment.

He added that in the Geneva meeting it was decided that in end July NSAs would take stock of the progress as teams were working on both sides since then. There has been elaborate work out here on the Pakistan's strategy in this regard, the NSA said. The NSA confirmed that the meeting with his US counterpart was the main engagement where the discussion was very forthcoming and positive. —APP

India wants sabotaging peace in region: FM

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi Sunday said India wanted to sabotage peace in the region and was creating obstacles in this regard.

Qureshi expressed these remarks during his address in a ceremony, organized in honour of workers of Multan Waste Management Company, by PTI local leader Shiekh Wajid, here. Qureshi maintained that promotion of peace in the region was top priority of Pakistan. However, India is big hurdle in way of peace in the region. Solution of Kashmir and Palestine issues was inevitable to promote peace across the globe, stated Foreign Minister

Qureshi. Qureshi stated that Prime Minister Imran Khan was highlighting Kashmir, Palestine and other issues of Muslim Ummah at all international forums. Pakistan will mark August-5 in amicable way as Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Azad Kashmir and express solidarity with innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The citizens in IIOJK have been deprived of basic rights, said Qureshi. Following efforts from PM Imran Khan, the Kashmir issue was discussed after 63 years in United Nations, said FM Qureshi. Now, the international community is raising voices in support of innocent Kashmiris, who are facing brutalities by occupied forces.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam Khan offers dua after sapling plant during tree plantation event as a part of the ongoing Monsoon Tree Plantation drive.

Business community reposes confidence in PM

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (UBG) in Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sunday unanimously reposed full confidence in Prime Minister Imran Khan for successfully pursuing prudent economic policies to offset the impact of Covid-19 on national economy.

It was good omen that Prime Minister was taking top elected leaders of business community from all sectors into confidence prior to formulation of monetary and trade policies to push the national economy in the wake of deadly pandemic.

Central Chairman UBG and President SAARC Chamber of Commerce, Iftikhar Ali Malik informed this while talking to a delegation of traders led by Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, member executive committee Lahore Chamber, said a news release. He said UBG top leadership including its patron-in-chief and other members of core committee decided in principle to support the Prime Minister and extended a helping hand in the larger national interests for bringing gradually structural economic reforms mainly aimed at strengthening economy. He said the private sector was the engine of economic growth, creating jobs, increasing trade, providing goods and services to the poor be-

sides generating tax revenue.

He said the government played a central role in supporting economic growth and reducing abject poverty by fully ensuring result oriented sustainable policies. He said the vast majority of constraints to economic growth identified by the private sector were directly linked to government decisions and actions which, he added, needed to be addressed on top priority to accelerate the economic activities in the country. Malik said continuous stable democratic process was a key factor for sound economy. He said the prime minister attached great importance to the private sector for ease of doing business.