

US donates 36 vehicles to KP for remote pandemic monitoring, management

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Thursday presented 36 vehicles to the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)'s Health Department to help strengthen tracking and management of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome and KP Minister for Health and Finance Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra led the hand-over ceremony at the KP Governor's House, said a press release here.

"This year marks the 75th anniversary of the US-Pakistan partnership," remarked US Ambassador Donald Blome. "We are proud of our contributions to improve lives here in

KP, and we are committed to making the world a better place for the Pakistani people. With these vehicles and the training provided by USAID, KP health professionals are better equipped to provide accurate and timely information in remote locations and help health officials make informed decisions to protect the public."

Taimur thanked Donald Blome for his visit and extended support. He extended his gratitude for USAID support in different health interventions on behalf of the KP government.

Talking to the media, Taimur said, "The KP Department of Health is grateful to USAID for the timely support of vehicles provided to all District Diseases Surveil-

lance and Response Units in KP. These 36 vehicles will be fully utilized for COVID-19 surveillance as well as for vaccination campaign monitoring. We cherish our partnership with USAID for strengthening the health system in the province."

Across Pakistan, the US has donated 61 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to date, with an additional 16 million pediatric doses announced and expected to arrive soon. Since the start of pandemic, the US government has provided nearly \$70.4 million in direct support and \$13.8 million in in-kind support to assist the Pakistani people in the fight against COVID-19, with another \$20 million planned to support further vaccination efforts in Pakistan.

The US has also provided 200 ventilators for 64 Pakistani hospitals, which increased Pakistan's respiratory care capacity by 30 percent, and trained 400 healthcare workers on how to operate these ventilators. At the provincial level, the US, through USAID, provided disease surveillance and response teams in all 155 districts across Pakistan and supported the reconfiguration of a "HealthAlert" phone application for healthcare workers to report new cases of COVID-19 in rural areas.

PTI's request for public gathering at NADRA Chowk rejected

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Thursday rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's request for holding

a public gathering at NADRA Chowk falling within the area of Red Zone which had been declared "no protest or gathering zone" to maintain law and order.

However, the ICT administration proposed the PTI two other sites including F-9 Park and H-9 ground for the purpose subject to certain terms and conditions.

"The section 144 of Criminal Procedures Code (CrPC) has been imposed on gathering of persons in Islamabad including Red Zone and specifically, no participant is allowed to enter in and around the Red Zone," said a notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon for intimation of peaceful public gathering in Islamabad. —Agencies



ISLAMABAD: A view of banners installed at the Constitution Avenue for showing solidarity with Kashmiris in connection with the Youm-e-Istehsal.

China begins major Taiwan military drills after Pelosi visit

HONG KONG: China's largest-ever military exercises encircling Taiwan kicked off Thursday, in a show of force straddling vital international shipping lanes after a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi left Taiwan Wednesday after a trip that defied a series of stark threats from Beijing, which views the self-ruled island as its territory.

Pelosi was the highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years, and said her trip made it "unequivocally clear" that the United States would not abandon a democratic ally. It sparked a furious reaction from Beijing, which vowed "punishment" and announced military drills in the seas around Taiwan — some of the world's busiest waterways. The exercises, which began around 12 pm (0400 GMT), involve "live-firing", according to state media. "Six major areas around the island have been selected for this ac-

tual combat exercise and during this period, relevant ships and aircraft should not enter the relevant waters and airspaces," state broadcaster CCTV reported. AFP journalists in the border island of Pingtan saw several small projectiles flying into the sky followed by plumes of white smoke and loud booming sounds. AFP was not in a position to identify the projectiles, which were fired from the proximity of nearby military installations, nor their precise direction.

The exercises are taking place in multiple zones around Taiwan — at some points within just 20 kilometres (12 miles) of the shore — and will conclude at midday on Sunday. Also read: Seven decades of China-Taiwan tensions Taiwan's defence ministry said it was closely watching the drills. "The Ministry of National Defence stresses that it will uphold the principle of preparing for war without seeking war, and with

France discriminated against hijab-wearing vocational trainee: UN document

PARIS: A United Nations committee ruled that France discriminated against a Muslim woman who was prevented from attending vocational training in a public school while wearing her headscarf, according to a UN document.

In 2010, Naima Mezhoud, now aged 45, was due to train as a management assistant at a course held in a state high school, where teenagers are prohibited by law from wearing the hijab.

When she arrived, the head teacher of the school in the northern outskirts of Paris barred her from entering, according to the document which was seen by Reuters.

Six years earlier, in 2004, France had banned the wearing of hijabs and other visible religious symbols in state schools by school children.

Read: EU court says hijab can be banned at work under certain conditions

Mezhoud argued that as a higher-education student, she should not have been targeted by the law. "The committee concludes that the refusal to allow (Mezhoud) to participate in the training while wearing her headscarf constitutes a gender and religious-based act of discrimination," the UN Human Rights Com-



mittee determined, according to the document.

A UN source confirmed the authenticity of the document.

The interior ministry and foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The possible ramifications of the UN's ruling were not immediately clear.

Freedom law expert Nicolas Hervieu of the Paris Institute of Political Studies said that according to legal precedent, it was unlikely that France would comply with the committee's decision. France is home to one of Europe's largest Muslim minorities. For years, the country has implemented laws designed to protect its strict form of secularism, known as laïcité, which President Emmanuel

Macron has claimed is under threat from Islam.

Some Muslim associations and human rights groups allege those laws have targeted Muslims and chipped away at democratic protections and left them vulnerable to abuse. Mezhoud approached the UN Human Rights Committee after she lost a series of appeals in French courts. The committee said France had breached articles 18 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on religious freedom.

Mezhoud's lawyer, Sefen Guez Guez, told Reuters the decision showed that international human rights institutions were critical of France's policies regarding Islam.

"French institutions will

have to comply with the UN decision," he added. In theory, following the UN committee's ruling, France now has six months to financially compensate Mezhoud and offer the opportunity to take the vocational course if she still wishes.

The country also must take steps to ensure similar violations of international law will not happen again.

FRENCH MINISTER SLAMS HEADSCARF BAN FOR MUSLIM F O O T B A L L E R S : France's gender equality minister threw her support on Thursday behind Muslim women footballers who are seeking to overturn a ban on players wearing headscarves on the pitch.

Rules set by the French Football Federation cur-

rently prevent players taking part in competitive matches from wearing religious symbols such as Muslim headscarves or the Jewish kippa (a skullcap). A women's collective known as "les Hijabeuses" launched a legal challenge to the rules in November, claiming they were discriminatory and infringed their right to practise their religion. "The law says that these young women can wear a headscarf and play football. On football pitches today, headscarves are not forbidden. I want the law to be respected," Equality Minister Elisabeth Moreno told LCI television. Two months from French presidential elections, the issue has become a talking point in a country that maintains a strict form of secularism that is meant to separate the state and religion. The French Senate, which is dominated by the rightwing Republicans party, proposed a law in January that would have banned the wearing of obvious religious symbols in all competitive sports. —AP

Sinkhole larger than tennis court has Chile perplexed

SANTIAGO: Experts in Chile on Tuesday were investigating the appearance of an enormous sinkhole, bigger than a tennis court, that has appeared near a copper mine in the Atacama desert.

Experts were dispatched to examine the hole, some 32 metres (104 feet) across and twice as deep, which appeared in an area about 800 kilometres (nearly 500 miles) north of Santiago over the weekend, the National Geology and Mining Service (Sernageomin) said in a statement. A 100-metre security perimeter has been erected around the hole in the Tierra Amarilla municipality. —AP

South Africa reports first death causally linked to corona vaccine

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's health regulator reported on Thursday a causal link between the death of an individual and Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine, the first time such a direct link has been made in the country.

The person presented with rare neurological disorder Guillain-Barre Syndrome soon after being given J&J's vaccine, after which the person was put on a ventilator and later died, senior scientists told a news conference. "At the time of illness no other cause for the Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) could be identified," Professor Hannelie Meyer said. The person's age and other personal details were not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.

Last July, US authorities added a warning to a fact-sheet for J&J's vaccine say-

ing data suggested there was an increased risk of GBS in the six weeks after vaccination. At the time it noted 100 preliminary reports of GBS in vaccine recipients, including 95 serious cases and one reported death. J&J did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. The company said at the time of the US warning it was in discussions with regulators and the rate of reported cases of GBS in J&J vaccine recipients exceeded the background rate only slightly. "The benefit of vaccination still far outweighs the risk," Boitumelo Semete-Makokotela, chief executive of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), told reporters.

"In our context we have administered about nine million [doses] of the

Janssen (J&J) vaccine, and this is the first causally linked case of GBS."

Europe's medicines regulator last year added GBS as a possible side-effect of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine which, like J&J's, uses viral vector technology. South Africa's Health Minister Joe Phaahla told Thursday's news conference that as of mid-July there had been just over 6,200 "adverse events" reported to SAHPRA out of the more than 37 million Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country, equivalent to 0.017 per cent. Semete-Makokotela said the regulator had assessed around 160 deaths since the Covid-19 vaccination rollout started but had not seen a causal link to vaccination until now. South Africa has been using shots from J&J and Pfizer in its Covid-19 vacci-

CORRECTION OF FATHER'S NAME



IMUHAMMAD RUS-TAM have passed the Secondary School Annual/Supply Examination 2013 under Roll No 172931 from B.I.S.E Lahore My Father's Name is **ABDUL RASHEED** where on certificate my Father's name has been mentioned as **RASHID ALI** Which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's name from **RASHID ALI** to **ABDUL RASHEED**. If any person/organization/agency has any objection, then the same may be intimated in writing to the Secretary, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, 86-Mozang Road, Lahore within 15 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the public at large that Yousaf Javed S/O Muhammad Din, R/O Mehmood Park Gojra has submitted original copy of General Power of Attorney regarding Plot No 3, St No 19, Area development Scheme Gojra executed by M Mansh Asim S/O M Nazir Ahmad.

Allottee of above noted plot in his name.

The Power of Attorney is registered with the Sub Registrar Lahore, Tehsil Lahore District Lahore vide document No 2912 Bai No 1 Volume No 112, dated 15-5-1996.

The Attorney has also been submitted an application for transfer of Plot and other formalities in favour of Mst Nighat Yasmin D/O Nazir Ahmad.

If anyone has any objection, he should inform this office within 15 days of the publication of this notice. After that no objection would be accepted.

Deputy Director/ Secretary District Housing Committee (PHATA) Toba Tek Singh 0462-514983.

LOSS OF PERMISSION OF MORTGAGE

Permission to mortgage of Plot No. 162, Sector H1, Phase 4, measuring 1 Kanal, issued by Defence Housing Authority, Lahore Cantt in the Name of Humaira Ayub W/o Muhammad Ayub Sheikh R/o 263, Y Block, Phase 3, has been lost.

Finder may return the same to Secretary, Defence Housing Authority, Lahore Cantt. Otherwise after 07 Days original permission to mortgage shall be treated as cancelled. UAN: 111-342-547, Ext. 2825

PUNJAB HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

1. Sealed tenders based on item rates hereby invited, for the works mentioned below from the contractors / firms having PEC License for the year 2022-2023 in the field of Highway works for relevant category and above:

2. Tender documents can be obtained from the date of publication of invitation in the newspaper from any of the below mentioned offices, upon written request accompanied with attested copies of PEC License in Bridge Code in relevant category, for the year 2022-2023 of Contractors Allotting Partner/Director of the Firm along with original registered Power of Attorney and on payment of prescribed tender fee in shape of CDRBank Draft/Cashier's Cheque of any schedule Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Highway Division Lahore. At the time of application for tender, all original document must be accompanied with the application, in case of non-availability of original documents application will not be entertained.

1. Chief Engineer, (Central) Punjab Highway Department 2-Lake Road Lahore

2. Commissioner Lahore Division Lahore

3. Superintending Engineer, Highway Circle Lahore

4. Deputy Commissioner Lahore

5. Executive Engineer, Highway Division Lahore

6. Assistant Commissioner, Lahore

3. Tender rates and amount should be filed in figure as well as in words and tenders should be signed as per general directions given in the tender documents. No rebate on tender rates will be acceptable.

4. Tenders will be received simultaneously in the offices of Chief Engineer (Central) Punjab Highway Department Lahore and Commissioner Lahore Division, Lahore and will be opened on fixed date & time by the respective Tenders Opening Committee at the above venue in the presence of intending contractors or their representatives.

5. Conditional tenders and tenders not accompanied with Earnest Money @2% of the estimated cost in shape of CDRBank Draft/Cashier's Cheque of any Scheduled Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Highway Division Lahore started copies of registered Partnership deed and power of attorney in case of firms will not be entertained. Attested copies of registered Partnership deed and power of attorney in case of firms will not be entertained.

6. (i) The procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposal at any time prior to the acceptance of its or proposal

(ii) The procuring Agency shall upon request communicate to any bidder, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposal, but shall not require justifying those grounds.

Notes: In case the total tendered amount is less than 9% of the approved estimated (DNT) amount, the lowest bidder will have to deposit additional performance security from the Scheduled Bank ranging from 5% to 10% and so on (as per Finance Department advice vide No. RO(Tech) F01-2831(VI) dated 24-01-2018 and No. RO(Tech) F01-22214 dated 15-04-2019) within 15-days of issuance of notice or within equity period of bid, whichever is earlier.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	T.S. No. & Date	Tender Fee	Last date for submission of application to purchase tender	Last date & Time for Receipt Opening of Tenders
1	Repair and reconstruction of Road Bridge at Nazir Bahadri Road, District, Lahore	15,725 (Rs)	No.216/NTC dated 01.05.2022	2000/-	20.08.2022 Up till 05:00 hours	22.08.2022 1:00 PM & 1:30 PM

Executive Engineer Highway Division Lahore IPL-8010 Superintending Engineer Highway Circle Lahore