

COVID-19 national tally of active cases reports over 91,000

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 91,440 one of the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Friday with 3,689 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,755 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours.

Eighty-three corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 75 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and eight of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO).

Most of the deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Out of the total 83 deaths occurred, 27 of them died were under treatment on ventilators.

There were 5,368 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country.

The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 6.03%.

The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests per-

formed to identify infected individuals.

The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Rawalpindi 37 percent, Bahawalpur 47 percent, Lahore 55 percent and Multan 70 percent.

The maximum Oxygen beds (alternate oxygen providing facility other than ventilator administered as per medical requirement of COVID patient) was also occupied in four major cities of Swabi 78 percent, Gujrat 63 percent, Gujranwala 72 percent and Multan 57 percent.

Around 525 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in the country while no COVID affected person was on ventilator in Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

Some 61,128 tests were conducted across the country on Thursday, including 19,449 in Sindh, 22,966 in Punjab, 11,379 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 4,529 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 1,101 in Balochistan, 615 Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and 1,089 in AJK.

Around 1,079,867 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

Since the pandemic broke out, a total of 1,197,887 cases were de-

tected that also included the perished, recovered and under treatment COVID-19 patients so far, including AJK 33,131, Balochistan 32,517, GB 10,127, ICT 102,094, KP 167,154, Punjab 410,463 and Sindh 442,401.

About 26,580 deaths were recorded in country since the eruption of the contagion.

Around 7,089 people perished in Sindh, 16 of them died in the hospitals on Thursday.

12,171 people died in Punjab with 36 deaths occurred in past 24 hours. Some 28 individuals died in the hospitals and eight out of the hospitals.

As many as 5,200 people expired in KP, 25 of them died in hospitals on Thursday, 884 individuals died in ICT, five of them died in the hospitals on Thursday, 342 people died in Balochistan, 179 infected people perished in GB, and 715 people died in AJK, one of them succumbed to the deadly virus in the hospital on Thursday.

A total of 18,347,597 corona tests have been conducted so far, while 640 hospitals are equipped with COVID facilities across the country.

Some 5,578 corona patients were admitted to hospitals. —APP



RAWALPINDI: Dr Jamal Nasir President, Pakistan Green Task Force inaugurates the Islamic Banking at the Bank of Punjab Satellite Town Branch along with Mr Sajjad Irshad, Kh. Rashid Javed, M Waqas Ali, Mir Al Ghazan Atif Kiayni and Irfan Ali.

KP assembly pays rich tribute to Rahimullah Yousafzai

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly Friday paid glowing tribute to renowned journalist of Pakistan, Rahimullah Yousafzai who died here the other day due to protracted illness.

Soon after completion of question and answer session, Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Human Rights and Work, Shaukat Yousafzai rose on a point of order and said that nation has lost a very renowned journalist, Rahimullah Yousafzai.

"Rahimullah Yousafzai was like a shining star in the sky of journalism whose credibility was acknowledged not only by national but international media organizations," Shaukat remarked.

Late Rahimullah was not only a journalist, but a whole journalistic organization in himself, Shaukat added.

His demise has not only saddened his family members and relatives, but the whole residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shaukat said Rahimullah was an authority on Afghan affairs and his reporting was considered as fully credible information.

Rahimullah remained associated with profession of journalism for around 50 years but his character was so clean and clear that no one can raise any finger on him.

The renowned journalist attained international fame due to his investigative and credible news stories mostly on Afghan issues.

He always remained impartial and have never showed tilt towards any group or organization, Shaukat added.

He also had developed relations with governmental officials and politicians due to his profession, but never

took any monetary gain from any one.

Shaukat also recalled that once Rahimullah received offer of becoming Federal Minister, but he simply excused from availing it.

The prominence and identity gained by Rahimullah as a good journalist was hardly attained by any other journalist in the country, Shaukat continues.

Traveling Bus Painting Project starts at NIFTH

A two-day "Traveling Bus Painting Project" started here on Friday at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) aiming to promote Art and Culture of both countries (Pakistan-Australia) by involving our youth to participate in this Bus Painting Project.

Talking to this agency, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said, "The designs on the buses draw parallels between the climate and landscape of Australia and Pakistan".

He said the historic and cultural landmarks used, including Badshahi Mosque Lahore, K-2, Uluru, Sydney Opera House, Three Sisters, Sydney Harbour Bridge, represent the cultural diversity and rich history of both countries.

Adding the design elements on the two sides of the bus will be painted as day and night scenes representing the colloquialism of 'Down Under' and the different time zones and opposite seasons in Australia and Pakistan.

Waves, water, and rain will be a common theme connecting all designs. They represent the importance of coastal lines in both countries and the similarities and parallels between the climate and water resources of the two countries. —Agencies

Senate body reviews Elections (Amendment) Bill 2021

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs on Friday reviewed Elections Act, 2017. "The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2021" clause by clause and approved some amendments.

The Committee, met here with Senator Taj Haider in the chair, was briefed by Adviser to Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Babar Awan.

Senator Babar Awan briefed the committee point by point at 37 objections raised by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

regarding Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Shibli Faraz, Minister for Railways, Azam Khan Swati, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Dr. Sania Nishtar, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan, Secretary Parliamentary Affairs and Secretary ECP also attended the meeting.

Earlier, Taj Haider welcomed the decision of Chairman Senate to in-

clude Senator Samina Mumtaz in the Committee.

The committee also discussed the bill further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 "The Elections (Second Amendment) Bill 2021".

The members of the Committee including Senators Dr. Muhammad Farooq Naseem, Azam Nazir Tarar, Abida Muhammad Azeem, Hilal ur Rehman, Farooq Hamid Naek, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Kamran Murtaza, Prof. Sajid Mir, Syed Ali Zafar and Waleed Iqbal also attended the meeting. —APP

Attacking anti-vaxxers, Biden mandates widespread COVID-19 shots, tests

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden took aim at vaccine resistance in America, announcing policies requiring most federal employees to get COVID-19 vaccines and pushing large employers to have their workers vaccinated or tested weekly.

The new measures, which Biden laid out in remarks from the White House, would apply to about two-thirds of all US employees, those who work for businesses with more than 100 workers. "We've been patient," Biden told the millions of Americans who have declined to get coronavirus shots. "But our patience is wearing thin, and your refusal has cost all of us."

Taken together, the policies and speech represented Biden's most aggressive steps yet to prod Americans resistant to getting shots amid a surge in COVID-19 cases from the fast-spreading Delta variant.

The surge has posed increased risk not just to the country but also to a president who ran on promises to get control over the virus and who



earlier this year said the country was "closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus."

Despite a full-throated campaign by the Biden administration urging all eligible Americans to get the free vaccines, just over 53 per cent of Americans are fully vaccinated, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). On Thursday, Biden warned that "we're in a tough stretch and it

could last for a while".

Under Biden's plan, the administration will also require vaccinations for more than 17 million healthcare workers at hospitals and other institutions that participate in Medicare and Medicaid social programs for poor, disabled and older Americans, senior administration officials said. The new vaccination requirements cover about 100m workers, or about two-thirds of all workers. —AFP

Los Angeles school officials order vaccines for students aged 12 and up

LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles County school officials ordered COVID-19 vaccinations for all students aged 12 and over to order COVID-19 inoculations for all students aged 12 and over, the largest school district in the United States to take that dramatic step.

School board members voted unanimously to mandate the shots in the coming weeks despite angry objections from several parents who said they were worried about the safety of vaccines and had the right to make the decision for their children.

"I do not see this as your choice or my choice," board member Jackie Goldberg said. "I see this as a community necessity. That means people have to do things they're not comfortable with, they're not sure of, that may even contain some risk."

The board applauded after the vote. Board member Scott Schmerelson was forced to abstain because he owns stock in vaccine-maker Pfizer. He told the board afterward that he supported their decision.

The Los Angeles school district vaccine policy applies to all of the district's more than 600,000 students who are



12 or older, unless they can establish a medical or religious exemption. The board previously mandated that all employees be inoculated.

The mandate does not apply to a small minority of students in the nation's second-largest school district who have opted to remain home.

Roughly 73 per cent of the district's students are Latino, and board members said they would make efforts to convince immigrant parents of the safety of the vaccine, saying that many distrusted the government. —Reuters

War with Russia a worst-case possibility, says Volodymyr

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that all-out war with neighbouring Russia is a possibility, and that he wanted to have a substantive meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Asked at the Yalta European Strategy (YES) summit if there could really be all out-war with Russia, which seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and backs pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's east, Zelenskyy said: "I think there can be."

"It's the worst thing that could happen, but unfortunately there is that possibility," he added, speaking in Ukrainian.

Kyiv says the conflict in eastern Ukraine has killed 14,000 people since 2014.

Zelenskyy said relations with the United States had improved, but bemoaned the fact that Ukraine had not received a clear answer to its request to join the NATO military alliance - a move that would be certain to infuriate Moscow. "We have not received... a direct position on Ukraine's accession to NATO," he said. "Ukraine has been ready for a long time." He said a refusal to admit Ukraine would weaken NATO while playing into Russia's hands. —

US, Japan, S Korea to meet over N Korea nuclear standoff

SEOUL: Officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan will hold a meeting on North Korea next week in Tokyo, South Korea's foreign ministry confirmed.

The three countries have been discussing ways to break a standoff with North Korea over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, which have drawn international sanctions. Noh Kyu-duk, Seoul's special representative for Korean peninsula peace and security affairs, will travel to Japan on Sunday for a three-day visit, the ministry said in a statement.

While there, he will meet with US envoy for North Korea Sung Kim, and Takehiro Funakoshi, director-general of the Japanese foreign ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau. The officials will discuss the North Korean nuclear issue as well as cooperation between their countries, Seoul said.

"The three countries are expected to have in-depth discussions on ways to promote cooperation to stably manage the situation of the Korean Peninsula and resume the peninsula peace process at an early date," the statement said. US President Joe Biden's administration has said it will explore diplomacy to achieve North Korean denuclearisation, but has shown no willingness to ease sanctions. During a visit to Seoul in August, Sung Kim said he was ready to meet with North Korean officials "anywhere, at any time". Pyongyang has also said it is open to diplomacy, but that it sees no sign of policy changes from the United States, citing issues such as sanctions as well as joint military drills with South Korea. —AFP

Germany orders vaccinations for pregnant women

BERLIN: Germany's vaccine oversight body recommended that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be vaccinated against COVID-19 with an mRNA-based shot.

The Permanent Vaccination Commission (STIKO) advises that women should receive two shots from the second trimester of pregnancy, according to guidance posted on the website of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases. "In addition, STIKO expressly recommends vaccination against COVID-19 for those of child-bearing age who are not yet or incompletely vaccinated, to ensure very good protection against this disease before pregnancy," the guidance added. Numerous countries have this year recommended that pregnant women have COVID-19 vaccinations after finding them to be safe. The European Medicines Agency said in July that data seen so far did not suggest any safety concerns, and in August the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that pregnant women should be vaccinated. Germany is administering two vaccines based on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology - one made by local startup BioNTech in partnership with Pfizer. —AFP

EIA REPORT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This notice is published for the information of all stakeholders and general public that EPA Punjab has admitted the application of the following project to accord environmental approval required under Section 12 Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997.

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	DISTRICT
Installation of 132 KV Grid Station and Transmission lines in new Lahore city	Mouza Sultankey Off UBD Canal Road, Tehsil Raiwind	Lahore

2. All stakeholders and general public are invited to submit their comments for / or against the grant of environmental approval. The comments may be submitted to Director EIA, EPA, Punjab, National Hockey Stadium (Qaddafi Stadium), Ferozpur Road, Lahore within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Copy of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report submitted by the proponent of the Project is available at the following Locations for review of stakeholders / general public.

- EPA, Library, National Hockey Stadium / Qaddafi Stadium, Lahore.
- Deputy Director (Environment), Lahore.
- The Public hearing will be conducted as per following schedule.

Date	Days	Time	LOCATION
14-10-2021	Thursday	11.00 a.m	New Lahore City Phase I, Corporate Office Canal Road, near Sunder Darbar Sharif, Tehsil Raiwind District Lahore

4. All Stakeholders and the General Public are invited to attend the hearing proceedings to share their proposal / concerns / suggestions.

(Director General)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Hockey Stadium Qaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Ph# 042-95232230

Chief Executive Officer,
M's New Lahore City Housing Scheme, Mouza Sultankey Off UBD Canal Road, Tehsil Raiwind District Lahore.

La Nina climate cycle may reemerge in 2021: UN

GENEVA: The weather phenomenon La Nina could resurface before the end of 2021, after petering out four months ago, the UN said predicting above-average temperatures despite its generally cooling influence.

The World Meteorological Organization said that there was now a 40 per cent chance that La Nina, which last held the globe in its clutches between August 2020 and May, would reappear again by year-end.

"But despite La Nina's cooling influence, temperatures over land areas are expected to be above average between September and November, especially in the northern hemisphere," the UN agency said in a statement. La Nina refers to the large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, occurring every two to seven years.

The effect has widespread impacts on weather around the world - typically the opposite impacts to the El Nino phenomenon, which has a warming influence on global temperatures. —AFP