



# Daily Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Briefs****PM Imran displeased over petrol shortage**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, while expressing anger over the shortage of petrol across the country, said that the people voted for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the name of accountability and providing basic commodities at reasonable prices should be our priority. According to sources, a meeting of the Federal Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan was held in Islamabad Tuesday. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the commencement of action in light of Sugar Inquiry report while recommendations for further actions were reviewed and approved. On this occasion, Imran Khan said that across the board accountability is part of PTI's manifesto and that is what the people have voted it in power for, we will not allow anyone to make money through abuse of power, he added.

**Pak mango exports to Iran in limbo**

DNA

KARACHI: The lucrative trade of Pakistan in the form of its yearly mango exports to Iran has been seriously jeopardised this year mainly due to negligence and inefficiency on the part of the relevant officials of Federal Ministry of Commerce and Customs. It is feared that this year only around 800 tonnes mango will be exported to Iran against the estimate of 15,000 tonnes export under normal circumstances.

It is learnt that mango consignments are being withheld at the Pakistan-Iran border for up to four days owing to sheer negligence and ill-planning on the part of the relevant authorities.

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## WHO wants strict 2-week lockdown

WHO strongly recommends that the Punjab government adopts the two weeks off and two weeks on strategy as it offers the smallest curve

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation has recommended enforcing a strict two-week lockdown in Punjab as the number of coronavirus cases continues to grow in the province. In a letter to the Punjab government, WHO lauded the provincial government's efforts in response to the pandemic. Cases increasing beyond 100,000 in Pakistan is a cause for concern, WHO said. WHO recommends that for any government that wants to start lifting restrictions, the following six conditions must be met: Disease transmission is under control. Health system can "detect, test, isolate, physical distancing and contact tracing.

the spread of the disease," the letter said.

The organisation said during the lockdown, the country was reporting 1,000 cases per day. However, this number increased after the federal government eased the lockdown in the country. "SOPs need to be strictly enforced to stem the spread of the virus," the letter said.

It also recommends strengthening all public health measures such as quarantine, isolation, physical distancing and contact tracing.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs cabinet meeting. - DNA

## COAS, Ghani discuss Afghan peace

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa arrived in Kabul on Tuesday on a one-day visit where he held talks with Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. According to the ISPR, the two discussed bilateral issues, border management and the Afghan peace process during their meeting.

discussion as well as the overall regional security situation.

This included an exchange on "Afghan refugees issue and the Afghan reconciliation process", a statement from the ISPR had read. The two had also discussed the Pak-Afghan border management.

"Both shared steps taken in this regard and agreed to continue working towards mutually agreed goals," the statement concluded.

## Inquiry against Amir Kiani

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday approved an inquiry against former health minister Amir Mehmood Kiani. The decision to initiate the inquiry against Mr Kiani was taken in NAB's Executive Board Meeting (EBM), presided over by bureau's chairman retired Justice Javed Iqbal.

According to a NAB official, the fresh in-

quiry against opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, who is also president of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), related to alleged corruption and sudden hike in medicine prices back in 2019.

Meanwhile, the EBM also approved to look into corruption complaints against Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza. The board approved corruption inquiries against several officials of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and officers of CDA.

**Extremist India exposed: Shibli**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz has said the extremist face of India stands exposed before the world. In his tweets on Tuesday, he said the recent killing of nine innocent Kashmiri youth at the hands of Indian occupation forces in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir is an extreme persecution. He said the use of pellet guns, tear gas and other atrocities against the innocent Kashmiris raising voice for their democratic right speaks volume of Indian crimes against humanity.

**Pakistan, IMF reach consensus**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After days of negotiations, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have finally reached consensus agreement over the issue of increase in salaries of government employees in the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year budget.

According to details, the third round of budget talks between Pakistan and IMF was held in Islamabad today in which IMF was agreed over the increase in salaries of government employees.

**ISSUANCE OF VISAS**

## German embassy's fast-track system

The applicants have been asked to check website under "Registration to apply for a Master's program – Exclusively for students with a CGPA of 3.8 or above"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Germany embassy has announced that COVID-related closure of our visa section has made enrollment for winter semester in Germany critical. Therefore, we have set up

a fast track online appointment system as of 15 June 2020, for student visa applicants enrolled for master studies in Germany AND holding a bachelor/first master GRADE OF 3.8 CGPA or above. This also applies for applicants who already registered for regular visa

appointment before. The applicants have been asked to check website under "Registration to apply for a Master's program – Exclusively for students with a CGPA of 3.8 or above". Appointments will be assigned immediately after re-opening of the visa section.

## FM seeks debt relief for refugees hosting courtiers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has called for provision of liquidity and necessary fiscal space through stimulus package and debt relief for the large refugee hosting countries. Addressing a video conference, he said the host countries should be supported in building the necessary infrastructure and services amidst the coronavirus challenge. He said they should also be immediately provided with testing kits, personal protective equipment, sanitizers, masks and isolation facilities, ventilators and ambulances. The Foreign Minister said hostilities must be ceased in the countries of origin

of the refugees to stop further displacement. The work on creation of pull factors for return and re-integration of the refugees is also a must. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said virus does not differentiate on the basis of nationality, place, religion, ethnicity or colour. He said it is time to exhibit the true meaning of leaving no one behind. The Minister said substantial decrease in foreign remittances, which are an important source of economic growth in the developing countries, is expected. He said people have lost their livelihoods and poverty is on the rise, while global economy is contracting, and a number of productive sectors are on the verge of bankruptcy in the wake of COVID-19.

**Extremism rampant in Kashmir**

DNA

LAHORE: International virtual Kashmir conference was addressed by several participants who said extremists were rampant in India due to which not only Kashmiris but also all the minorities living in India have become insecure. India is committing genocide of Kashmiris. Issuance of domicile to non-Kashmiri Hindus under new domicile law is a sinister plan to turn Kashmiris into a minority in Kashmir. Pakistan is standing by people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination, the participants said.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan is arguing case of Kashmiris on every forum."

## Locust issue: Japan to provide insecticide to Pakistan

It is imperative to successfully control the locust's infestation in order to secure the livelihood and food security of the vulnerable communities of Pakistan: Matsuda

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Apart from assisting Pakistan in its fight against the COVID-19 contagion, the Government of Japan, in collaboration with a Japanese NGO and some private organizations, is set to provide insecticide to the Government of Pakistan to support their efforts for combating the serious threats emanating from the desert locust's attacks in the agricultural fields of the country. To this effect, a Japanese NGO (CWS-Japan) will hand over 58 kilo liters of

insecticide "Lambda Cyhalothrine EC 2.5" to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

of the Government of Pakistan through the CWS-Asia, partner NGO of the CWS-Japan this month to combat desert locusts. In addition to this, CWS-Japan will also extend support to the Pakistani farmers who have been affected by the desert locust's invasion. In this backdrop, MATSUADA Kunimori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, today on June 9 visited the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and held a meeting with

its Chairman Lieutenant General Mr. Muhammad Afzal, to express Japan's commitment to support

the Government of Pakistan and its people for

minimizing the damage caused by desert locusts. During the meeting, the Ambassador informed the Chairman NDMA about the upcoming support from Japan to Pakistan through a Japanese NGO CWS-Japan. The Ambassador said that the damage being caused by the desert locusts to crops and other agricultural products is a serious problem not only in Pakistan but also in other South Asian countries which face similar situation is and that this plague is becoming an imminent threat to the world's food supply. Ambassador MATSUADA



# Daily Islamabad POST METROLITE

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## Briefs

### Employees await official residences

ISLAMABAD: More than 27,000 government employees in the federal capital are still awaiting the allotment of official residences from the Estate Office of the Ministry of Housing and Works.

The government officials, residing in the rented apartments, have been bearing the brunt of the chronic shortage of official accommodations, faced by the Ministry of Housing and Works (MoHW) at the moment. "At the present, 29,000 federal government employees have been residing in the government residences," an official source said, confirming the shortage of space.

The waiting list has been growing gradually due to increase in number of new applicants, he added. He informed APP that concentrated efforts were being made at the governmental level since the country had been facing a shortfall of approximately 9-10 million housing units. — APP

### Cab driver suffer due to lockdown

ISLAMABAD: Drivers of cab-hailing services in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are finding it hard to make both ends meet due to reduced customers amid prevailing coronavirus lockdown and riders' reluctance to travel out of fear of catching this virus. The companies operating these cab-hailing services are not providing any relief to the already poverty-stricken drivers whose livelihood are severely affected after the lockdown situation and getting their full margin of profit on each ride.

"I started my work at 6:00 a.m. after getting the car from the owner and got just one ride till 4:00 p.m. earned Rs300. After keeping aside the 27 percent margin of the company, I spent the rest of the amount on refueling to roam around the city to get more rides", Sajid Hussain, a driver of a well known cab-hailing service said. — APP

### CDA removes illegal shops

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) continued its action against encroachments in Islamabad on Tuesday and teams of Enforcement Directorate have removed encroachments from different places.

During the operation, Enforcement Directorate demolished an illegally constructed boundary wall and one shop near Dhok Kala Khan Service Road (Rawalpindi Side).

The said encroachments were made on the state land by blocking the pedestrian and vehicular passage. Similarly one under construction boundary wall in Sector G-7 was also razed during another action. During another activity, Enforcement Directorate along with Revenue Staff of Authority sealed 05 shops in Al-Malik Plaza, E-11 Markaz.



ISLAMABAD: A

## Rs119.3 billion disbursed among deserving persons

The programme was initiated to disburse cash amount of Rs12,000 among those affected from the coronavirus lockdown

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: An amount of over Rs119.3 billion has been disbursed among over 9,791,000 beneficiaries under different categories of Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme.

The programme was ini-

tiated to disburse cash amount of Rs12,000 among those affected from the coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continued across the country. According to the cash update received by official source on June 09, a total

of over Rs51.19 billion has been disbursed among over 4,217,000 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs36.10 billion has been disbursed among 2,990,000 families in Sindh. Over Rs22.52 billion has been disbursed among 169,000 persons while Rs 860 million has been distributed among more than 1,832,000

beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over Rs5.75 billion has been disbursed among 472,000 persons in Balochistan. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, over Rs2.10 billion have been distributed among 69,000 people in Gilgit Baltistan.

An amount of Rs480 million has been disbursed among more than 39,000 beneficiaries in Islamabad. Those beneficiaries having problems regarding their bio-metric verification will be able to receive their payments from the designated banks without going to the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA). Habib Bank in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan Bank Al-Falah in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir will provide services to the beneficiaries.

## Govt initiatives for Postal sector

ISLAMABAD: The present government has taken many initiatives for development of Postal sector and introduction of new technology was part of the same policy. An official of Postal Service told APP that under the government initiative, Pakistan Post introduced Same Day Delivery Service (SDDS) to facilitate the delivery of packets and documents within the city. "Similarly, Electronic Money Order (EMO) Home Delivery was launched in No-

vember 2018. An amount up to Rs 50,000 is delivered at the doorstep. The service is available through 83 General Post Offices (GPOs)" he said. He said that Pakistan Post has recently entered into Strategic Alliance with HBL for Digitalization of Financial Services with an investment portfolio of Rs.118 billion spanning a period of 20 years.

It's an epoch-making event in the history of Pakistan Post to modernize and to a mission to deliver. — APP

### Female learn technical education

ISLAMABAD: Female are more inclined towards technical education and this trend was making a tremendous impact on the quality of life of women folk. Technical education experts told APP that it could be beneficial for women to do something productive in society for livelihood for their family.

Humaira Khan, a teacher of a vocational centre said that young girls were taking keen interest in technical education like beautician, stitching, dress designing, embroidery etc and start their business at home with limited investment.

Altaf, a resident of Banni Chowk, said illegal and wrong parking had become a big problem. Most of the wardens are found absent from their duty points and others make half-hearted efforts to regulate traffic. Inadequate enforcement of the no-parking rules and parking space problem created by encroachments are major causes of the gridlocks, he added. The authorities should play their effective role to remove encroachments from roads which will help ensure smooth flow of traffic, the residents said. — APP

## Raids against hoarders, profiteers

RAWALPINDI: Under a campaign launched by Rawalpindi District government against profiteering, hoarding and rate lists of daily use items and on the recommendations of the teams, five cases were registered.

He said, the administration under vigorous campaign against profiteering and hoarding conducted total 6,372 raids during June

while the violators were imposed fines amounting to over Rs 2.2 million. He said, the special campaign against profiteering would continue to ensure the provision of daily use items on controlled rates. The steps were being taken aimed at providing relief to the consumers, he added. — APP

## Parking violations add to disorderly traffic

RAWALPINDI: Wrong and double parking coupled with encroachments on roads and footpaths are the main hurdles in smooth flow of traffic in the city. These are also affecting smooth movement of pedestrians in all the business hubs of the city and cantonment areas. Though the city traffic police on the directive of the Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi, had launched a special operation, but there has been no permanent solution to the issue. The most affected areas include Raja Bazaar, Bohar Bazaar, Banni Chowk, Circular Road, Murree Road, Pindora Road, Tench Bhatta, Sarafa Bazaar, Mochi Bazaar, Sadiqabad, Satellite Town and several other areas. In almost all commercial areas, shopkeepers display their items on the footpaths creating problems for the pedestrians. Large portions of footpaths and streets have been occupied by vendors, forcing pedestrians to put their lives in danger by walking on the roads. Asif, a shopkeeper in Raja Bazar, said the vendors encroached footpaths and roads violating the directions of the local administration. He said most of the traders also parked their vehicles in front of their shops in violation of traffic rules, adding to the traffic congestion. The administration should remove all encroachments from commercial areas to facilitate the pedestrians and streamline the traffic flow, he said.

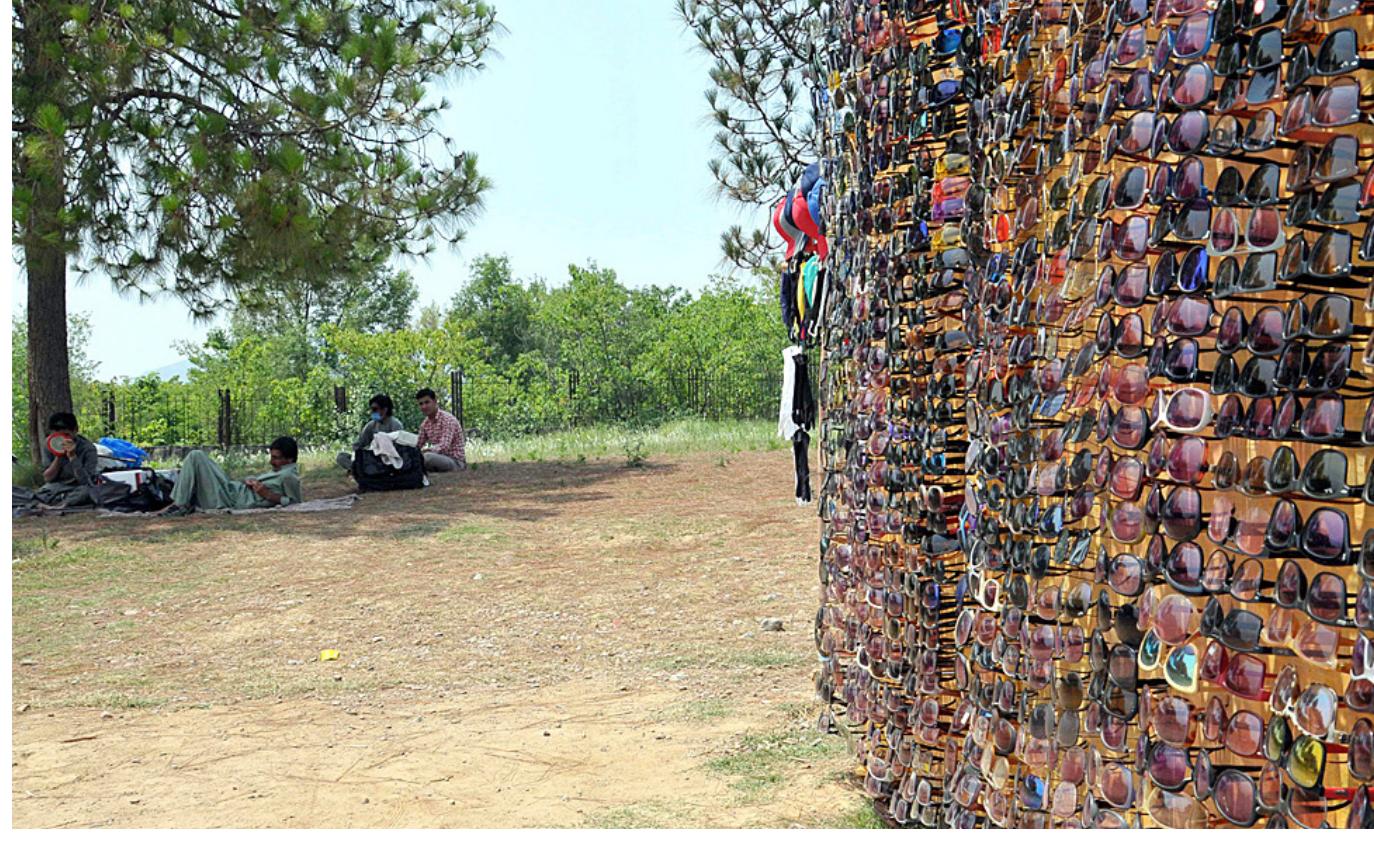
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ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying different kind of sunglasses to attract the customer his roadside setup. — APP

### Cash incentives offered

PESHAWAR: The Livestock Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced cash reward for catching of stray dogs in the vicinity of provincial capital. In this regard, the department has made public announcement through advertisement in press as "get Rs 200 cash for catching a stray dog". Primarily, the project was launched in January 2020 jointly by District Administration (D Admin), Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), Peshawar Development Authority and Health Department to control the population of stray dogs in Peshawar. The incentive of cash payment is expected to serve as catalyst in sterilization of strays dogs whose population continues to increase with rising number of public complaints. — APP

### Lok Virsa museums to reopen

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Tuesday announced that two museums will re-open for public from Friday (June 12). In an official announcement the two museums administered by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFT) namely the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology (Heritage Museum) and Pakistan Monument Museum will re-open for public with full and strict SOPs.

The museums will be opened from Tuesday to Sunday (except Friday) and timing 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. without any break. Monday will be closed Holiday and on Friday timing will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with break for prayer from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., announcement said. — APP

### Afghan delegation soon in Doha

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Afghan delegation around 6 to 8 members will travel to Doha for Intra-Afghan talks preparations, source claims. The delegation will discuss the talks platform, structure, agenda and theme.

The source further added that the process of the Taliban prisoners identification has been completed by the Afghan government and the Intra-Afghan peace talks will kick-off after the prisoners are released.

## Greenbelts lush green features need to be restored

ISLAMABAD: Wild growth of shrubs has gradually been dampening the glow and luster of greenbelts that had been the hallmark of the Islamabad - The Beautiful and there is an urgent need to go for timely trimming to restore the green-features of the capital city.

It is time that Environment Department of Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) comes into action and carry out a vigorous campaign to refurbish the lush-green features of the city.

"The landscaping of greenbelts and parks is imperative to enhance beauty of the city, besides ensuring healthy environment to the residents who have already been battling with a global pandemic," said Raja Shrafat, a senior Isoito from the sector G-7. Pointing out the casual upkeep of greenbelts, he said constant use by people, had adversely impacted the green-spots of the city.

He said some even dared to come with their animals and pets and let them freely graze and play with greenbelts. It was sheer violation of the environmental laws and should be dealt strictly, he added.

Shrafat urged the city authorities to rectify the situation by slapping fines on the violators.

He also called for regular pruning of the greenbelts to enhance the clean and green environment. — APP

## Guiding the budget

**A**CCORDING to reports, an 11-member panel led by Asad Umar, Pakistan for the budget-making exercise of 2020-21. This policy advice was supposed to suggest changes to the upcoming budget in the light of the prevalent Covid-19 crisis. This is not the first time that such a committee of economists and technocrats was formed. In most governments such technocrats are a favourite choice of the decision-makers at the top, though how far the advice has been useful is another question.

Since the budget is likely to be presented soon, there was hardly any time for the new team to review the current situation and draft recommendations before the budget was finalized. We know that budgets are in the making for at least a month before they take a final shape. This year's budget will be a litmus test for the government, more than at any other time in recent history of the country.

All indicators have been amply showing, national economic management has left much to be desired in the past two years, and now in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic the disarray is even more evident. The first is the absence of an efficient economic management team resulting from the lack of an effective leadership. Budget-making requires timely coordination among the various ministries that are supposed to contribute in the process, but when there is no vision at the top, the direction gets lost at the lower levels.

It is not clear who is steering the economy, with various individuals sending different signals at different times. To take the economy forward at this crucial juncture, the Ministry of Finance needs to act proactively but if all indications are true it is unable to deal with the looming economic crisis.

The apparent disconnect among the various branches of economic management is likely to take its toll, and we will judge it by how much the new budget is different from the previous ones.

A major indicator of a new approach should be evident in the amounts to be allocated to human development and social welfare. If this government is serious about changing the lot of the people, it must at least double the amounts allocated to heads such as education, health, clean drinking water, sanitation, power, infrastructure, good governance, and livelihood. Food security and social safety nets are another barometer of a government's commitment to people's development and welfare. If the overall allocation to these sectors remains nearly the same as has been the case for the past many years, the government should stop talking about change and accept that it is just another government, like many others in the past which had misplaced priorities and a near absent concern for the people.

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## Another collapse

**I**T has become almost a routine affair in this country. Every few weeks you hear about a building collapse somewhere in Pakistan but no major steps are taken to avoid such tragedies. The latest was in Lyari's Khadda Market in Karachi where on June 7, at least two persons were killed and around 30 injured when a five-storey residential building collapsed. According to reports, eight families were residing in the apartment building located in a densely populated area with narrow lanes. Such narrow approaches make it very difficult for rescue vehicles and machinery to reach the accident site. Less than three months ago, around 25 people were killed when a building collapsed in Gulbahar near Rizvia Society. At that time too, it was pointed out that some serious efforts were needed to prevent such accidents. After that tragedy an investigation was initiated, a couple of officials were suspended, but nobody knows what happened to that investigation.

It is the responsibility of various civic authorities to keep checks on such dilapidated buildings, especially the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) is primarily responsible for approving building layout plans, and verifying the quality of construction. It is not only the older buildings that are dangerous: recently we have seen that even newer buildings tend to be built with substandard material and come tumbling down while they are under construction or have just been completed. Such matters are normally taken care of by city governments but since the PPP government has not handed over civic matters to the city government, the local bodies and their elected representatives feel deprived and their interest in such matters has completely evaporated. It is a sad fact that before the collapse of the building, some residents had felt vibrations in the structure and called the SBCA and the commissioner's office with complaints but the authorities are reported to have just ignored the complaints. If these reports are true, then both the SCBA officials and the commissioner's office must be held accountable for their lack of response.

They should have immediately sent a team of building experts to check the structure and made arrangements for evacuation without delay. Most of the narrow lanes in both old and new areas of the city are the result of illegal extension of building boundaries and encroachment on the streets. This practice is not new and for decades we have seen how wide lanes, where trucks could pass, have become so narrow that even a car can hardly go through. Though Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Shah has ordered a transparent enquiry, he would do better by making public some previous such reports. The people of this city have a right to know what measures were taken after the previous tragedy in March, who was held responsible and what actions were taken.

## Modi's Mistimed Adventurism in the Himalayas

Lt. Col. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd)



*Modi's political ideology is based on the persuasion of hard power to advocate 'Hindutva', marginalize minorities and his hegemonic aspirations to gain regional economic and geopolitical influence. China's dominance in the region and the path to rising global power is seen as a potential threat by Modi*

**A**S the whole world is struggling to combat one of the biggest crises of the century caused by Covid-19, the BJP government's propensity for violence and hegemonic attitude remains intact. Pursuing coercive and expansionist policies in the region has become an established norm in India since the moment it gained independence and has compounded under the Modi administration. This is not only becoming a serious threat to India's bordering states but to the security and stability of the entire region.

Just recently, the Modi government has triggered tensions with China in several disputed areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh region and has stationed thousands of troops on the ceasefire line. BJP's illicit actions demonstrate its ill-intentions to assert control over the disputed territory by construction of roads and air-strips through the valley, thereby drawing Beijing's ire.

As a necessary response, Chinese troops appear to be

heading towards a face-off and India's aggressive military activities near the border are mounting insecurities and concerns between the world actors since both China and India are nuclear-armed states.

Since last month, India has been violating the boundary line in the valley and building defense fortifications to disrupt Chinese border defense troops' regular patrol activities. This shows nothing but an intentionally evoked conflict and a blatant attempt by the Indian government to create chaos in the disputed territory. These actions by the Indian military have not only breached the border agreements between the two countries but have violated China's territorial sovereignty as well.

**Modi's Hegemonic Aspirations and Competition Over Great Power Status**

India and China have experienced border frictions in the past like the Doklam standoff in 2017, but this time the military build-up is the largest and Chinese response is believed to be the strongest military response to India's illegal intruding incident along the Actual Line of Control. This indicates the strong determination and preparedness of China to defend its sovereignty against any hindering element. The balance of power between China and India is incomparable and India's relative strength to China is extremely shallow.

Modi's political ideology is based on the persuasion of hard power to advocate 'Hindutva', marginalize minorities and his hegemonic aspirations to gain regional economic and geopolitical influence. China's dominance in the region and the path to rising global power is seen as a potential threat by Modi. However, India by no means can compete with the unparalleled economic and military might of China, and thus any entanglement with China would cost India more than it can ever imagine.

China has all the military, technological, and strategic superiority over India to retort forcefully and firmly.

**Modi's Misadventure; A Distraction from Domestic Setbacks**

We have observed time and again that whenever the BJP government is undergoing a political crisis and being pressured by the public for its malicious decisions and major policy failures, it conducts such misadventures to distract the attention of the people as well as the international community. The same has happened in the current border incident with China. India being an extremely populous country has adopted no appropriate measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Moreover, India's economy is weakening and the Modi administration has failed to address these major issues.

According to international reports, the Indian economy will undergo a major recession shortly. Other issues including the discrimination against minorities, mass violence in Indian Occupied Kashmir, unemployment, and various domestic challenges have raised a question

on the effectiveness of Modi government. Thus, a border issue with China would serve as a key element to divert the public and international attention by hyping nationalism against China, which Modi has continued to do against Kashmiri Muslims for a long time. However, Modi has misperceived the fact that facing countless internal and external challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, India can ill-afford any risky adventurism.

**The Iron Brothers –Pakistan & China Raise BJP's Concerns**

In addition to the territorial disputes, one of the core issues in the Sino-Indian rivalry include the burgeoning China-Pakistan relations. Sino-Pakistani relations have gained momentum over the years. India feels that the mega project, Pakistan China Economic Corridor (CPEC) is detrimental to her overall hegemonic designs for gaining regional supremacy. Moreover, China's support for Pakistan has also become more overt on the occupied Kashmir issue. China vigorously supported Pakistan against India's abrogation of article 370 at the United Nations Security Council. Modi fears this strengthening relationship and wishes to prove that India also is a dominant player in the region.

China is well aware of Modi's expansionist mindset as what happened in Kashmir when its special status was revoked on August 5, 2019. BJP government has repeatedly, illegally demanded the return of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit, and Baltistan, and openly stated on many occasions that the people of Baluchistan province will be given independence from Pakistan by Narendra Modi. China is a rising power and has a pragmatic foreign policy. The Indian annexation of Ladakh is a blow to China's sovereignty and would be responded seriously.

Pakistan has supported Beijing on the issue and expressed concerns over the illegal construction in the disputed territory of Ladakh as it would disrupt regional peace. Modi has continued to suppress the Kashmiris right to self-determination, has been a spoiler in the Afghan peace process, and trying to create chaos and unrest in Pakistan by promoting ethnic violence in Balochistan.

**India's Continual History of Military Adventurism**

Neville Maxwell, a British journalist and scholar, who authored the famous book 'India's China War' has conducted a detailed analysis of the 1962 Sino-Indian War. He has explained and claimed that India provoked China into the war. Many other international experts have also proved how India pursued a flawed strategy of provoking China in the 1962 war. Similarly, revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was a clear indication of provoking Pakistan for confrontation.

The BJP government has failed to realize that China is a potent regional power and not far from reaching the status of global power. Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping has a great vision of creating a multipolar

world, creating the conditions of mutual development of nations. These territorial skirmishes and irrational border claims to provoke China would not harm Chinese sovereignty and power dynamics. To malign and prompt Pakistan, India has tried to conduct numerous false flag operations, violations of international law especially in Kashmir, breaching the line of control, etc. but has not been able to succeed in these evil intentions.

**Trump's Mediation Offer**

US President Donald Trump waded into the Sino-Indian standoff, affirming that he is willing and able to mediate or arbitrate the border dispute. This mediation offer had come at the time when China ordered massive military deployment in the disputed territory and brace themselves for worst-case scenarios, scaling up the training and battle preparedness to promptly and effectively deal with all possible complex situations. China demonstrated that it is all set to resolutely safeguard the national sovereignty, security, and development interests of the country.

Rising China is a big challenge for the United States and the latter supports India to maintain a foothold in the region to contain China's influence and dominance. Thus, Trump fears any serious situation that enables China to portray its power capabilities and establish influence over the region, and so he immediately offered to mediate and resolve the dispute. Moreover, under the prevailing pandemic crisis, Washington and Beijing are engaged in a war of words over the origin of the coronavirus pandemic, where the former has continued to blame the latter. Under such circumstances, President Trump can least afford Chinese hegemony or confrontation in a region that is vital for US interests in many ways.

**What Next?**

History holds difficult lessons for India. India suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of China during the border conflict in 1962. China controls the Aksai Chin area and this region holds strategic importance for Beijing as it connects its Xinjiang province with western Tibet. To maintain peace, stability, and security in the region, India should be compelled to stop breaching the bilateral as well as international agreements and laws, which it has continued to violate.

China and India have signed an agreement on the "Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility" along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 1993. Modi has failed to comply with the agreement continued to give belligerent posture over the issue. There is no military or political solution for the border conflict at the time being and India does not have the military and economic might of China. Therefore it is in favor of all parties to maintain and sustain conditions for peace rather than chaos in the region.

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## President K. Tokayev: Kazakhstan on course to progressive reforms

DNA News Agency

*These laws and their innovations are part of the political reforms put forward by the President of the country within the framework of the National Council of public trust. Their adoption is an important step towards implementing the concept of a "hearing state" and enhancing the role of civil society*

**A** Major package of political reforms is being implemented in Kazakhstan, which opens a new stage in the progressive liberalization of social and political life. They affect the further development of the basic institutions of democracy – the rights of citizens to peaceful Assembly, the organization of elections and the activities of political parties.

At the end of May 2020, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a number of important laws for the further socio-political development of the country. Among them – "On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies in the Republic of Kazakhstan", "On amendments to the constitutional law of the Republic of Kazakhstan", "On elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and "On amendments and additions to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "on political parties".

These laws and their innovations are part of the political reforms put forward by the President of the country within the framework of the National Council of public trust. Their adoption is an important step towards implementing the concept of a "hearing state" and enhancing the role of civil society. New legal norms further strengthen the values of pluralism of opinions, alternative views, constructive attitude and responsibility in Kazakhstan. Thus, the new law on rallies significantly simplifies the legal regulation of peaceful assemblies. Independent experts, civil activists, human rights defenders, and non-governmental organizations took part in the process of creating the draft law. The result of a multi-level public discussion was the expansion of the provisions originally laid down by the government in the direction of further liberalization.

The law fully complies with article 21 of the International Covenant on civil and political rights and the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The document sets out the basic principles of peaceful Assembly: they must be legal, voluntary, non-violent and not pose a threat to the state or to citizens. Bans and duties that restrict the activities of journalists are also excluded.



Now in the cities of Kazakhstan, public platforms will be organized for citizens to hold peaceful meetings, and the notification procedure for peaceful meetings will be reduced from 15 to 5 days. "We are forming a new political culture. Pluralism of opinions and alternative views come to the fore. The government does not believe that dissent is destructive," said President K.Tokayev. According to the President of Kazakhstan, it is time for society and the state to adequately address the public expression of positions. "And it is better to come to this independently, consciously, and not forced," the Head of state notes.

The previous law was adopted 25 years ago and, according to Kazakh experts and international observers, has long required a conceptual revision. The new law of 2020 fully complies with international standards – the principles of the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and article 21 of the International Covenant on civil and political rights. The law guarantees the most important thing – the right to Express one's will.

The new document clearly sets out the basic principles of peaceful Assembly: they must be legal, voluntary,

non-violent and not pose a threat to the state or to citizens.

That is, the principles of human rights are observed – "everything is allowed that is not forbidden" and "your rights end where the rights of others begin".

Thus, the law "on peaceful assemblies" became a confirmation of the successful implementation of the concept of a "hearing state", which was proclaimed by President K.Tokayev. Legislation on elections is being improved. The new laws will further strengthen the rights of women and young people to participate in the country's political life. They provide for the introduction of a mandatory 30% quota for women and young people under 29 years of age in electoral party lists. Currently, the Parliament of Kazakhstan is represented by women by 22% (the average representation of women in the legislative bodies of the OECD is 30%). In the Mazhilis of the Parliament (lower House), the number of women is 29, in the Senate – 6, and young people under the age of 29 are not yet represented in the Parliament. In Maslikhats (local representative bodies), the representation of women is about 22%, or 740 women, and only 53 deputies under the age of 29 are young people. In total, the total number of Deputy seats in Maslikhats in Kazakhstan is 3335. According to statistics, more than 4.5 million economically active women and 2.8 million young people aged 20 to 29 live in Kazakhstan today. From now on, this category of citizens will participate more widely in the elections of deputies of the local representative body and the lower house of Parliament. In General, the quota policy is a fairly widespread international practice. Special party quotas are applied in European countries and are most common in Germany, Norway, France and Belgium, where these norms are enshrined in law.

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## Briefs

**UK nears 50,000 virus-related deaths**

LONDON: The number of suspected and confirmed deaths from coronavirus in Britain has risen to almost 50,000, analysis of official data showed Tuesday. The Office for National Statistics figures tallied all fatalities in which COVID-19 was suspected or mentioned on death certificates up to May 29. The total of 49,989 is higher than the government's latest daily figure of 40,597, which includes only the deaths of patients who tested positive for coronavirus. On either measure, the toll is Europe's worst and puts Britain behind only the United States in officially announced deaths, although each country has different reporting methods and lag times. – APP

**India COVID-19 death toll rises**

NEW DELHI: India's federal health ministry Tuesday morning said that 331 new deaths due to COVID-19, besides fresh 9,987 positive cases were reported during the past 24 hours across the country, taking the number of deaths to 7,466 and total cases to 266,598. This is the highest spike both in terms of deaths and fresh cases in the country so far. "As on 8:00 a.m. (local time) Tuesday, 7,466 deaths related to novel Coronavirus have been recorded in the country," reads information released by the ministry. – APP

**Cyprus welcomes first tourist flights**

LARNACA: Cyprus welcomed its first tourists after nearly three months of coronavirus lockdown on Tuesday with flights scheduled from Israel, Greece and Bulgaria. Cyprus is marketing itself as a relatively safe holiday destination in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, with a transmission rate below one and a very low mortality rate. The Mediterranean island's main airport at Larnaca reopened to passengers for the first time since a ban on commercial flights was imposed on 21 March. – APP

**Iran to execute spy**

TEHRAN: Iran said Tuesday it will execute a man whose conviction for spying for the US and Israel by helping target a top Iranian general has been upheld by the supreme court. Mahmoud Mousavi Majd was convicted of spying on Iran's armed forces "especially the Quds Force and on the whereabouts and movements of martyred General Qasem Soleimani" for large sums of money from both Israel's Mossad and the US Central Intelligence Agency, judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili told a televised news conference. – APP

# Steel cutting ceremony of MILGEM class corvettes at Karachi shipyard

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KARACHI: Steel Cutting Ceremony of MILGEM Class Corvettes constructed for Pakistan Navy held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). Managing Director KS&EW Rear Admiral Ather Saleem graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The contract for four MILGEM class corvettes for Pakistan Navy with concurrent Transfer of Technology (ToT) was signed with ASFAT Inc, a Turkish state owned Defence contractor firm in 2018.

The ToT entails construction of two corvettes at Turkey while another two at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). This steel cutting ceremony is the first MILGEM class corvette being indigenously constructed at Karachi Shipyard in collaboration with Turkish Defence firm. The MILGEM Class Corvettes will be state-of-the-art Surface platform equipped with modern surface, subsurface and anti-air weapons, sensors and Combat Management System. These ships will be among the most technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan Navy and will significantly contribute in maintaining peace, stability and balance of power in Indian Ocean Region.

Speaking at the occasion, the General Manager Ship building, Commodore Muhammad Jahaneb Ahsan highlighted that the technical support for the indigenous mega project is provided by ASFAT Inc. He underscored the deep rooted friendship with brotherly country Turkey for joint collaboration in field of indigenous warship construction with Pakistan Navy other defence sectors. The ceremony was attended by officials of Pakistan Navy, dignitaries and representatives of ASFAT Inc, Turkey.



## Canada contributes CAD\$1 mln to UN fund to help Pakistan

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ISLAMABAD: On Pakistan's appeal, the government of Canada has contributed CAD\$ 850,000 to the World Health Organization to fight COVID-19 and CAD\$ one million to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Pakistan Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Raza Bashir Tarar informed this at a virtual meeting with community leaders and officials of Canada-Pakistan affiliated Chamber of Trade (CPACT) in Ottawa on Tuesday.

The meeting was held to discuss issues related to

Pakistani diaspora in Canada and the ways to help Pakistanis affected by the global pandemic. The High Commissioner briefed the participants about Pakistan's efforts related to combating the COVID-19, saying it was a challenging environment that required a sense of moral and religious responsibility to help those in distress. He thanked the community organizations for contributing to the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund and expressed hope that Pakistani-Canadians would rise to the occasion with their traditional spirit of philanthropy. He also briefed about the High Commission's effort

to arrange special PIA flights to repatriate stranded Pakistanis including international students. So far, the High Commission has repatriated 698 stranded Pakistanis through four special PIA flights, he added. He asked the Pakistanis who wished to travel to Pakistan to get themselves registered with the Consulate General in Toronto. Earlier, President CPACT - National Capital Region Uzma Khan briefed the High Commissioner on their contribution to reach out to Pakistani diaspora including businessmen on strategy to implement social distancing and provide practical benefits to its members during economic downturn.

## India humiliated by China: Masood

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Strongly condemning the killing of nine youth by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir within 24 hours, AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has said that the Indian Army is making abortive attempts to overcome shame and humiliation it had received from Chinese army in Ladakh. Expressing reaction over the killing of nine Kashmiri youth and destruction of private property on a large scale during a so-called operation in Shopian district of occupied Kashmir, he said that a professional army never indulges in such acts. "Brutality is in full swing in occupied foreign territory. Another 9 youth killed in IOJK. Mothers keening and wailing. The remains of fallen youth not given to families. Demonstrators targeted with pellets and tear-gas. Justice will be enforced by force."

## Over 40,000 corona cases in Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab has become the first province to report more than 40,000 cases of the novel coronavirus, according to the National Institute of Health report. It reported 1,916 cases on Tuesday, taking its tally to 40,819. Sindh has reported 39,555 cases, Balochistan 6,788, Islamabad 5,785, KP 14,006, Gilgit-Baltistan 952 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 412. Pakistan has reported 108,317 known cases, of which 71,127 are active cases with 2,172 deaths and 35,018 recoveries. – DNA

## 'CPEC an opportunity to shun economic malaise'

DNA

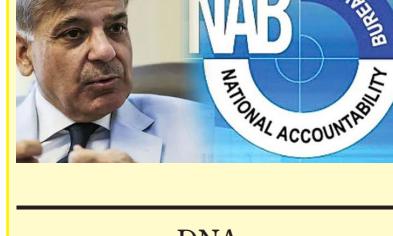
ISLAMABAD: "CPEC represents a very good opportunity for Pakistan to get out of its economic malaise," said Yaseen Anwar, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). He had it stated while answering how he perceived skeptical voices against CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) at a Salon, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The Salon themed "BRI

and the World Economy amid COVID-19" was held last month by International Monetary Institution (IMI) aimed to probe into the impact of COVID-19 on the financial and economic landscape of the world. Anwar who was a keynote speaker on the occasion said, "Because of prevailing uncertainty from the coronavirus, severe disruption of the supply chain, and the market correction at the end of March, BRI's importance has been elevated even more." As per data presented by Anwar, the shortage of power in Pakistan impaired its GDP growth rates by up to 3%. The absence of a developed transportation network for refrigerator trucks for the distribution of agricultural products results in a 50% loss of perishable products in Pakistan. "Without power plant, the engine for manufacturing and other industries, Pakistan would continuously be played with a depressed state." Back in 2011, Pakistan's rating was not adequate to tap the euro-bond markets at a low rate of funding and suffered from the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Therefore, Anwar said, BRI's finance for infrastructure projects in poor countries that don't have access to other bond markets is significant. The investment will help boost urbanization and help poor countries come up with the curve for income equality which has got a wide gap right now, and improve their livelihoods.



## NAB grills Shehzad Sharif in assets case



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LAHORE: PML-N President Shehzad Sharif appeared before NAB office in Lahore where he was questioned for an hour and 15 minutes in the money laundering and assets beyond income cases.

PML-N supporters had crowded the office when Shehzad reached there. He has acquired a pre-arrest bail from the Lahore High Court till June 17 against a surety bond worth Rs500,000.

The court was informed that Shehzad's arrest warrants in the case were issued on May 28 and he was summoned on June 2. Shehzad's lawyer Azam Nazir Tarar said that they feared that the accountability bureau would try to arrest him again. He was arrested in two cases before and NAB was given his physical remand, the lawyer said.

Faisal, who was representing NAB, said that the bureau had only called Shehzad to ask him questions.

On June 2, a NAB team reached Shehzad's Model Town residence and stayed there for more than an hour after the PML-N leader failed to appear before it.

The bureau has been investigating Shehzad and his family in multiple cases including the Ramazan Sugar Mills reference, Saaf Pani programme case, Cholistan Development Authority allotment case among others.

## 'Sino-Indian military standoff unlikely to end'

BEIJING: The ongoing military standoff between China and India could continue for a little longer due to complexity of the situation, analysts said. The talks between the two countries' senior military officers came at a time when China-India border tensions flared up after India recently illegally constructed defense facilities across the border into Chinese territory in the Galwan Valley region, and Chinese border defense troops countered with increased border control measures. Qian Feng, a senior fellow at the Taihe Institute and director of the research department of the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University in Beijing, told Global Times that the trigger of the event, India's construction of infrastructure on Chinese territory, must be stopped, or China will not accept the situation. He however said, the recent talks involved high-ranking officers from both militaries, indicating that both sides are paying great attention to the situation and do not want to escalate it. Media reports suggest both sides have been reinforcing their troops in the border areas, leading to another standoff that some said will become a second Doklam crisis. – APP

## China reopens opportunity of Pak cotton export

Our goods are exported to Western countries such US, UK, Italy, Spain, Germany etc. However, influenced by outbreak, there were plenty of export orders lost and the situation is very serious

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese textile market has recently shown positive trends, going to get rehabilitated which could be considered as good omen for Pakistan's cotton exports. Chinese market has been one of the main export destinations of Pakistan cotton. However, since April, due to impacts caused by COVID-19, cotton exports

in Pakistan have been depressed. Gwadar Pro on Monday quoting a report of China Textile News stated that in May various economic indexes of Chinese textile and garment market have picked up.

The report analyses that though the retaliatory consumption after COVID-19 epidemic has not arrived yet, Chinese textile merchants have active adjusted the strategies and realized the gradual recovery of

market. Another report released by China Cotton Net analyses that due to cotton early planting affected by

locusts, the emergence rate of cotton in Pakistan will be lower than previous forecast 8 million packs

(170 kg/pack). Besides, cotton demand is expected to recover in June after Eid and the gradual lifting of the blockade.

Comparing with Chinese market, demand of Western market is expected to continue depressed. On May 13th, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported a global cotton supply and demand forecast. The forecast shows that US cotton import volume was expect-

ed as 0.2, the index of EU is 13.3 and Chinese expected import volume is 206.8. Another important index released by USDA is domestic consumption. The expected domestic consumption of cotton in US, EU and China respectively are 63.1, 14.4 and 827.4. Salim Ghori, who has been working in denim Industry for 25 years, said: "A huge chunk of textile is exported to western countries. The forecast shows that US cotton import volume was expect-

ed to have a huge impact on Pakistan's balance of payment and we will be under huge crisis if this situation extends for a few months." "Our goods are exported to Western countries such US, UK, Italy, Spain, Germany etc. However, influenced by outbreak, there were plenty of export orders lost and the situation is very serious. There were many returns which led direct loss for our company," said Ghori.