

Editor: Murtaza Tareen  
Vol. XIV, No. 131

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Tuesday, April 28, 2020

## CWAs should compile data of Pakistanis stranded abroad: Zulfi Bukhari

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Syed Zulfi Bukhari has stressed that data of Pakistanis stranded abroad due to coronavirus pandemic should be compiled in a statement issued here on Monday. Zulfi Bukhari said the initiative of compiling the data of Pakistanis stranded due to the coronavirus pandemic should be compiled in a statement issued here on Monday. Zulfi Bukhari said the initiative of compiling the data of Pakistanis stranded due to the coronavirus pandemic should be compiled in a statement issued here on Monday.

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## COVID-19: MNAs need to play active role in facilitating masses: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that in ongoing situation in country created due to coronavirus pandemic, the parliamentarians need to play an active role for facilitating the public and providing maximum relief to the weaker segments of the society. These views were expressed by the premier while talking to Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan

## Pak-China to enhance cooperation in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD: The second meeting of Pak-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture Cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was jointly held by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARAF). The participants through video conference decided to

## Govt decides to make major changes in NAB law

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday has decided to make major changes in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law. According to details, the cases of corruption above rupees one billion will come under the jurisdiction of anti-graft watchdog while a high-level commission will be made for decision making purpose. The commission will exercise all the authority of NAB chairman as per new amendments.

Earlier, federation had decided to hold consultation with opposition and coalition parties over new NAB Amendment Ordinance. A committee was formed to hold talks with all stake holders and experts in this regard. The task of making a new ordinance was given to the Ministry of Law and Justice, sources told.

## Transparency being ensured in distribution of financial assistance: Sania Nishtar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection Dr Sania Nishtar has said that under the Emergency Programme, distribution of cash assistance among deserving families was underway while in transparent way, 1.77 needy families have been given financial assistance. Speaking during PTV programme here on Monday, Dr Sania Nishtar said the government was strictly implementing the policy of merit and transparency in providing financial assistance to the deserving families under the Relief Programme.

Biggest-ever financial assistance programme in country's history has been successfully launched by the government for the

deserving people and its fruits will reach to poor people all over the country, she said.

The SAPM on Poverty Alleviation said the government was leaving no stone unturned in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan is highly concerned with the poor and daily wage earners of the country.

Explaining the criteria, the SAPM on Poverty Alleviation said the programme was not aimed at those people who were receiving regular salary from any government or private job.

She said income of a person was determined on transparent basis from Covid-19 pandemic.

## Langov directs Citizens to stay at homes

Asia Today

QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaulhaq Langov urged upon masses not to take out from their homes and stay at homes. Citizens must ensure social distancing to prevent international pandemic of coronavirus. He has said that instant prevention of virus merely likely and feasible by strict lockdown's assurance. And, economic crisis created by corona virus have to be counter and fight together.

In addressing to high level meeting by the Provincial Home Minister in review of circumstances created by novel corona virus in attendance of Additional Chief Secretary Hafiz Abdul Basit, Inspector General Police Mohsin Hassan Butt, Chairman Distribution and Monitoring Committee Saleh Muhammad Nasir, Secretary Social Welfare Abdul Rauf Baloch, Additional IG Abdul Karim Chasma, Commissioner Quetta division Usman Ali Khan,

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a briefing on COVID-19.

## Centre sabotaging Sindh's efforts against coronavirus: Bilawal

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the federal government could not abdicate its responsibility to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the country by misinterpreting the 18th Amendment. Bilawal said, it is the responsibility of the federal government to bring some major hospitals of Sindh under its control, Bilawal said, "The

18th amendment is ignored when centre wants to snatch the hospitals of Sindh, but when there is a pandemic all over the world and the country is in war like situation, the centre is talking about the 18th Amendment. Talking about the responsibility of the centre, Bilawal said that if the federal government has no role to play after the 18th amendment, then why is there a National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in the country?

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) keeping in view the current situation of lockdown imposed by the government in connection with the COVID-19, has extended the date of submission of assignments of various programs.

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## Shahwani declares Social distance necessary, instructing to adopt precautionary measure

Asia Today

QUETTA: Representative of Government of Balochistan Liaqat Shahwani declared the social distancing necessary and essential among citizens in province. Without maintaining strict social distancing and adoption of precautionary measures, prevention of novel coronavirus will be a hard task to prevent. He adds that deadly and contagious corona virus is increasing with each passing day where 22 cases tested and reported positive. In face of increasing cases of corona virus, government of Balochistan for assistance of deprived people distributed one billion 7 millions as well as distributed ration among the 86886 families in the province with coordination of their low income. And, 27 shops had been sealed, he explained these views in addressing a press

## NAB fails to submit Anwar Majeed's medical reports in court

ISLAMABAD: The hearing on May 4 Majeed was arrested on August 15, 2018 and was first arrested into police custody and then judicial custody. The petition for his bail says that before his arrest, Majeed was abroad and "looking forward to his medical treatment involving the replacement of aortic valves". He returned to the country on the Supreme Court's orders and was then arrested by the FIA.

He was later shifted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Karachi after he experienced "shortness of breath, giddiness and extreme discomfort in his chest".

The court approved his bail on March 27 because of the coronavirus fears.

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## BRIEFS

PM doesn't believe in concealing facts: Firdous

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan says Prime Minister Imran Khan does not believe in concealing facts and Inquiry Commission report on wheat flour and sugar price hike would be made public. In a tweet, she said political opponents used to say that the inquiry report would not come, but Imran Khan brought out the investigation report.

## Factories in Karachi's Site Area resume their operations

KARACHI: Factories in Karachi's Site Area resumed their operations in the line of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the Sindh government, to control over spread of coronavirus.

The factories owners said that work is underway in the light of SOPs set by the government. The factories are disinfected. No employee is allowed to enter in the premises without precautionary measures especially with masks.

Last week, the Sindh government had granted permission for more factories to resume their operations after submission of undertaking to fully follow the SOPs designed by the government in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

The factories would be bound to follow the SOPs amid coronavirus outbreak, the notification reads.

It may be noted that earlier 69 units were allowed to resume their operations in the province.

## Muzaffargarh man commits suicide after family starves during lockdown

MUZAFFARGARH: A man in Muzaffargarh committed suicide on Monday after he and his family starved for days due to the country-wide lockdown, police said.

The deceased worked at a laboratory in Kot Addi. The facility was closed since the lockdown was imposed due to the coronavirus and the man lost his job.

The family reportedly did not get any rations from any NGO or the government's relief scheme.

The police have moved the body to a hospital for a forensic examination, but the deceased's family don't want the matter to be investigated, INP.

## Youth injured in Balakot road mishap succumb to his wounds

BALAKOT: A youth injured when a motorcycle fell into a gorge some two days succumbed to his wounds during treatment.

According to details, Umair Ali hailing from Kohistan Mor area of Balakot was critically injured when he lost control of his motorcycle due to over-speeding; it skidded over road near his residence on Friday near his residence.

The youth remained under treatment for two days and succumbed to his wounds.

Funeral prayers of the deceased were offered in Kohistan Mor area on Monday. Local people attended the funeral prayers in local graveyard.

## Girl dies after falling into open manhole

KARACHI: Another minor girl died due to negligence of the local administration here on Monday.

The incident took place in Shah Latif town of Karachi where a Ruffa fell in uncovered manhole and before she could be rescued.

The UC Chairman presiding over the meeting of deceased for not conducting her postmortem.

The incident took place in Shah Latif town of Karachi where a Ruffa fell in uncovered manhole and before she could be rescued.

QUETTA: needy person collecting relief foods item from a tribal leader Haji Nazir Jan Achakari place during lockdown the city to protect people from Covid-19 pandemic.



## DAILY ASIA TODAY

### Fresh measures of govt. for virus' prevention

Novel Coronavirus increases with the day passes even, doctor of Civil Hospital Quetta sought provincial government of Balochistan for imposing strict curfew across Balochistan for halting instant spread of corona virus. They confirmed the prevention of the virus more precious and important than ongoing business, doctors

of citizens is also a matter of deep concern. They even do not admit instructions of provincial government in terms of corona virus, they do go mosques for worship, sitting and standing not agree to the social distancing as a main factor of spreading novel corona virus. On the other hand, Chief

Minister of Balochistan, after seeing increment of smooth flow of virus, initiated the Random Testing across province in order to control deadly and contagious novel of corona virus in Province, especially Quetta. CM also underlines district and local administration most of cases emerging have been declared locally transmitted. So, district and local administration must be vigilant towards prevention of virus through imposing government testing and instructions along with adopting of precautionary measures by citizens. As well as, transmit the awareness message to others. After initiation of the Random Testing 35 confirmed positive out of 600 hundreds which is very

regrettable to keep the virus at bay despite continuously extending of lockdowns with precautionary measures. Along with this, Control Room that was established was also visited by the CM where he reviewed arrangements of Covid-19. Citizens thereby also directed to adopt necessary the preemptive measures like social distancing and staying at homes. The step of chief minister Balochistan took as regards with establishing of Random testing will prove fruitful and successful. And, it is considered step towards betterment in taking citizens to task of wearing face mask as essential. So, citizens must not considered instruction of government useless instead fruitful.

## A case for a presidential system

Syed Mohiullah Shah

It is not simply a matter of putting the system of government, if you want to call it that, on the fortunes of the country. "Why has Pakistan not realized its potential?" asked Lee Kwan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, after he had presented proposals for Singapore and Pakistan pooling their strengths to set up opportunities in Central Asian markets.

Before I could reply, he proceeded in his usual style, to answer his own question. "Pakistan has continued 'people play' politics 365 days of the year. Those who form the government, are always looking over their shoulders to see who might be in a position to take them back. And those in the opposition are always in a hurry to overthrow the government. How can any government work for national development when its very survival is always threatened?"

The principal cause of the time is kept on the development of Pakistan, according to Lee Kwan Yew, was the system of government, where those elected to govern are only interested in 'playing politics'. Since the door to destabilize and overthrow any government at any time is kept open, it has encouraged power brokers to round up, on the one hand, a number of members by temptations, horse-trading, blackmailing etc to threaten any government with a vote of no-confidence.

These tactics have been repeated several times, a perfect art of destabilizing any government. This has disturbed our parliamentary system and made it hostage to the interests of a few power brokers who could subvert the will of the people, if their interests are not promoted.

Most governments have purchased their survival and continued by loosening the strings of the public purse and not asking too many questions about their use. This has given a bad name to Pakistan in the international community as a country which has so little to show for so much money spent in the name of development.

Repeated over time, these tactics have converted the government of the people by the people for the people into the government of the few, by the few, for the few.

Excerpted from: 'Food Security in the Time of COVID-19'.

has been widening, and nations that were behind Pakistan have been overtaking it during the years. This is not to say that there is ipso facto something wrong with the parliamentary system of government. It has been working well in several European countries and Japan for long without the fault lines which we have created in our own system of government. Sadly, serious efforts have been made over the years to eradicate these fault lines. Even the two military rules played politics and used the fault lines of the parliamentary system to their own advantage and created their own band of patriots to rule the country.

Five (5) such serious fault lines have had corrosive effects. First, in the absence of irrevocable, fixed terms for legislature and executive, there is a constant threat of destabilization by a handful of power brokers, given that we are not people known for exercising self-restraint in many matters.

This is a sword of Damocles hanging over the head of every parliamentary government in Pakistan which was referred to by Lee Kwan Yew.

Second, because of their own problems, the opposition often seems eager to jump on the bandwagon of the government to protect and promote their own interests. This desire to be on the same page with the government compromises the monitoring role of the opposition in the assemblies and many a time, the proceedings of assemblies give an impression that there is no one in the house to seriously address the problems of the people.

Third, in line with the centuries-old tradition of the Subcontinent, where there was no separate legislature in the government of any king, raja or maharaja, there is no interest in legislative work as empty hells of assemblies often bear witness. As everybody seems interested in exercising executive function, several policies and programmes are running through executive orders of the government and not under acts of legislature.

Fourth, the absence of separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches, has been the principal cause of the politicization of the administration, decline in professionalism and rise in cronyism and corruption. This has given rise to a culture of patronage/sifarish for postings, transfers, promotions and

decline in reliance upon professional excellence for upward mobility.

And, lastly, the lack of competence has been seriously hampering the quality of governance, especially in provinces like Balochistan, where the pool of quality human resources is severely limited. As the selection of cabinet members to lead the government in a parliamentary system is confined to members of the assembly, the problem of competence becomes extremely acute and affects the quality of governance.

Many of these fault lines are removed in a presidential system since it provides for irrevocable fixed terms for executive and legislature, separation of powers between executive and legislative branches, depoliticizing of government, and making the talent pool of the whole nation, including members of assemblies, available for improving the quality of governance.

It is not to mention here that during the preparations for the 1973 constitution, a number of draft proposals were presented for consideration. Records show that a proposal for a presidential form of government for Pakistan was also under consideration. It was allegedly Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was also in favour of it. It was only for the sake of seeking unanimous approval of the constitution, that the opposition's preference for a parliamentary system of government was agreed.

It is safe to say that the history of our country would have been different if a democratic, federal, presidential system of government, protecting fundamental rights and provincial autonomy, had been working over these years.

The barrier has been the preference by some people for the status quo culture in the Subcontinent, where we have had good old bad kings, rajahs, maharajahs, but never any law-maker simply because the king was the law. There was no separate legislature or law-making body outside the person of the king.

It is the desire of us want to continue to live in the past. This has given new lease of life to the medieval culture of fiefdoms and mediocrity which was the status quo in the Subcontinent. The sooner we change it, the better for people of Pakistan.

Humayun Akhtar Khan

Though the fall in oil price would help. There are still major debt servicing needs.

Soon as correction in the discount rate began, the 'hot money' started to go where it came from. The drop in rupee value furthered this trend. Also, since a revenue deficit fund managers prefer cash or blue chip over emerging market opportunities. Many people, including my Institute, had cautioned about this possibility.

Despite our weak economic indicators, the World Bank counsels the government to make a determined effort to help the vulnerable and spend necessary amounts on the health sector. IFs fear that the rupee value even more unstable. The government's help is critical, as falling per capita income could cause major social and economic pain.

There is a lot of discussion about a tradeoff between the goals of health and the economy. There is no tradeoff. I have been at pains to suggest that there can be no economic recovery without overcoming the health crisis. The decision on when to lift the lockdown cannot be taken on gut feel. We must rely on data. The country needs granular data about the spread of the disease based on testing and tracing. Lifting of the lockdown must be by specific areas and with specific protection protocols agreed between health experts and industry and civil society.



**QINGDAO:** Aerial view of HMM Algeciras docking at Qingdao Port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. HMM Algeciras, the largest container vessel on earth with a TEU (20-foot equivalent unit) capacity of 24,000, started its maiden voyage from the port of Qingdao

## Corona and food

Michael Doliner

Around 16.8 million Americans applied for unemployment insurance over a three week period. Will the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic be a one time bump the world will get over and continue as it was, or will this be a permanent change, and if so, to what?

Of course these millions of Americans are only those who had jobs with unemployment insurance. Many others are designated "independent contractors," for example real estate agents and other salespeople. They will not be unemployed, but they won't have jobs or money coming in, because unable to work or make deals because of the pandemic. Then there are the small business owners. I think it is fair to say that these events were a wake up call to everyone who needs

to work to pay the bills. Your income may not be there tomorrow.

The American economy has run on debt for a long time now. Debt is money you get now and promise to pay back later. You are giving a vote of confidence to "later" whenever you incur debt. You don't have that money now but you will have it later, you think. You are sure. Since it is in your own "later" you are giving a vote of confidence to, pretending such confidence is extreme folly, even if often done. The pandemic has torn the veil that hides the reality from the eyes of anyone who did so. Later may be unemployment. To have confidence that later will be better than now is delusional.

People who lose jobs will lose cars and houses. The effect of this large number of unemployed people will ripple through the economy.

Its contraction is reflected in very low oil prices. It is not the numbers but the uncertainty that will have the greatest effect. It is my opinion that the pandemic will change people's comfort with credit. Showing off a brand new car that put you in hock up to the eyeballs might not be as much fun as it used to be. And do we really need to trade up to that new house with four bathrooms in the suburbs where you have to drive to get anywhere? Will people go to sports events, concerts, blockbuster movies?

We would happen to Americans recognized the frivolity upon which they expended the wealth of a raped world? I am certain they would feel neither sorrow nor regret. They will look for someone else to blame. But they will also, I contend, become more frugal. The all too apparent

uncertainty of the future surely must affect our confidence in it.

In any case, I think that a lot of the frivolous pleasures of the previous economy, tourism for example, will not return because no one will be in the mood. It just won't be fun to be stupid any more. That's going to put a real dent in the economy. We added to what we already have. Debt will collapse. The criminal absurd expenditure of the wars will be apparent. Could this possibly lead to food shortages? It certainly could. The pandemic is certain to affect food storage, processing, and transportation. In addition, in the midst of starvation there will, paradoxically, be a demand shortage because people will not have money.

Excerpted from: 'Food Security in the Time of COVID-19'.

## Tackling Covid-19?

A crisis compels introspection. My hope is that the pandemic will force us to rethink the government's role in Pakistan, as an agent of change and progress. Immediately, we must find the most effective ways of beating the crisis. Later, we must look at the direction the country is headed. This is the time to lead and to think ahead.

Let's take the immediate first. The task before us is to prevent further spread of the virus and protect the people from economic distress. We must also keep the economy going so that it recovers quickly once the pandemic is over. This won't be easy. The virus has upended life's ecosystem. Bringing it back to equilibrium is a huge challenge.

The likes of this crisis have not been seen in our lifetimes. How we respond will set the course of this country for the next few years. There are no good solutions, just less bad ones. We must proceed with thought and rigour.

My first point is that data and knowledge must guide decisions. It is critical that experts have more say in policy. A crisis creates myths and hopes for miracles. We must avoid the temptation of letting hope prevail over reality. With a fall in new cases of the virus, some EU nations have taken cautious steps towards lifting the lockdown. China did not allow cities to reopen until it was sure that there

were no new cases for two weeks. This apparently extreme caution could be the reason why normal life is returning in China. Pakistan too has begun partial lifting. But it has done so even as the cases are on the rise. In Pakistan, where health services are weak, a lockdown could be key to preventing large-scale suffering.

The virus knows no boundaries. Everyone on the planet is at risk. That is why overcoming the pandemic has been an uphill task. Social distancing is the most effective way to deal with the virus. To compensate people on daily wages and micro businesses, welfare measures must accompany prevention.

Welfare does not just need funds. It calls for an effective delivery system. The disease is a test of our governing structure and the strength of our institutions. We must respond with whatever it takes.

A key focus should be to ensure smooth supplies of medicines, food, and other essentials. These must reach even those who cannot pay for them. Government may redirect funds from other heads. Already, the IMF, World Bank and the ADB have committed large sums in aid to meet the cost of the pandemic. China too is likely to lend \$6 billion in aid.

Effective measures to take care of the health crisis is the surest way of focusing on early economic revival. If the health crisis continues,

efforts to revive the economy would unravel. Our highest priority should be the health of the people of Pakistan and limiting human suffering as much as possible. There cannot be normal economic activity if the disease continues to spread.

In Pakistan, there is no general testing yet. Our capacity for tests has improved, but so far less than five percent of the population has been tested. The lockdown gave us time to build systems to test, trace, and isolate. We have moved slowly in this regard.

A few days ago, the prime minister said that the virus would likely peak in May. I am sure the government has done everything possible to put in place systems to deal with it. We need more hospital beds, better ICU capacity, and protective gear for health workers.

In its South Asia Economic Focus, the World Bank forecasts a sharp recession in Pakistan with a skyrocketing fiscal deficit. The country's external account will be under severe stress because export and remittances are declining. Though the fall in oil price would help. There are still major debt servicing needs.

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The real challenge for the coming weeks is to have the right institutional and organizational setup to meet our health and economic challenges. The likes of this crisis have not been seen in our lifetimes. How we respond will set the course of this country for the next few years. There are no good solutions, just less bad ones. We must proceed with

thought and rigour.

My first point is that data and knowledge must guide decisions. It is critical that experts have more say in policy. A crisis creates myths and hopes for miracles. We must avoid the temptation of letting hope prevail over reality. With a fall in new cases of the virus, some EU nations have taken cautious steps towards lifting the lockdown. China did not allow cities to reopen until it was sure that there were no new cases for two weeks. This apparently extreme caution could be the reason why normal life is returning in China. Pakistan too has begun partial lifting. But it has done so even as the cases are on the rise. In Pakistan, where health services are weak, a lockdown could be key to preventing large-scale suffering. The virus knows no boundaries. Everyone on the planet is at risk. That is why overcoming the pandemic has been an uphill task. Social distancing is the most effective way to deal with the virus. To compensate people on daily wages and micro businesses, welfare measures must accompany prevention. We need more hospital beds, better ICU capacity, and protective gear for health workers.

In its South Asia Economic Focus, the World Bank forecasts a sharp recession in Pakistan with a skyrocketing fiscal deficit. The country's external account will be under severe stress because export and remittances are declining.



# ASIA TODAY SPORTS

## The day Shoaib Akhtar bowled the fastest ever delivery in cricket

It was on April 27, 2002, that a fast bowler touched the 100mph mark with his lightning delivery. Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar bowled at 100.14 mph (161 kmph) to New Zealand's Craig McMillan during a One Day International in Lahore.

I remember Khalid Butt, then media manager of the Pakistan Cricket Board, proudly putting out a statement on this feat though the International Cricket Council (ICC) did not approve of it - stating that it did not have a standard measuring tool.

Akhtar never bothered whether his pace was recognised or not and said, "It doesn't matter to me whether somebody recognises the speed gun or not. For me, it's satisfying that I have bowled the fastest-ever delivery."

I was lucky to watch Akhtar at his fastest on many occasions. He could terrify batsmen and derived some sort of a special thrill watching the fear on the batsman's face as he approached to bowl at them.

Pacers have a peculiar mindset. They love to paint themselves as cruel people and even make statements that can generate fear.

Once when I'd asked Akhtar on how rewarding it had been to be known as the fastest bowler, and his response was: "You need to be a little mad to become a fast bowler."

After Akhtar turned a commentator, he would always come and sit with journalists and crack jokes. With so much humour up his sleeve, I often wondered how he could present a different image of himself on the field during his playing days. Akhtar is now using his sense of humor in his tweets, though like his deliveries, he hardly bothers if his tweets hurt people or a nation sometimes.

Australia's Jeff Thomson, who once bowled at 99.8 mph, in 1975, till Akhtar bettered it, was another player who won many fans through his caustic pace. He created fear among batsmen through his statements too.

He'd once remarked that he liked batsmen on the field with spilled blood (though he later denied saying it). However, once Thomson hit Sri Lanka's Duleep Mendis flat on the ground, Thomson turned his back away to walk towards the run-up mark. He had also hit Sri Lanka's Suresh Mendis on his toe with a yorker, and as the batsman came out of the crease writhing in pain, he ran down, broke the wicket, and appealed for a run-out.

Known to all as 'Thommo', his name itself created fear. Years later, when I met him as a commentator, one wondered whether it was the same man whom the world once feared. To get wickets, pacers resort to different ways.

It reminds me of Sri Lanka pacer Lasith Malinga's remark: "In cricket, if we merely survive, I don't think anyone can go far. You have to find ways to be a matchwinner."

**End of the road for Umar Akmal, Pakistan cricket's troubled child**

Dubai: Pakistan cricket found itself making the headlines this week during a quiet phase - albeit for the wrong reasons. Umar Akmal, the wicketkeeper-batsman who has often been referred to as the troubled child of his country's cricket, was expectedly handed a three-year ban on corruption charges while veteran Salim Malik sought a retribution from the cricket board on Sunday for his wrongdoings in the past.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Twitter: "Umar Akmal handed three year ban from all cricket by chairman of disciplinary panel Justice (ret.) Ijaz-ul-Mirza Chaudhary."

Akmal had earlier admitted in an interview that he was offered money to skip matches against India, also revealing that he was asked to leave two deliveries in a match by the bookies. "I was once offered \$200,000 for leaving two deliveries. I was also offered to skip matches against India," Akmal was quoted as saying by GeoTV.Akmal, 31, had not requested for a hearing before the Anti-Corruption Tribunal after he was charged for two breaches of Article 2.4.4 of the PCB Anti-Corruption Code in two unrelated.



File photo: Newcastle United's Javier Manquillo, left, and Burnley's Jack Cork battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England.

## COVID-19: UAE cricket team players toil hard on zoom to remain fit

Dubai: Like all other team sport during this period of lockdown, the UAE cricket team has also not been able to train together. It has been many days since they trained together at the ICC Academy indoor and outdoor grounds following the Stay at Home decision to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was when the UAE team was about to embark on a tour of the United States of America to play in a tri-nation tournament involving hosts USA and Scotland that the COVID-19 threat put an end to all cricket activities around the world.

Speaking to Gulf News, Ahmed Raza, skipper of the UAE team, said: "We train through Zoom with our physical trainer Peter Kelley. He runs his sessions three a week on Sunday,

Tuesday and Wednesday from 4.20 pm."

The UAE team players are determined to remain fit and are also sharpening their techniques through training sessions. "We do our individual training at different times, but the team's virtual training session with Kelly is done together," noted Raza.

"All of us do our training in our homes. I made sure to remain active right from the time the lockdown came into effect. I watch a lot of videos on cricket and have been reading books too," said Raza, who has clinched the honour of being the eighth-most economical bowler in T20 International history (among bowlers who have bowled a minimum of 500 deliveries).

Elaborating on the fitness training,

Raza said: "Kelly's short high-intensity training has been effective and all of us feel that it has helped us immensely. Over 30 cricketers join the session and work hard. Everyone is keen to ensure that by staying at home one does not gain weight. This is the time when we have to be careful with our diet too. Since we are not training as much as we did before the lockdown, we cannot cut as much as we were doing before."

Raza feels that everyone has to be prepared for the period once normalcy returns to the world. "Due to the stoppage of cricket activities now, a lot of cricket could suddenly happen as soon as normalcy returns. We may not have the time to get back if we wait till everything starts."



Australia's Test captain Tim Paine agrees that a full Test series against India in December-January will solve a lot of financial problems.



File photo: West Indies' Carlos Brathwaite (C) holds the trophy as he celebrates after winning the World T20 cricket tournament.

## COVID-19: Our players won't be greedy if asked to take pay cut: Tim Paine

Dubai: Australian cricketers joined their peers from England in declaring that they are ready to take a pay-cut to save the future of the game in their country, which has taken a severe hit following the coronavirus pandemic.

"Players need to know the absolute financial positions of the game and the players aren't going to be greedy," Tim Paine, Australia's Test captain, said in an interview on ABC Radio.

"Our livelihood, all the people associated with the CA and the players association, their livelihood is dependent on the game of cricket being healthy," he said at the moment if a pay cut for us is on the cards and that keeps our game thriving well into the future, then that's something we'll certainly have to look at. Earlier this month, England's centrally contracted cricketers agreed to take a voluntary salary reduction for the next three months in the wake of the global health crisis.

The Professional Cricketers' Association had announced that men's centrally contracted players will donate 500,000 pounds to the ECB and

selected good causes, the equivalent to a 20 per cent pay cut for the next three months. In addition, centrally contracted members of the England women's team will take a voluntary salary reduction in April, May and June.

It's common knowledge now that Cricket Australia - which is going ahead with their preparation for the T20 World Cup in October-November despite the question mark over its fate - might lose a staggering AUD 300 million dollars if the Indian team fails to turn up for the bi-lateral.

The sessions will continue from Monday to Friday of each week with the iconic cricketers making themselves available on different days for which a schedule is being sent to the players.

The sessions have been arranged by the Pakistan national men's cricket team management in collaboration with the International Cricket

## Premier League come up with concrete proposals to finish season: Report

London: The English Premier League are eyeing a resumption of the season on June 8, behind closed doors due to the coronavirus pandemic, and reaching a climax on July 27, according to The Times.

The paper claims football chiefs, along with other sports governing bodies, have been holding talks with the British government about when they can resume and at only "approved grounds".

The Premier League has 92 games remaining since it suspended the season on March 13 with Liverpool agonisingly close to their first ever EPL title.

Times says Premier League bosses shared their idea 'Project Restart' with the shareholders last week.

The matches would be played behind closed doors - a maximum of 400 people would be permitted to attend including media though only if they tested negative for the virus - and at selected stadia to limit stretching the limited resources of the medical services.

Extra changing facilities would be introduced to ensure social distancing measures were in place whilst players would be required to turn up for training individually and already in their kit.

They have also suggested August

22 as the date for the start of the 2020/21 campaign. The main sticking point, though, remains the lack of tests available.

Should the season be unable to resume - the Dutch championship was abandoned without promotion or relegation on Friday - it would be a financial nightmare for the clubs.

Measures being taken to alleviate some of that have seen the EPL link up with DLA Piper - a law firm that has advised on TV rights deals for the league in the past - on an emergency loan fund, with a maximum of #10 million (\$12.4 million) per club.



Ahmad Raza, the UAE skipper, feels the short, high intensity virtual training of Peter Kelley has benefited the team.

## T20 World Cup in October seems impractical: BCCI official

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) hosted a Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, but there was no clear direction on the fate of the World T20 to be held later in the year in Australia. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) feels that with the coronavirus outbreak and the effect it has had, having the showpiece event in October-November seems impractical.

Speaking to IANS, a BCCI official said that a number of factors would come into play and all that would be only after normalcy returns. The official went on to point at the travel restrictions to begin

with and the fresh directives that might come in across the globe, not just in India. To be honest, the T20 World Cup in October seems to be impractical and even thinking of a gathering of people of that magnitude at this time is naive. I mean think about it. At this stage you don't know when international travel would



Roger Federer had called for a merger between the governing bodies of women's and men's tennis.

## Eight iconic Pakistan cricketers to motivate current, emerging players in online

LAHORE: Eight former great Pakistani cricketers including Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram will hold online sessions with the current and emerging Pakistani cricketers to help them keep focus on their game and make best use of the time they have amid the lockdown due to Covid-19.

The sessions will continue from Monday to Friday of each week with the iconic cricketers making themselves available on different days for which a schedule is being sent to the players.

The sessions have been arranged by the Pakistan national men's cricket team management in collaboration with the International Cricket

Department as they are looking at novel and innovative ideas to ensure its elite players and future prospects remain connected with the game in these unprecedented times and also learn from the experiences of their seniors.

Other renowned Pakistani cricketers, namely Mohammad Yousuf, Mo'in Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed,

Rashid Latif, Shoaib Akhtar and Yousuf Khan will also share their insights about the game as well as their strategies, preparations and thought processes in the lead up to and during a series or an event.

The sessions will be run category-wise with Javed, Yousuf and Yousuf speaking with around 21 batsmen in three different.

**CORRIGENDUM**

It may inform to all that due to the escalation in transmission of COVID-19, the tender dated 31st March, 2020 under the Chief Officer, District Council, Zhob bearing AB No. 371/9-3-2020 suspended and now it will be opened on 12th May, 2020.

Note: Method of procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure, rest of the conditions will remain unchanged.

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
District Council Zhob

AB No. 416/27-04-2020

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Estimated Cost: Rs. 10,217 M TSE: TS1722046

The Science & IT Department, Government of Balochistan, invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders for PROVISION OF IT EQUIPMENT FOR IT TRAINING CENTERS AT ZHOB AND KILLA ABUULLAH in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) rules 2014. The firm must have valid registration with tax authorities (i.e. NTN, GST and BSA). Method of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bidders must accompany Bid Security @ 2% of the total value of the tender. The Bidding Documents can be downloaded from www.tops.gov.pk and www.balochistan.gov.pk. The tender/bidding document fee of Rs. 20,000/- in Government of Balochistan C-38 cheques, C-3877 cheques on the name of Secretary S&IT Department, the bank slip is mandatory to attach with bidding documents at the time of submission of bids. Issuance of bidding Documents: From the date of publication of IT Tender Conference in the office of Director Technical on 21st April, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Last Date of Bid Submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 08:00 AM 2020/05/11 11:00 AM. No bids will be received after due time in the office addressed below. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office addressed below by 11:00 AM 2020/05/11 11:00 AM in the presence of firms authorized representatives jointly.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL IT**  
Government of Balochistan  
Block # 14 1st Floor, Civil Secretariat  
Quetta, Tel # 081-2203539

PRO No. 2794/27-04-2020

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Shoaib Akhtar (left) had a healthy rivalry with India's Sachin Tendulkar, the master blaster from India.



Umar Akmal in full flow during a limited overs match against Sri Lanka in Dubai.



## Latest News

## Flight carrying medical equipment from China lands in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A special aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) carrying another cache of protective equipment from China has reached Islamabad Monday.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Atiq received the equipment. The protective goods include 15-vray machines, 119 ventilators, 200 thermal gowns, and other material.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NDMA said more equipment will also arrive from China to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

He told that Pakistan's testing capacity will likely be reached to 40 thousand daily in coming days. INP

## CM Buzdar urges lawmakers to keep an eye on hoarders in their districts

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has urged members of assembly to keep an eye on hoarders in their respective districts.

According to details, CM Usman Buzdar has written a letter to lawmakers and urged them to keep an eye on hoarding and profiteering in their respective districts and remain in contact with administration.

CM Buzdar further said to MPAs to personally monitor anti-dengue campaign and clean and green Punjab program.

Earlier, Punjab promulgated anti-hoarding ordinance in a bid to control hoarding and profiteering in the province. Ordinance contains three-year sentence, summary trial and confiscation of the material for hoarding of all essential commodities like sugar, flour, ghee, sanitizers, face masks and other essential items.

Ordinance has declared hoarding as a non-bailable crime and deputy commissioners of all districts ordered raids without search warrants. Special magistrates will announce verdict of hoarding case in 30 days.

Appeal against the verdict of special magistrates can be filed within 30 days in session court, which is bound to announce its verdict in next 30 days. INP

## Three more PIA crew members test positive for coronavirus

ISLAMABAD: Three more crew members of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have been diagnosed as positive for the novel coronavirus that has so far killed 281 people and affected over 13,520 across the country.

The affected flight attendants were put into quarantine in a local hotel in Islamabad for two days upon return from Manchester on board a repatriation flight. During this period, they took a test for the virus, which turned out to be positive.

A spokesperson for the national flag carrier confirmed the news saying they were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Earlier, on April 12, a PIA pilot had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. According to PIA's general manager medical service, the pilot had operated a special flight from Pakistan to Toronto, Canada on 2nd of April and had arrived homeland on 8th of this month. He maintained that the pilot was screened for the virus upon arrival, adding that the test results of the pilot came out positive and he was declared as infected.

Subsequently, he was shifted to a quarantine centre. INP

**Peshawar man allegedly kills seven-year-old niece for 'making noise'**

PESHAWAR: A man allegedly killed his seven-year-old niece for making a lot of noise while playing with her friends in Peshawar's Tekla Sunday night, according to the police. The girl was playing with her friends on the ground floor of the house while her uncle lived on the first floor. He opened fire from his floor, killing the child on the spot, an officer said. The suspect, identified as Fazal Hayat, managed to escape from the site. The girl's father has registered an FIR against him. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media and neighbours have demanded the suspect be arrested as soon as possible.

The girl was playing with her friends on the ground floor of the house while her uncle lived on the first floor. He opened fire from his floor, killing the child on the spot, an officer said. The suspect, identified as Fazal Hayat, managed to escape from the site. The girl's father has registered an FIR against him. INP

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## Grand Health Alliance gives one-day ultimatum to govt to fulfill demands

LAHORE: The Grand Health Alliance on Monday has given a one-day ultimatum to the government to fulfill their demands.

Addressing a press conference, Chairman Grand Health Alliance Dr. Salman Habib said, the doctors and paramedical staff is facing shortage of the PPIs across the country. He added more than 30 per cent of the doctors and staff have been tested positive for the coronavirus. He said that doctors serving at all government hospitals should be screened for the virus and provided the necessary equipment.

Dr. Salman threatened for countrywide strike on Wednesday if their demands were not met. Last week, Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid had said that doctors who had tested positive for coronavirus in Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan have recovered from the infection. 27 doctors in Multan and a doctor in DG Khan contracted the virus but now they have tested negative, the minister had said while talking during ARY NEWS programme 'Sawal Hai' and added that she had advised doctors to fight against the virus rather than becoming afraid of it. She had said that the entire nation should be doctors are facing threat from the pandemic and they had to jointly fight against it. He said that doctors serving at all government hospitals should be screened for the virus and provided the necessary equipment. Dr. Salman threatened for countrywide strike on Wednesday if their demands were not met. Last week, Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid had said that doctors who had tested positive for coronavirus in Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan have recovered from the infection. 27 doctors in Multan and a doctor in DG Khan contracted the virus but now they have tested negative, the minister had said while talking during ARY NEWS programme. INP

## Zardari indictment in Parklane case postponed

ISLAMABAD: Co-Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari could not be indicted Monday in the Parklane reference as the court postponed until June 10 due to coronavirus.

Accountability Court (AC) Judge Muhammad Azam Khan heard the case against him and others. On which, the court adjourned the hearing until June 10. Besides that, the court also adjourned other cases till the same date which included the Pink residency, misappropriation in subsidies for sugar cane farmers references. INP

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi during his visit to national institute of health.

## Mian Zahid demands steps to avoid complete economic meltdown

**Says interest rates, sales tax and FBR target should be reduced, benefit of reduced oil prices should be passed on to masses**

measures and plan immediate and full intervention to improve the situation.

He said that the economy cannot improve unless the buying power of masses is augmented for which demand should be pushed.

The veteran business leader said that masses lack buying power, therefore the government should stop suppressing demand while reducing interest rates, oil prices and decreasing GST to five per cent.

He noted that small and medium businesses should be given interest-free loans while the requirement for collateral should be relaxed to boost productivity.

Mian Zahid Hussain noted that increased price hike at the advent of the holy month of Ramadan has exposed the price control mechanism of the government while some banks continue to exploit the situation.

He said that prolonged lockdown has broken the back of the industrial sector while the K-Electric is trying to extract Rs 5 billion out of industrialists which should be noticed and reversed.

The gas and power tariff should be reduced by fifty per cent while the price of petrol should be reduced by Rs25, the former minister said.

The oil crisis has left thousands of Pakistanis jobless in the oil-rich nations which can jump therefore a strategy should be devised to deal with this issue, agricultural production should be supported, poor needs sustenance while data of those who lost jobs in the country should be maintained so that they can get the government's help, he demanded.

All the reforms should be put immediately. FBR should be given realistic targets and the labour-intensive sectors as well as the agriculture sector should be given preference in the next budget, Mian Zahid Hussain demanded. INP

ISLAMABAD: SVP PPT's Businessmen Panel (BMP), President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday demanded meaningful steps to escape complete economic meltdown.

Talking to business community, Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should avoid half-hearted

## PML-N condole death of former APP official due to Covid-19

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) spokesperson Murray Aurangzeb on Monday expressed his condolences over the death of former president of Associated Press (AP) Employees Union Zafar Rashid Bhatti due to coronavirus. He was a seasoned journalist and a sympathetic trade unionist, she said.

"His work for journalism and journalists would be remembered, May Allah (swt) grant him paradise and his family patience," she said.

The PML-N spokesperson said that the federal government should take steps to protect the journalists. "The presence of coronavirus in various media houses is a matter of great concern," she added. She said it is unfortunate that journalists, like doctors, had not been provided safety kits by the government as yet.

Journalists are contracting the coronavirus whereas the government is just being a spectator, she said. Aurangzeb stressed that precautionary measures should be taken immediately to ensure the safety of the media workers before more cases emerge. On April 26, two journalists, Muzaffar Bhatti had tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Last month, three Pakistani journalists had died of the virus. All of them are based in Lahore.

Meanwhile, the head of a newspaper union claimed three more reporters (two in Punjab and one in Karachi) have also been infected by the virus. All of them are based in Lahore.

He lamented the lack of safety kits for beat reporters. While staffers in digital newsrooms have been asked to work from home. INP

## PML-N condole death of former APP official due to Covid-19

## KP reports two new cases of polio virus

PESHAWAR: Two fresh cases of polio Type-2 were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Monday.

According to the police Emergency and Operational Centre (EOC), the cases emerged from Peshawar and South Waziristan, raising the provincial tally of Type-2 cases to 38 for the current year.

"The number of children infected with Type-2 polio has risen to 42 across the country," EOC said.

In March, the provincial health department postponed an anti-polio campaign due to the spread of the coronavirus. The campaign in five districts of K-P, including Charsadda, Mardan, Nowshera, Swabi and Mohmand would have targeted over 13 million children under the age of five.

According to the police emergency operations centre, 7,455 teams were set up for the campaign.

## IHC dismisses another petition against 20 per cent school tuition fee concession

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed a petition filed against the government's directive asking schools to offer a 20 per cent concession in school fees for the months of April and May.

Justice Amir Farooq said that the government has the right to set school fees for private schools, and directed it to approach the Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) against the decision.

The court said concerns of private schools must be heard pertaining to the 20 per cent concession, before any decision is made.

The court had previously

## IHC dismisses another petition against 20 per cent school tuition fee concession

also dismissed a petition filed by the Private Schools Association regarding the matter. Earlier this month, private schools in the federal capital were directed to offer a concession of at least 20 per cent for the months of April and May. Moreover, schools were strictly directed to only collect the fees monthly and not charge advance fees for the next months together. A notification to this effect was issued by PEIRA listing new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for private educational institutions (PEIs) to higher schools or equivalent level during this period and directing them to ensure the implementation of the new directions. Schools have been closed in the federal capital until May 31 as part of precautionary measures instituted by the federal government against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). This period is to be treated as summer vacations at the educational institutions in the city. The notification stated that the concession must be granted as a financial relief to the parents or guardians [of students] in suspension of business and related activities [as a result of a nationwide lockdown] owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. INP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr. Ishrat Hussain called Prime Minister Imran Khan.

## Zardari indictment in Parklane case postponed

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Accountability Court (AC) Judge Muhammad Azam Khan heard the case against him and others. On which, the court adjourned the hearing until June 10. Besides that, the court also adjourned other cases till the same date which included the Pink residency, misappropriation in subsidies for sugar cane farmers references. INP

## 2nd batch of donation by CTG to reach Pakistan on April 29

ISLAMABAD: The second batch of medical supplies by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) to help Pakistan is set to arrive here on April 29. The first batch of medical supplies donated by CTG has already arrived here. On behalf of the Pakistani government, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) received the goods and greeted the Chinese representatives at the airport. Gwadar Pro App reported on Monday that the landowners' ceremony, Minister for Power, Omar Ayub Khan expressed gratitude to the Chinese government and CTG for their aid and said, "Long live Pak-China friendship." According to Zhang Jun, a representative of CTG, the two batches of supplies include 750,000 surgical masks, ventilators and protection gowns, which is the largest donation from foreign enterprises since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the country.

Zhang said, 70 per cent of the supplies will be donated to the government and 30 per cent to the private sector. The remaining 30 per cent will be donated to four communities where CTG's projects are running. The donation will be used to enhance their capacity to battle against COVID-19.

Talking about the reason for the donation to Pakistan, Zhang said, "When China's Wuhan was facing enormous challenges amid the virus, CTG's Pakistani and Chinese workers, made a donation of 750,000 in total to support Wuhan. INP

## ECC approves packages for unemployed labourers and small businesses

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Asad Umar on Monday announced that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved two packages for unemployed labourers and small businesses.

Azhar, addressing a press conference after the ECC meeting, said that the packages will be presented before the federal cabinet tomorrow for approval.

The minister said a Rs75 billion package has been approved for the people unemployed due to the coronavirus pandemic. He said that the Ehsaas programme, along with the Ministry for Industries and Production, will launch a portal to register those unemployed.

Under the package, the unemployed will be provided with Rs12,000 in installments, said the minister. He added that the details of the package will be uploaded on the website after it is approved by the federal cabinet.

The minister, while sharing details of the package for small businesses, said that the government will provide electricity bills for up to three months for those consuming 5 kilowatt (commercial customers) or 70 kilowatt (industrial customers) of electricity.

The package shall benefit 15 million small businesses, said Azhar. He added that to determine electricity consumption from the past will be used as a benchmark. The minister stated that 95 per cent of all commercial and 80 per cent of all industrial connections in the country will benefit from the cash injection. These businesses are overwhelmed by electricity bills for up to three months for those consuming 5 kilowatt (commercial customers) or 70 kilowatt (industrial customers) of electricity.

The sum will be based on actual consumption and total payments made from the meter in the May, June, and July 2019 period combined, said the minister.

The minister shared that the relief package will be applicable across the four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. INP

## Indian troops martyr three more Kashmiri youth in IoK

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred three more Kashmiri youth in Kulgam district in IoK on Monday, taking the total number of youth martyred by the troops to 7 in less than 24 hours.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the youth were killed by the troops during a cordon and search operation at Lower Nambra in Qazigund area of the district.

The operation was going on till last reports came in. On Sunday, the troops martyred four youth at Ashtal in Kulgam district. The latest killings have raised the number of deaths to 16 since Wednesday.

Earlier, Indian troops martyred three Kashmiri youth in Awantipora area of the district on Saturday, two youth at Arsanvi in Islamabad district on Thursday and four others in the district of Skardu on Wednesday. INP

## Fitra fixed at Rs100 per head for Ramadan 2020

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Mufi Munir Rehman announced on Monday that the faithful should pay Rs100 per head for Fitra (compensation) if the payment was to be made on or after 13 Muharram. Rs9,600 in case of barley, Rs48,000 in case of dates, Rs57,600 in case of wheat, Rs1,600 in case of rice, Rs1,600 in case of the price of dates, Rs1,920 as per the price of rice.

He said that if someone was unable to fast during the entire month of Ramadan he or she should pay Rs100 per head (compensation) if the payment was to be made on or after 13 Muharram. Rs9,600 in case of barley, Rs48,000 in case of dates, Rs57,600 in case of wheat, Rs1,600 in case of rice, Rs1,600 in case of the price of dates, Rs1,920 as per the price of rice.

The benchmark for

## Traders denied from resuming online business activities in Karachi

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The traders in large number reached the Electronics Market situated in Karachi's area of Saddar, but they were denied by the police from resuming online business activities.

The police authorities demanded permission letter from the traders so that they could be allowed to resume their online business activities. "We are acting on the government's orders and cannot allow anyone without permission letter," the police said. Meanwhile, heavy contingents of the

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## Petition in LHC seeks steps to control hoarding, overpricing during Ramadan

LAHORE: Prices of essential food items have gone up with the advent of the fasting month of Ramadan.

A petition seeking action against hoarding and rising prices of essential commodities was filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) by the Judicial Activism Panel that sought directives for the relevant authorities to bring down the prices and check hoarding in an effective manner.

The petition states that prices of basic food items have gone up besides hoarding of goods to create shortages in markets. A new law has been brought in by the provincial government to check overpricing and hoarding, it said.

The law has been ineffective, as prices of goods are skyrocketing, the petitioner contended, pleading for the court to direct the authorities concerned to take measures in this regard.

Earlier, on April 22, the Punjab government had introduced an ordinance to curb hoarding of essential commodities and punish the perpetrators. Under the ordinance, if found guilty, will face a fine and imprisonment of up to three years.

The ordinance states that the items recovered from the hoarders will be auctioned and the deputy commissioners would be authorised to check the stock of items. INP

## People stand in specific social distance buying food for Iftar during the 3rd Day of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak in provincial capital



LAHORE: People stand in specific social distance buying food for Iftar during the 3rd Day of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak in provincial capital.

## ECC approves packages for unemployed labourers and small businesses

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Asad Umar on Monday announced that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved two packages for unemployed labourers and small businesses.

Azhar, addressing a press conference after the ECC meeting, said that the packages will be presented before the federal cabinet tomorrow for approval.

The minister said a Rs75 billion package has been approved for the people unemployed due to the coronavirus pandemic. He said that the Ehsaas programme, along with the Ministry for Industries and Production, will launch a portal to register those unemployed.

Under the package, the unemployed will be provided with Rs12,000 in installments, said the minister. He added that the details of the package will be uploaded on the website after it is approved by the federal cabinet.

The minister, while sharing details of the package for small businesses, said that the government will provide electricity bills for up to three months for those consuming 5 kilowatt (commercial customers) or 70 kilowatt (industrial customers) of electricity.

The sum will be based on actual consumption and total payments made from the meter in the May, June, and July 2019 period combined, said the minister.

The minister shared that the relief package will be applicable across the four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. INP

## Indian troops martyr three more Kashmiri youth in IoK

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred three more Kashmiri youth in Kulgam district in IoK on Monday, taking the total number of youth martyred by the troops to 7 in less than 24 hours.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the youth were killed by the troops during a cordon and search operation at Lower Nambra in Qazigund area of the district.

The operation was going on till last reports came in. On Sunday, the troops martyred four youth at Ashtal in Kulgam district. The latest killings have raised the number of deaths to 16 since Wednesday.

Earlier, Indian troops martyred three Kashmiri youth in Awantipora area of the district on Saturday, two youth at Arsanvi in Islamabad district on Thursday and four others in the district of Skardu on Wednesday. INP

## Fitra fixed at Rs100 per head for Ramadan 2020

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Mufi Munir Rehman announced on Monday that the faithful should pay Rs100 per head for Fitra (compensation) if the payment was to be made on or after 13 Muharram. Rs9,600 in case of barley, Rs48,000 in case of dates, Rs57,600 in case of wheat, Rs1,600 in case of rice, Rs1,600 in case of the price of dates, Rs1,920 as per the price of rice.

He said that if someone was unable to fast during the entire month of Ramadan he or she should pay Rs100 per head (compensation) if the payment was to be made on or after 13 Muharram. Rs9,600 in case of barley, Rs48,000 in case of dates, Rs57,600 in case of wheat, Rs1,600 in case of rice, Rs1,600 in case of the price of dates, Rs1,920 as per the price of rice.

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