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### Cabinet to decide fate of pilots with dubious licences

RAWALPINDI: Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan has announced that the federal cabinet will decide the fate of 28 commercial pilots whose licences have been 'proven dubious' after an inquiry, adding that nine of them have already confessed. He said 'criminal proceedings' would be initiated against them after the cabinet decision.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Friday, the minister said of the 860 pilots of Pakistani origin, 753 were serving in

charter/private flying clubs. Mr Khan then announced that 262 pilots had been indicted by a board of inquiry for faking their test results, thus they would be barred from flying. All the airlines and clubs had been conveyed about their dubious credentials with the advice that they should not be allowed to fly, he added.

Sharing the charges against the 262 pilots, the aviation ministers said 121 pilots were suspected of attempting one paper through proxies, 39 pilots with two

have been sent to all concerned departments, including CEO, Mr Khan said. Five CAA officials suspended. The aviation minister also announced suspension of five Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials associated with it's licensing branch.

'They had been suspended after an inquiry and the ministry is consulting with its law department over the possibility of referring their cases to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for criminal proceedings against them. I have with me, five letters of suspension for officials of CAA and licensing authority, including, Senior Joint Director Licensing Asif-ul-Haq, Senior Joint Director Licensing Faisal Mansoor Ansari, Senior Superintendent Human Resource Abdul Raees, Assistant Grade-2 Admin, Khalid Javed, and Assistant Grade-2 Admin Syed Adeel Aftab,' the minister said.

He said some officials of the IT department and three to four outsiders were also involved in the scam, who would be facing criminal proceedings. He told the media that all those wrongdoings (dubious licences) had been done during the past decade.

Mr Khan pledged to restore the glorious past of the national flag carrier when it was considered the best international airline. The clean-up operation was necessary in the airline.

It all happened only due to out-of-merit appointments, he said.



Pakistan while 107 were

working for foreign airlines. On account of fake degrees, 548 Pakistan International Airlines employees had been dismissed from service since 2005, he said.

Among them were 119 cabin crew, 16 cockpit crew, 98 were employees of the engineering department and 415 of general administration, he explained.

The minister said of the 753 commercial pilots who were facing inquiries for holding 'dubious' licences, 450 were serving in PIA, 87 in Airblue, 47 in Serene, 68 in ex-Shaheen Airline and remaining 101 with

suspected bogus papers, 21

with three bogus papers, 15 with four bogus papers, 11 pilots with five bogus papers, 11 others with six bogus papers, 10 pilots with seven

such papers and 34 pilots were suspected of attempting eight papers through proxies. He explained that Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) and Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) were the two types of flying licences for pilots who have to clear all eight papers. Of the 262 pilots, he said, 109 have CPL and the remaining 153 have ATPL.

The lists of pilots of suspicious commercial licences

### SC summons man for hurling abuses at Isa, judiciary

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday formally summoned Agha Iftikharuddin Mirza for hurling abuses at Justice Qazi Faez Isa as well as the institution of judiciary.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Gulsar Ahmed and Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan had taken up a suo motu case about a video clip containing derogatory, contemptuous and scandalous language against the institu-

Formal proceedings under the Prevention of Election Crimes Act 2016 as well as Section 500 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) had already commenced, the AG said. The government was also considering including Section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997 since Mirza had not only defamed a judge but also a former president, a former prime minister and two journalists, he added.

the agency moved on the complaint filed by Sarina Isa the wife of Justice Qazi Faez Isa who had lodged a complaint with the Secretariat police station in Islamabad on June 24 alleging that death threats had been hurled at her husband.

Mirza's counsel told the court that her client had been taken into custody by police at which the chief justice observed that there was no need to arrest him since the court had already issued a notice to him. Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBA) President Syed Qasim Hassan has said that the substance of the video clip reveals that a desperate effort has been made to malign and slander dignity of the apex institution of the country and its honourable judges. In a statement issued on Friday, he demanded stern action against the culprits.

He called upon the institutions concerned to remove the video clip from social media immediately and take necessary steps for the safety and security of the judges and their families, as the right to life was the most fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution.

Justice Isa had faced a presidential reference on misconduct but a 10-judge full court of the Supreme Court on June 20 had quashed the reference though it asked the Federal Board of Revenue to continue with its proceedings over three offshore properties owned by the wife and children of the judge.

In the application, Sarina Isa alleged that Mirza had said that her husband should be shot publicly.



tion of judiciary and judges, which went viral on social media.

Mirza was present on the premises of the Supreme Court but did not turn up inside the Courtroom No. 1 where the case was taken up. The court issued notices to Mirza, Attorney General for Pakistan Khalid Jawad Khan and the director general of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Mirza however remained tilted and avoided queries by journalists at the end of court proceedings, who were eager to know who had edited the video clip and made it viral on social media and at whose behest he had made contemptuous statements.

Mirza is being represented by Advocate Sarkar Abbas. At the outset of the hearing when the court regretted the state of affairs, the AG assured the apex court that whatever had happened was not at all acceptable to the government.

### Record hike in prices of oil products notified

ISLAMABAD: In a sudden move, the government notified a record hike in the prices of petroleum products, including petrol and diesel, ranging from 27 per cent to 66pc depending on the product. The hike is notified with immediate effect.

The step took many by surprise because it was out of schedule and was not prompted by any summary moved by the oil sector regulator, which is the normal procedure. Most observers agreed that the step has been taken to address ongoing supply chain disruptions that have led to serious shortages in many parts of the country, in large part due to a pricing dispute between the government and the industry. A senior government official told Dawn that the prices were increased four days ahead of the due date without waiting for a usual summary of the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) to immediately pass on the impact of international price hike. The revised prices will remain effective until July 31.

He said the authorities feared that even a minor increase in sales in anticipation of a higher price would drive out petrol pumps across the country as the supply chain was already operating on very thin margins. He said the companies and retailers had already slowed down sales in some parts of the country for 'inventory gains' ahead of an anticipated price increase. In their calculus, the price increase would partially offset their past losses, he said.

But a senior source in the oil industry said it might not work out so neatly for the government. 'Illegal export of petrol to neighbouring countries will stop for the next week or two,' he told Dawn on condition his name not be

used due to the sensitivity of the matter. 'Surprise was currently cheaper than prevailing pump prices in Afghanistan and India, and some product was being smuggled to those

countries as a result of this price difference. He told Dawn that the industry saw an unusual spike in demand in Peshawar in the month of May, and especially June, and word within the industry was that this demand is coming from buyers who are transporting the oil to Afghanistan for sale. 'All that will stop due to the adjustment,' he said.

But the price hike may not subside the hoarding behaviour the government has alleged. The government has alleged that the supply chain disruption seen across the country, according to him.

The decision to hike prices was announced by the ministry of finance after consultations with representatives of the petroleum division and International Monetary Fund on the basis of import price provided by state-run Pakistan State Oil which imported five cargoes of petrol and four cargoes of high speed diesel so far during the current month.

'Unless they change the underlying formula, make it more transparent and make more frequent adjustments fortnightly instead of monthly, the hoarding behaviour by some

unscrupulous players may well continue,' he said. 'They will watch the market to see how international prices change in the next 15 days and decide whether or not they want to offload their inventories or hold on to them in anticipation of another price increase in the near future. Based on existing tax rates and PSO's import cost, the ex-refinery or import parity price was worked out at about Rs45 per litre. The product is mostly used in private transport, small vehicles and two-wheelers. The ex-refinery cost of diesel is now estimated at about Rs43 per litre. HSD is mostly used in heavy transport vehicles and agricultural engines like trucks, buses, tractors, tube wells and threshers etc.

Officials said the total stocks of petrol and diesel on a national level were enough to provide eight days' cover. However, after excluding Sindh where stocks for petrol and diesel stood at

23 and 13 days, respectively, stocks in other provinces were still precariously low for almost third month in a row. They said the petrol stocks in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan & AJK were reported for 5-day coverage and for three days in Balochistan. The diesel stocks in Punjab were reported for 7 days, four days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eight days for Balochistan and six days in GB & AJK. The government is now charging about Rs47 per litre taxes on petrol and high speed diesel as the petroleum levy on both items is now set at a maximum permissible level of Rs30 per litre. The government has already increased the general sales tax (GST) on all petroleum products to a standard rate of 17pc across the board to generate additional revenues. Until January last year, the government was charging 0.5pc GST on light diesel oil (LDO), 2pc on kerosene, light diesel oil (LDO), 2pc on kerosene, 6pc on petrol and 13pc on HSD. Besides the 17pc GST, the government has almost quadrupled the rate of petroleum levy on HSD and petrol to Rs30 per litre from Rs8 per litre in January last year. The levy on kerosene and light diesel oil was kept unchanged at Rs6 and Rs3 per litre, respectively.

Over the last many months, the government had been increasing petroleum levy rates to partially recoup a major revenue shortfall faced by the FBR. The levy remains in the federal kitty unlike GST that goes to the divisible pool taxes and thus about 57pc share is grabbed by the provinces. The petrol and HSD are two major products that generate most revenue for the government because of their massive and yet growing consumption in the country.



### Govt expects virus cases to rise to 225,000 by month-end

ISLAMABAD: The government believes that coronavirus cases will go up to 225,000 by June 30 in the country but expressed satisfaction that the number is still lower than its expectations.

The country reported 3,092 Covid-19 cases and 73 deaths over the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 197,705 and casualties to 4,004.

'We were expecting over 300,000 cases in the country by June 30, but they will remain less than 225,000. Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said at a press conference with Information Minister Shibli Faraz on Friday.

After a meeting held at the National Command

and Operation Centre (NOC) to review the Covid-19 situation, Mr Umar, however, said the danger was still there as the situation could turn worse if people did not follow the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs).

He said the government had taken three major steps that led to a decline in the tally of coronavirus cases in the country. 'First we made it mandatory on May 30 that everyone will have to use face mask in public places, since June 4 administrative actions were expedited regarding implementation of SOPs and from June 14 smart lockdowns were enhanced and Covid-19 hotspots were declared in 20 major cities,' he added.

### Kashmir issue to be raised before world on Aug 5: Imran Khan

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday vowed that Pakistan would again vigorously raise Kashmir issue before the world on August 5 to press for its just settlement.

On August 5 last year, India had revoked special status of occupied Kashmir and placed it under a lockdown, with severed internet and other civic services, and intensified repression in a failed attempt to quell the quest of Kashmiris for freedom. There will be a movement across the globe on August 5 and afterwards to remind the world community of what's happening in Indian occupied Kashmir, PM Khan said at a ceremony in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). 'We will make full preparations before August 5 with the involvement of Pakistanis and Kashmiris living anywhere across the globe,' he said.

The ceremony was held at the AJK PM House to launch the award of cash grant to around 138,000 families living along the restive Line of Control (LoC) and affected by

unrelenting ceasefire violations by Indian army. The prime minister, who dedicated most of his speech to Kashmir issue, said Narendra Modi-led RSS government had broken previous records of atrocities on freedom seeking Kashmiris, by blinding hundreds of people with pellet guns, burying countless people in mass graves after

defenceless people,' he said of India. The PM said India's 800,000 plus armed personnel, unleashed on eight million Kashmiris, were killing youngsters in an organised manner. This, he said, was in line with Mr Modi's approach in Gujarat where he had let the RSS goons loose to carry on the pogrom against Muslims. 'It should have been known by then that Mr



### Murad Ali Shah claims around Rs70bn to be spent on Karachi's uplift in upcoming fiscal year

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday said that up to Rs70 billion would be spent on the uplift of Karachi in the next fiscal year 2020-21.

Concluding the debate on the provincial budget in the Sindh Assembly, he said that Karachi was his city and an integral part of the province.

The chief minister said that while a Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf member stated that only Rs1.94bn was allocated for Karachi in the annual development programme, 'Rs60 to 70 billion was earmarked for the city's different projects in the budget for the fiscal year 2020-21.'

He was of the view that the provincial government's main source of income was sales tax on services, the major chunk of which was received from Karachi. 'It is understood that more taxes are collected from the place where there is major consumption,' he added.

As for the delay in the K-IV project, a joint megaproject of the provincial and federal governments meant to augment Karachi's daily water supply, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan during his visit to Karachi after holding the premier's office had

should be held,' he said.

He said that the Frontier Workers Organization (FWO) was the megaproject's contract and asked the centre for strict action if someone was involved in any malpractices.

The CM said that a 'robbery of bil-

ion of rupees was made by the sugar mill owners who got subsidy during October 2018 to January 2020. He said that the PTI's blue-eyed persons were getting caught; that's

why they expanded the probe for the last five years as the sugar inquiry commission was initially tasked to probe into subsidy given to sugar mills owners for just the last two years.

The Sindh government didn't give subsidy to any of the sugar mills during 2018/19, he added.

Mr Shah said that 48 lawmakers of different assemblies were facing corruption charges and booked by the National Accountability Bureau. 'On the one hand, Sindh Assembly members of PPP Agha Siraj Durrani, Farayal Talpur, Jam Khan Shoro, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Qaim Ali Shah, Awas Qadir Shah, Abdul Rauf Khoso, Taimur Talpur, Raja Razaq, Ismail Rahu and MQM-P's Javed Hanif were following legal procedures but on the other hand, a member of the opposition facing same charges is moving freely even without obtaining bail,' said the chief minister.





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## Smart lockdown delivers

THE idea of smart lockdown faced a lot of criticism and especially ridiculed by the opponents of the PTI government as a failed one. However, the drop in Corona cases and deaths over the last few days indicate that the strategy has somewhat started to deliver, thus vindicating the stance of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Though the number of deaths has significantly dropped from over one hundred to sixty on Wednesday, yet there is no need to be complacent as the figures of deaths and infections are likely to go up and down in the days ahead. Government officials themselves are on record saying that the months of July and August are very difficult ones as these could witness a sharp upsurge in the infections. What is required is the strict enforcement of smart lockdown in the hotspot areas. Up till now the authorities concerned have done a great work by ensuring strict compliance of restrictions in the hotspot areas and they need to work with the same spirit in the days ahead. Though this created many hardships for the people living in those areas, it was imperative to save the lives and flatten the curve of the contagion. Indeed a developing country like ours cannot afford a complete lockdown for a prolonged period. To revive economic activity and protect the livelihood of the vulnerable people, it was need of the hour to put in place such a system which on the one hand saves the life of our people and on the other hand keeps the economy afloat. Government has tried its level best to strike a balance in this regard and one expects that both the federal and provincial governments move ahead in a coordinated manner whilst rising above political point scoring to defeat the virus. Heavy responsibility also rests with the masses to ensure full compliance of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for their own safety.

# Emergency meeting of OIC on Kashmir

Sultan M Hall

THE Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir will hold an emergency meeting via videoconference to discuss the latest situation in the disputed territory. The online meet will bring together the Foreign Ministers of the Jammu & Kashmir Contact Group member states: Azerbaijan, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The meeting is part of a series of continuous Jammu & Kashmir Contact Group meetings to address the issue, OIC Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Al-Othaimen was quoted as saying. The OIC, founded in 1967 and consists of 57 countries, is the collective voice of the Muslim world to ensure and safeguard their economic and political interests.

Kashmir is held by India and Pakistan in parts but claimed by both in full. A small sliver of the region is also controlled by China. Since they were partitioned in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars—in 1948, 1965 and 1971, two of them have been over Kashmir.

Kashmiri groups in occupied Jammu & Kashmir have been fighting against the Indian rule for independence or unification with neighbouring Pakistan. According to several human rights organizations, thousands of people have been killed in the conflict since 1989. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri women have been raped, while thousands of Kashmiri youth languish in jails. On 5 August 2019 the Indian government

revoked Article 370 and other related provisions from its Constitution, scrapping the country's only Muslim-majority state with its autonomy. It was also split into two federally administered territories. Simultaneously, it locked the region down, detaining thousands of people, imposing movement restrictions and enforcing a communications blackout. Pakistan has urged the OIC to "facilitate a lasting solution" to its long-smouldering dispute with long-time rival India on Jammu and Kashmir. "In view of the grave situation, it is imperative that the OIC steps up its efforts to facilitate a lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in an address to an emergency meeting of the OIC's Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir via videoconference.

"The OIC must urge India to rescind its unilateral and illegal actions since 5 August 2019, implement the relevant UNSC resolutions to hold a UN-supervised plebiscite in J&K, halt its blatant human rights violations and provide unhindered access to OIC, UN, human rights organizations and international media to investigate and report on the situation in the occupied territory," Qureshi said. He was referring to India's scrapping of the decades-long special status of the disputed valley last August. Drawing a parallel to the Palestinian issue, Qureshi said: "The Jammu and Kashmir dispute, just like Palestine, continues to be the longest-standing item on the UN and OIC agenda." He went on to say that Israel and India were pursuing similar

tactics to disenfranchise and dispossess these peoples. "Both these situations are worsening and call for the urgent attention of the international community," he maintained.

Accusing New Delhi of toying a "Hindutva" agenda, he said the "occupying" forces were deliberately targeting Kashmiris. "For the last 10 months, the Kashmiri people have endured untold suffering from continuous lockdown, military siege, communications blockade and unprecedented restrictions," he further said, adding: "It is highly reprehensible that while the world community is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, India remains busy intensifying its brutalization of the Kashmiri people."

As part of this cover-up, Qureshi said, India had further intensified its violations of the cease-fire along the borders, killing 13 people, and injuring another 104, including women and children. "There is a possibility that in order to divert the world's attention from its state-terrorism and unacceptable actions in J&K, India may resort to false flag operation and undertake some other misadventure which could imperil regional peace and security," he added.

Qureshi said his country had exercised maximum restraint despite Indian military and political leaders' "belligerent rhetoric" and "aggressive actions" on the ground. However, he warned that Islamabad would defend itself against any act of aggression. The latest surge in violence has left dead over 100 suspected Kashmiri fighters in the disputed

Himalayan valley this year. Some 72 freedom fighters were killed since the coronavirus pandemic emerged in the region on 20 March. Also, in Siachen glacier in northern Kashmir, Indian and Pakistani troops have fought intermittently since 1984. A cease-fire took effect in 2003. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan raised his voice in support of the beleaguered Kashmiris at the United Nations General Assembly session last year. His concerns were echoed by the bold Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad.

Most members of the Arab world enjoy outstanding trade and commerce ties with India and that has deterred them from coming out in full support for the Kashmiris. Arab media has picked up the cudgel on behalf of Indian Muslims to expose Indian government's anti-Muslim stance. Numerous articles have appeared in Arab dailies while the social media is abuzz with tweets warning Indian government to desist from Islamophobia. Interestingly, members of the Royal Family in Oman and UAE have taken to sending messages via the social media that if India does not refrain from sending hate messages, especially through its Diaspora working in the Middle East, they will face the danger of being deported. It is high time that the OIC takes cognizance of the sad plight of the Kashmiris and chastises India strongly. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir will hold an emer-

gency meeting via videoconference to discuss the latest situation in the disputed territory. The online meet will bring together the Foreign Ministers of the Jammu & Kashmir Contact Group member states: Azerbaijan, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The meeting is part of a series of continuous Jammu & Kashmir Contact Group meetings to address the issue, OIC Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Al-Othaimen was quoted as saying. The OIC, founded in 1967 and consists of 57 countries, is the collective voice of the Muslim world to ensure and safeguard their economic and political interests.

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Courtesy: PO

## City news

### Sindh Govt stands by industrialists to solve their problems, Says Jam Ikramullah Dharejo

KARACHI June 27: Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that the industrialists can



focus on their industries and provide appropriate job opportunities to the people of the province. In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the protest of industrialists against power load shedding, has said that Sindh Government is standing shoulder to shoulder with them and demands from the federal government that all legitimate issues of the industrialists including load shedding of electricity and

Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo further said that it was a fact that power and gas load shedding in industries was severely affecting the production process while industries were already facing severe crisis due to Corona virus. In such a difficult situation, if relief is not provided to the industrialists, the situation may become more serious.

He said that industries were suffering due to power outages which could lead to alarming rise in unemployment. Provincial Minister for Industries & Commerce and Anti-Corruption Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that the Sindh government was serious about resolving the legitimate issues of the industrialists but the problems of the industrialists could not be solved without the positive role of the federal government.

### video on coronavirus prevention, preparedness

KARACHI: Minister for Health, Sindh, Azra Pechuho on Thursday released a video message on precautionary measures to be taken after confirmation of coronavirus cases in Pakistan, ARY News reported.

The minister said that people should follow the precautions with due diligence and not take high fever, cough, and trouble in breathing lightly. Read More: Govt taking measures to prevent coron-

avirus cases in country. Zafar Mirza Pechuho said that those with the symptoms of the dangerous virus should contact the department of health on an immediate basis. She said that a team of Sindh government health officials will get in touch with those that reach out and ensure the best treatment possible. Read More: Coronavirus: Sindh CM chairs health emergency meeting. She added that those who have undertaken travels to

### Sindh Govt approves 184 appointments against deceased quota

SOME 3637 APPOINTMENTS AGAINST DECEASED QUOTA HAVE BEEN MADE IN VARIOUS PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SINCE 2019



KARACHI June 27: Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah on Friday approved 184 appointments on deceased quota raising the total number of such appointments to 3637 since 2019 in various departments of the provincial government. The approval was given in a meeting of a committee held with Chief Secretary Mumtaz Ali Shah in the chair and all other relevant secretaries including senior member Board of Revenue have attended the meeting through video link

from their respective offices. The meeting approved 38 jobs in Local Government, 6 in Health, 5 in Revenue, 28 in Irrigation, 4 in Food department, 75 jobs were approved in School Education, 4 in works and Services, 10 in Agriculture and 4 in Public Health. Department Government of Sindh. The secretaries of various departments informed the meeting about the delays being faced in finalization of cases by

### KCCI disappointed over meager reduction in policy rate

KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) and Former President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Siraj Kassam Teli and President KCCI Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan, have expressed disappointment over a meager reduction of just one percent in Policy Rate by the State Bank of Pakistan, terming it "too little, too late".

They stated that for a long time even before the pandemic, KCCI has consistently demanded to bring the policy rate to down to 4% in one go rather than in instalments. Reduction in policy rate in bits and pieces did not provide the much needed thrust to economy whereas a one time major reduction to 4% could have triggered growth and accelerated economic activities. Reduction in policy rate in bits and pieces is not enough to provide stimulus to the economy hence, it is necessary to significantly reduce the interest rate in a single step, to rescue the trade and industry which is going through an unprecedented crisis. Revision in policy rate to 7% will effectively mean the interest rate for large scale borrowers will be 8% to 9% after adding the bank's spread while it will not be less than 10% to 12% for smaller entities.

In a statement, Siraj Teli and Agha Shahab pointed out that the business & industrial community is going through difficult times and many will not be able to survive through the economic crisis. Nearly all major economies have sup-

ported businesses by reducing their policy rates to as low as zero percent of realizing the gravity of a global economic meltdown and its impact on businesses. It is surprising that the decision makers at the SBP and the governor do not have the perception of



ground realities of Pakistan and the serious economic challenges the country will have to face in the near future if growth does not pick up soon.

They opined that there is now ample justification for meaningful reduction in policy rate because the inflation has declined sharply due to a steep fall in prices of crude oil, commodities and raw materials, while the demand has also been suppressed. Therefore, it is imperative to support the business and industrial community at such a critical time through further reduction in policy rate. They opined that there is now ample justification for meaningful reduction in policy rate because the inflation has declined sharply due to a steep fall in prices of crude oil, commodities

and raw materials, while the demand has also been suppressed. Therefore, it is imperative to support the business and industrial community at such a critical time through further reduction in policy rate. Chairman BMG and President KCCI underlined



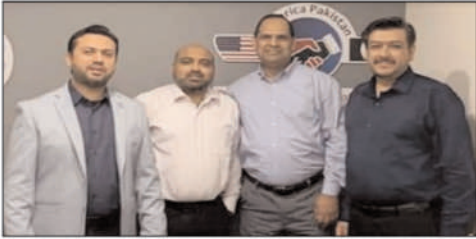
the fact that KCCI had expressed reservations to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on various occasions and also to Governor State Bank of Pakistan during his last visit to KCCI before pandemic about astronomically high interest rates which stifled growth and increased cost of doing business.

They hoped that realizing the gravity of the situation, the State Bank would once again review its Monetary Policy at the earliest and revise the policy rate downward by another 300 basis points to provide much needed thrust to economy and trigger growth in the face of upcoming challenges created by Covid-19 pandemic that has affected the entire world.





Karachi: Chairman District Council Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad chairing meeting in connection of FY budget of 2020-21 at his office.



Karachi: Group photo of senior vice president of America-Pakistan Business development forum Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, General Secretary Syed Nasir Wajahat, Numan Ahmedani and Atif Khan during emergency meeting on Load shedding in Karachi and financial crisis in Karachi.

## Director General KDA, Asif Ikram visits Landhi, Mehran Town and Korangi

Karachi: Director General KDA, Mr. Asif Ikram visited different area of Landhi and Mehran Town and Korangi.



Town Korangi while Executive Engineer Korangi briefed Director General KDA regarding all the steps which are being taken for eviction of illegal occupancy. On that occasion he said that 'We will not allow commercial activities on residential site as it is violation of rules' while operation will be carried out soon against illegal occupancy.

## Transfast Partners with Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for Global Remittances

Karachi, June 27, 2020: Transfast, a leading cross-border payments service provider with presence in over 140 countries, has partnered with Habib Bank Limited (HBL), the largest commercial bank with over 1700 branches in Pakistan, to facilitate expatriates around the globe to send money to Pakistan.



Transfast is fully committed to offer competitive pricing, fast transfer of funds and personalized customer engagement," said Samir Vidhate, SVP & MD, Transfast. "Through this partnership we will provide our Pakistani customer base with more convenient and accessible ways to connect to all the customers who look to make fast international money transfers to HBL Pakistan. Together, we look forward to providing excellent services to our customers with commitment to banking excellence for a better tomorrow."

Remittances account for 8% of Pakistan's GDP and the government has offered several incentives to encourage even more cash flow into the country. According to initial estimates from the State Bank of Pakistan, the country received a record \$21.84 billion in remittances in 2019. That number is expected to go up as analysts predict that more than 8 million overseas Pakistanis will continue to send money back home with remittances poised to hit \$23 billion.

"HBL is one of the most esteemed financial institutions in Pakistan and it is an honor to partner with them."

FC area deprives from clean drinking water and basic amenities, Sardar Abdul Rahim and others

Karachi: General Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Functional Sindh and GDA Spokesperson Sardar Abdul Rahim, MPA Nurat Sahar Abbasi, Shehar Yar Khan Mehr, Arif Mustafa Jatoti in their joint statement said that the ancient population of Karachi FC Area has been completely neglected by the concern authorities since many years, which has been deprived of clean drinking water and basic amenities for years, has been neglected by the KMC.

They further said the city



government and the Sindh government nod have been paid heed in order to resolve the basic issues of the population of the area.

## KATI demands end of load shedding in industrial areas

Karachi: President Korangi Association of Trade & Industry Sheikh Umar Rehman urged K-electric to end unannounced load shedding of electricity in industrial areas as the interruption of power supply causes drastic effects on industrial production and exports.

He said that K-electric explains that due to unavailability of furnace oil and gas power generation for the city got effected, this raises questions over performance of Ministry of petroleum and energy. He also noted that during this pandemic many effect people are in self-isolation at their homes, power outages can cause great deal of trouble for those patients too.

He said that industry already facing crisis due to economic conditions of the country and coronavirus, in these times power outages directly affecting the industry and the economy as well. "Power supply should be considered as the top priority for the national economy and prosperity" he added.

## Metro Pakistan and Unilever join hands to distribute free meals to paramedics

Karachi, June 27, 2020: Covid-19 Pandemic has



adversely impacted the lives of many across the world. During this difficult time, METRO Pakistan in collaboration with Unilever Pakistan distributed meal boxes to the frontline warriors, including doctors, nurses, and in day out to save lives of people who have been impacted by the deadly virus. This initiative started at the beginning of the month and till date over 600 meal boxes have been distributed across three cities.



other medical support functions at various hospitals, fighting the war against the global pandemic. These

## Personal Protective Equipment PPEs distributed for Improved Nutrition in Sindh

By Dr Aftab Ahmed Bhand

TRDP under the PINS Program for Improved Nutrition in Sindh, distributed Personal Protective Equipment PPEs



DADU, Mr. Shah Zaman Khuroo, Deputy Commissioner Dadu launched TRDP initiative of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment PPEs in village Daud Panwar, Taluka Jhori, district Dadu. TRDP will distribute 138,800 surgical masks, 138,800 hand gloves, 74,088 hand washing soaps and 680 sanitizers in Dadu, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar and Umerkot districts by end of this month.

TRDP started distribution of "Personal Protective Equipment" PPEs through PINS Programme supported by EU in district Dadu as per plan of all field teams will be distributing. Face Masks 83,160, Hand Gloves 83,160 and Soaps 67,088. Today in village "Daud Panwar" Village Organization VO "Gulshan" Local Support Organization LSO "Joshi" union council Peer Mashahk Taluka Jhori

## Review of Gwadar's development budget, declared a tax-free economic-zone

Karachi: Gwadarabad Chapter has held an important meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Khan COVID 19 and on the



issues of builders working in CPEC Gwadar. A press statement issued from office mentioned here.

The statement further added that the meeting jointly urged the Federal Government to review the development budget of Gwadar in the current budget session and to increase its grant to complete the development works of Gwadar as soon as possible.

The meeting also demanded from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Senate, Chairman CPEC and other officials that the entire district of Gwadar be declared a tax free economic zone.

The meeting also demanded from the federal and provincial govern-

ment to provide transport facilities (lay bay areas and other facilities) on Gwadar Coastal Highway. They also demanded Gwadar is the economic

abroad, so immediately Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan fulfill his promises so that Gwadar can move forward. The meeting was host-

## Head of Mission of Pakistan Ahmed Ali Sirohey called on Nigerian Minister H.E. Mrs. Moumouni Amina

Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Head of Mission of Pakistan called on H.E. Mrs. Moumouni Amina, Nigerian Minister of Energy.

During the meeting, H.M. was briefed by the Minister on various projects and priorities of government. She informed that overcoming energy shortage is the number one priority of current incumbent. She explained that required power is 800 MW, whereas 200 MW is locally generated and 300 MW is imported from Nigeria. She said that 60 MW solar power plant are being constructed at Maradi, Dosso and Namey. Another 89 MW fuel based plant is about to be completed within six months. The Chinese are building dam on Niger river and 150 MW hydro power.

Mrs. Moumouni warmly briefed the H.M. Minister received the H.M. about the different development projects including foreign investment in energy sector and long and short term day and custom duty waiver. H.M. assured her

planning/goals of her Ministry. She emphasized that Pakistani investors should avail investment opportunities in Nigerian energy sector. She further informed investors would be provided incentives, tax holiday and custom duty waiver. H.M. assured her

| OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN UNION COUNCIL SEERANI TALUKA & DISTRICT BADIN        |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---|-----------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| آفیس آف ڈی چیرمین یونین کائونسل سیرانی تعلقہ ضلعو بدین                      |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| تیلار نوٹیس   |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| جسٹس ڈی یونین کائونسل سیرانی بر ایگنڈا مال پوچی جو لیجسکو سال 2020ء میں لا، |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| ہیڈ ڈائل پروگرامز و تفصیل موجودہ آفیس ڈائریکٹر یونین کائونسل سیرانی،        |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| جناب چیئرمین صاحب جن کی زیر نگرانی تیلار کٹیر پیو وجی                       |                       |            |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| سیریل نمبر  | تفصیل                 | تاریخ      | نوعیت | مبلغ    | مبلغ    | مبلغ    | مبلغ    | مبلغ    | مبلغ    |
| 1   | 2                     | 3          | 4     | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10      |
| 01  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 01.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 02  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 02.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 03  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 03.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 04  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 04.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 05  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 05.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 06  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 06.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 07  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 07.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 08  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 08.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 09  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 09.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |
| 10  | مال پوچی یونین سیرانی | 10.07.2020 | دوکان | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 | 1000000 |



## Even as Sindh boosts capacity, fewer get tested for Covid-19

KARACHI: There have been awareness drives, lockdowns and whatnot but trends show people are still wary of getting themselves tested for the coronavirus.

While the Sindh government claims to have boosted the testing capacity in the province to 18,000 tests per day, the number of tests conducted daily has hardly crossed the 6,000 to 7,000 mark in recent days.

On Thursday, a mere 6,458 tests were reported by the provincial chief minister, yielding 1,098 positive cases, even though past weeks had seen the number of tests conducted in a day soar past 13,000. With fewer tests, there has been a decline in the number of new infections detected too.

According to a top health department official, citizens are avoiding being tested despite the government increasing the testing capacity as "it [Covid-19] is still a social stigma."

Across Sindh, at least 20 facilities, with 15 in Karachi, are providing services for coronavirus testing and cumulatively have the capacity to conduct 18,000 tests per day.

"Second, third Covid-19 waves inevitable"

Among them, the Indus Hospital has the capacity to conduct 2,200 tests per day, Dr Ziauddin Hospital 500, Aga Khan University Hospital 1,200, Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital 300, Dow University of Health

Sciences' Qjha campus 1,500, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation 200, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre 150, Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular

Medical College in Sukkur 200. Despite each of these testing facilities having the capacity to conduct at least 100 tests daily, it has been noted that there are days when

well," he remarked.

He further asserted that the perception that cases were now on the decline was false. "Apparently people are just not willing to get tested."

The Petroleum Division had proposed the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCOP) to stop the OGDC divestment process due to a steep fall in share price of the blue-chip company. OGDC's share price dropped nearly 2% to Rs124.7 per share at the close of Tuesday's trading session, which was 42.2% below the 2014 level of Rs216 when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government also attempted to sell stakes in the company.

The CCOP discussed the proposal of halting the ongoing process of divesting the CCOP discussed the proposal of halting the ongoing process of divesting 7% shares in OGDC and, if necessary, instead sell a 10% stake to a strategic investor with a seat on the company's board.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Haseeb Shahkhan chaired the meeting of the CCOP — a cabinet body responsible for making decision on the sale of government assets.

The Privatisation Commission had sent a summary for the CCOP's consideration after the Petroleum Division — the administrative ministry of OGDC — advised on February 14 "not to pursue" the divestment transaction, showed official documents.



Medicine and Drug Research 1,200, South City Hospital 200, Dr Essa Laboratory and Diagnostic Centre 100, Hashmanis Hospital, Children's Hospital Karachi and Liaquat National Hospital 200 each, Advanced Laboratories Pvt Ltd 300, Chughtal Lab 1,000, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences in Hyderabad 3,500, Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of Medical Sciences in Sahiwal 100, Shaheed Mohtama Benazir Bhutto Medical University Larkana 100, Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences 300 and Ghulam Muhammad Mahar

some among them receive just one sample from the health department for Covid-19 screening. A health department official told The Express Tribune that the collective testing capacity of these facilities was enhanced keeping in view the persistent rise in the emergence of Covid-19 cases.

"It appeared that we would need to establish more testing facilities to increase the capacity of the existing ones," he said, observing that the step did little to help the situation with fewer tests being conducted now. "Unfortunately, it is not working out

## Governor provides PPEs to Mayor for KMC hospitals

Karachi: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has donated 1,000 PPEs, 3,000 masks and 10 cartons of hand sanitizers on the request of Mayor Karachi Waseem Akhtar. These protective equipment would be used by doctors and paramedical staff of Abbasi/Shahid Hospital (ASH), Imran Ismail said that with the provision of protective gears the

are front line soldiers in our war against Covid-19 and I salute them for their sacrifices. We have to learn to live with this virus as there were no indications of its eradication in near future, he observed. The governor said that awareness about this disease was of immense importance and we must all inform and educate our family members and friends about simple



doctors, paramedics and janitorial staff would be able to discharge their duties with utmost peace of mind. Every effort is being made to provide protective equipment for health care professionals, specially to those who are engaged in providing care to Corona patients, he added. He said that health care professionals

precautionary measures to control this virus. By avoiding handshakes, hugs and repeatedly washing our hands we could effectively control its spread, he added. Waseem Akhtar thanked Governor Sindh for providing PPEs and other items for the health professionals of ASH.

## Sindh Corona death toll reaches 1,178, Report says

Karachi: As many as 1,098 cases were detected by conducting 6,458 tests while 17 more patients died lifting the tally of the cases to 75,168 and death toll to 1,178. A statement issued here on Thursday said that 6,458 samples were tested which diagnosed 1,098 cases that constituted 17 percent result. So far, 4,09,145 tests have been conducted

patients recovered so far has reached to 40,740 that constitutes 54 percent recovery rate. The CM said that out of 1098 new cases, 494 belonged to Karachi, they include 208 South, 141 East, 48 Central, 44 Malir, 32 Korangi and 21 West.

The CM said that out of 1098 new cases, 494 belonged to Karachi, they include 208 South,



which detected 75,168 cases all over Sindh, he said and added the overall detection rate came to 18.3 percent.

17 more patients died while struggling against the coronavirus. The death toll stemming from coronavirus has reached 1,178 that constituted 1.5 percent, he said. At present 33,131 patients are under treatment, of them 31,665 in home isolation, 78 at isolation Centers and 1388 at different hospitals. At present 641 patients are in critical condition while 99 have been shifted on ventilators. The statement added that 1,267 patients recovered overnight and returned to normal life. The number of

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## Outgoing passengers to be screened for Covid-19 too

ISLAMABAD: The government announced on Thursday that passengers flying out of Pakistan would be screened for Covid-19 symptoms similar to the procedure followed for incoming ones after Emirates, Etihad Airways and Fly Dubai suspended their flights from the country when 26 Pakistanis travelling on a flight to Hong Kong tested positive for the disease.

However, it also dispelled the impression that a large number of Pakistani passengers were testing positive for the virus in other countries.

The screening of passengers travelling abroad will start from June 27, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security Dr. Moeed Yusuf said at a news conference in Islamabad.

"They [outbound passengers] won't be tested for coronavirus, but their temperature and symptoms will be checked," he explained.

"If case of any suspicion, they will be asked questions. If someone is suspected to be suffering from corona, they will not be allowed to travel," he added.

The SAPM asked passengers — especially ones already booked for their tickets — to reach the airport only if they were "completely fit." "Those who have symptoms or have been in contact with a Covid-19 patient should not come to the airport," he added.

He also requested them to read the policy of the country they intended to travel to and ensure they fulfilled all conditions.

percentage of passengers flying out of Pakistan are testing positive for the virus. That is not the case."

On the passengers who had been



The PM's aide pointed out that many countries had made it mandatory for passengers to quarantine themselves for 14 days while some had even made a pre-arrival Covid-19 test compulsory.

"Please follow the policies of the countries you are travelling to. If you test positive in another country, it will be a diplomatic issue for Pakistan," Yusuf also refuted reports that most Pakistanis who were travelling abroad were testing positive for Covid-19 in other countries. "Not everyone who has travelled abroad from Pakistan has tested positive," he added.

diagnosed with Covid-19 in Hong Kong, the PM's aide said the government was aware of the issue and looking into the matter as a responsible state. "The government will address these concerns," he added.

The SAPM further said all airlines had been allowed to enter Pakistan and 270 flights were expected to land in the country from June 26 to 30.

He added that all Pakistani labourers stranded abroad because of the pandemic, especially those in Gulf countries, would likely to back home in the next few weeks.

On Wednesday, Emirates said the temporary suspension was effective from June 24. "We are coordinating

closely with various authorities and will review, and implement, any required additional measures to satisfy all parties before we resume services from Pakistan," a spokeswoman for Emirates told Reuters. However, the airline will continue to operate flights to Pakistan, she added.

According to Emirates, 26 passengers travelling on a flight to Hong Kong have tested positive for Covid-19.

These passengers were from Pakistan and had transited through the Dubai airport before boarding another flight for Hong Kong.

Similarly, Etihad Airways and Fly Dubai also announced that they were suspending flights from Pakistan.

The hospital director added that at least 60 people had suffered gunshot wounds. New Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said the army should be called in and a curfew imposed in the affected areas of the capital to control the rampaging mobs. Police used tear gas and smoke grenades but struggled to disperse stone-throwing crowds.

Trump reiterates offer to mediate Kashmir dispute. The clashes, which coincided with a visit to India by US President Donald Trump, erupted early this week between thousands demonstrating for and against the new citizenship law introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist led government.

## Call for strict implementation of laws on tobacco consumption

Karachi: The Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized an online discussion session on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Speaking on this year's theme "Better Knowledge for Better Care", anti-tobacco activists stressed upon the need to improve the understanding of tobacco smoking as a drug problem and how the improved knowledge will result in reducing its impact on health and governance.

The government has no fresh data of drug users in the country as last national level survey—Drug Use in Pakistan however it is approximately 6.7 million, 8 percent of the then total population of the country, people between the ages of 15-64 years were using any illicit drug including misuse of prescription drugs. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Pakistan (UNODC) has 6.7 million drug users. Illicit trade of tobacco is on peak as 16% of all cigarettes smoked in Pakistan are illicit, big Tobacco Companies are behind this illicit trade. Sidra Imran MPA Sindh Assembly from PTI, said tobacco smoking not only has physical impacts but psychological impacts on human health too. Tobacco smoking is causing dementia and other serious issues. Passive smoking is deemed equally dangerous

for youth and minors. She further said, This is top priority of federal govt to curb the drugs mafia and save our youth. Kashif Mirza, Manager Communication SPARC, said that Use of tobacco smoking in

Department at the University of Karachi, said that media and lack of governance has normalized the habit of smoking in Pakistan.

Iran on Wednesday reported four



any age is first step which leads to use drugs, in youth is not a matter of personal choice anymore. The issue has become so serious that it should be looked in to immediately as a serious form of drug abuse. Shumaila Muzammil Women Rights Activist said: highlighted the need of large scale awareness campaigns. Serious efforts are required from government to eliminate this illicit trade to ensure that tobacco industry doesn't have excuse to work with. Prof. Dr. Farah Iqbal, the Chairperson of Psychology

more novel coronavirus deaths among 44 new cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of fatalities to 19 and infections to 139. Health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahangir called on Iranians to refrain from travel as he announced the new tallies on state television. Fifteen new COVID-19 cases surfaced in the Shiite holy city of Qom, nine in Gilan, four in Tehran, three in Khuzestan, two each in Sistan and Baluchistan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, and Fars, and one in

## Haidry Market Traders Association delegation called on Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Ahmed Shalwani

Karachi: A delegation of Haidry Market Traders Association has called on Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Ahmed Shalwani at his office Commissioner House Karachi. A press statement issued from the office of Haidry Market Traders Association here.

The press statement further mentioned that the delegation led by Syed Muhammad Saeed president of Haidry Market Traders

Javed Qaim Ali, Mubshar Ahmed and Hassnain Jafary were also present.

During the meeting delegation had discussed the preventative measures adopted by traders of Haidry Market and implementation of SOPs laid down by Provincial government of Sindh in order to save lives from prevailing situation of Corona virus in the market.

On the occasion Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Hussain Shalwani had appreciated



Association, President of Haidry Jewellers Association Faraz Ahmed, Ahmed Asim,

the preventative role of traders in current situation.