

Kaghan Valley road awaits re-construction

ABBOTTABAD: Severely damaged in 2005 devastating earthquake the only connecting road from Galiyat to many valleys of Kashmir, the old Chittapar road of Kaghan still awaits reconstruction despite passage of 14 years.

Chittapar road via Noori Bhonja is the shortest possible road link to several valleys of Kashmir was constructed by Germans under the German Forestry Project in 1983 - 1993 at a cost of Rs 428.8 million. The 2005 earthquake left the road in very dilapidated condition and ignored by successive governments.

Noori Bhonja is a hub of Kaghan and Kashmir where stunning natural beauty can be seen everywhere but unfortunately, most of the areas are still undiscovered. The reconstruction of road could help boost tourism industry in the area.

Former councillor Noor Bhonja Ilyas Ahmed told media that Chittapar road provides the shortest connection with Kashmir and on both sides there are many beautiful valleys and natural tourists' resorts that can attract large number of local and foreign tourists besides contributing to national exchequer. —APP

Directorate Health Services held dengue walk

BAHAWALPUR: Directorate of Health Service Bahawalpur organized a walk here on Monday to raise awareness about dengue and to apprise people about precautionary measures to be taken against the virus.

Director Health Services Bahawalpur Dr Zafar Iqbal led the walk which started from Directorate of Health Services office and concluded at Dubai Chowk. The officers and staff of the Health Department and notables of the city participated in the walk. The participants were carrying placards and banners with instructions related to dengue inscribed on them. —APP

IHC suspends notification, seeks reply

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday suspended the notification for significant increase in property tax and served notices to Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI).

Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani conducted the hearing on a petition moved by Naib Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan Muhammad Aslam.

The petitioner's counsel pleaded before the bench that the MCI had increased two hundred percent property tax while misusing its powers. He prayed the court to turn down the notification regarding property tax increase. After hearing initial arguments, the bench suspended the notification and sought reply from the MCI and CDA within two weeks. —APP

Four hunters held over illegal hunting of eagle

HARIPUR: The Wildlife department Monday launched a crackdown against the illegal hunting of eagle and arrested four hunters from the bank of Tarbaila Lake over charges of illegal hunting.

According to Wildlife department, the hunting of eagle has already banned in the area by the department. A team of Wildlife subdivision Haripur led by SDFO Hafiz Ameer M raided on the bank of Tarbaila Lake where four Afghan refugees were busy in illegal hunting of eagle.

The team arrested the four hunters and imposed Rs 25000 fine on them. SDFO Hafiz Ameer said that the department would not let illegal hunting in the area and utilizing all of available resources to stop this activity. —APP

Quality inputs, advisory service vital for better cotton production

MULTAN: Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA) Vice Chancellor Dr Asif Ali has said that four points were vital for better production of cotton including quality inputs, advisory service, availability of funds and marketing.

He was addressing a seminar held in connection with the World Cotton Day at MNSUA, here on Monday. He said that they had conducted a survey at Chak No 109/10-R which is a model village regarding cotton production.

During the survey, it was found that some farmers' yield was 8-10 maund per acre while others were getting 40 maund per acre in the same area. The Vc said they concluded that if farmers were provided these four facilities, they would get the equal production.

Explaining these points, Dr Asif said that with timely advisory service, they would be able to on time information about weather conditions and other information.

Quality inputs means best seeds,

spray and fertilizers he said and added that availability of funds would help farmers to buy seeds, fertilizers etc easily.

Progressive Grower, Ms Rabia Sultan said that through public private partnership, challenges faced by cotton and climate changes impact could be tackled. She deplored that production of cotton was dwindling with each passing day adding that small and big farmers were much disturbed with losses being incurred owing to climatic changes.

Chairman Pakistan Crop Protection Association (PCPA), Asif Majeed talked about pest management, Imran Hameed about cotton challenges and nutrition and Dr Arshad Shakeel discussed role of pink bollworms (PB) ropes in pest management in cotton.

A large number of cotton growers, students and faculty members attended the seminar.

Six arrested, handcarts taken into possession in operation
The District administration and Town

Municipal Administration (TMA) Town-III, Peshawar arrested six persons and took several handcarts into possession during crackdown against encroachments at Customs Chowk here on Monday.

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Mohammad Ali Asghar, the Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC), Town-III, Abdul Wali launched an operation against encroachment mafia at Customs Chowk. A heavy contingent of police was also deployed to avert any unpleasant incident.

During the operation, six persons were arrested for parking handcarts on road and footpath while their handcarts were also taken into possession.

The deputy commissioner has directed all administrative officers for conducting such anti-encroachment operations on daily basis and those re-establishing encroachments to prisons. —APP



KARACHI: Students of Government Girls School walk through on stone walkways made by students in stagnant rainwater at the school ground to return home after class.

Azadi March aims to hamper madrasa reforms: Minister

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Environment and Forests, Syed Muhammad Ishtiaq Monday said the proposed Azadi March of JUI F Chief Maunala Fazlur Rehman was aimed to hamper *Madaris* (Seminaries) reforms in the country.

"Maulana Fazlur Rehman is apparently unnerved from PTI Government's madrasa reforms meant to bring its students into national mainstream of education and provide them better employment opportunities," the minister told APP.

He said Maulana's march was for Islamabad rather for Islam, saying people had realized the motives behind his politics of agitation.

The minister said people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have rejected politics of JUI-F during last general elections and would keep distance themselves from Azadi March.

He said Pakistan was passing through a difficult time and can't afford political

instability and chaos in the society. The minister warned that law would take its own course if agitators turn violent on October 27.

The minister said JUI-F leadership have enjoyed all perks and privileges during their five years rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during former President Musharraf's regime and has failed to fulfill their promises including enforcement of Shariah laws during their governmental tenure.

He said Fazlur Rehman got defeated in the general elections from his constituency DI Khan against PTI candidate, the Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur with huge margin. "How could he demands for early elections," he questioned.

To a question about Fazlur Rehman's demands for early election, the minister said JUI-F contests elections on a limited number of seats mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and has never formed government in centre due to its lesser numerical strength in the past, therefore, the demands of early

election by the JUIF leadership was totally unjustified.

Ishtiaq expressed the hope that JUI-F leadership would review its proposed Azadi March call in the vital national interest and should have to play constructive role in strengthening of democracy.

NHA working to expand, upgrade road network in Balochistan
National Highway Authority (NHA) has been striving to upgrade and expand road infrastructure in Balochistan to bring the providence at par with the developed areas of the country.

Talking to this news agency, an official of NHA Monday said for construction of two lane highway from Basima to Khuzdar Rs2,000 million have been allocated in Public Sector

Development Programme (PSDP) of 2019-20 fiscal year out of which Rs100 million have been released so far.

The total cost of the project would be Rs19,188 million and till June 30, Rs1,500 million have been spent on the project.

Similarly, he said, Rs2,000 million

have been allocated under PSDP for widening and strengthening of about 32 kilometers Rakhi-Gajj section of N-70. Total cost of the project is Rs22,994 million whereas till June 30, Rs14,914 have been spent.

He said Rs1,000 million have been earmarked for construction of black top Yakmach-Kharan road out of which Rs100 million have been issued.

Total estimated cost of the project is Rs13,758 million out of which Rs3,406 million have been spent by end of previous fiscal year.

He said Rs1,000 million have been set aside for dualization and improvement of Yarik-Sagu-Zhob section of N-50 CPEC western alignment out of which Rs100 million have been released.

The total cost of the project is Rs76,488 million and Rs2,972 million expenditure has been occurred by June 30.

He said Rs5,000 million have been allocated for construction of Hoshab-Khuzdar section of Ratto Dero-Gawadar Motorway.

Govt allocates Rs163 billion for uplift of merged districts, says Ajmal

DIKHAN: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on merged districts, Ajmal Wazir Monday said a huge amount of Rs163 billion were allocated for uplift of the merged districts of the province.

Addressing a representative Jirga of Mehsud tribe at newly constituted tehsil 'Shakoti', the adviser said out of Rs163 billion, the federal government would provide Rs152 billion while KP would inject Rs11 billion during current fiscal year for speedy development of merged areas.

He said most of these amount would be spent on socio-economic sectors including health and education besides roads connectivity.

He said up-gradation of tehsil 'Shakoti' in South Waziristan was the long standing demand of tribal people of the area that was fulfilled today by the present elected government.

Ajmal Wazir said Mehsud tribes has rich culture, history and long services for

the country and has unique position in erstwhile FATA.

He said a handful of elements were sowing seeds of differences among tribal people for their ulterior motives besides pushing tribesmen towards backwardness and ignorance, saying all such nefarious designs would be thwarted with power of brave tribesmen.

Ajmal Wazir said the government has initiated work on multifaceted development program to bring ex-FATA at par with developed regions of the country in couple of years and solid efforts are being taken to bring positive changes in lives of Mehsud tribesmen through provision of quality education and health services besides agriculture and economic growth.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken interest in development of merged areas and directed provision of Sehat Insaf Cards to tribal people. He said Sehat Insaf Card is a gift of PTI Government for poor people of tribal

districts and under this landmark health initiative they would be able to get quality free treatment in any paneled top Govt and private hospitals of Pakistan.

He said merger of erstwhile FATA was a revolutionary step and people of this region would now get all the services including speedy justice like other citizens of Pakistan.

Commissioner for early completion of cardio vascular dept
The Commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch has asked the officers of buildings department to complete the under construction cardio vascular diseases department of Taluka Hospital Qasimabad at the earliest so that the cardiac patients of the area could be facilitated without any delay.

The Commissioner Hyderabad has issued such directives to Chief Engineer Buildings Akhtar Hussain Dawatch after briefing during his visit to Taluka Hospital Qasimabad here on Monday.

The Commissioner expressed his sat-

isfaction over the ongoing project however emphasized the need that it should be completed without any delay so that better facilities could be ensured to cardiac patients.

The Chief Engineer Buildings briefed the Commissioner that the cardio vascular disease department was being established at a cost of Rs 140 million in the premises of Taluka Hospital Qasimabad on the special directives of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah after completion, it will connected with National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD) Karachi.

The work on the project which started in the year 2017 was now completed with installation of required medial equipments and machinery, he informed and added that the ward would have capacity to facilitate 126 cardiac patients at a time. The Commissioner also visited various sections of Taluka Hospital Qasimabad and inquired about the medical facilities being provided to admitted

Dist admin to observe 'National Resilience Day'

HYDERABAD: The district administration Hyderabad has planned to observe "National Resilience Day" today (Tuesday) to create awareness amongst general public about disasters and to commemorate victims of past disasters.

According to schedule, an awareness rally will be taken out from old campus to Hyderabad press club at about 10:30 a.m, in which employees, officers and officials of all departments will participate. —APP

Drama staged to highlight Kashmir issue

BAHAWALPUR: A stage drama "Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan" was played at Rashidia Auditorium under the auspices of Bahawalpur Arts Council to highlight Indian atrocities in Kashmir.

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur Vice-Chancellor Engr Prof Dr Athar Mehbub was the chief guest. The artists portrayed the struggle of Kashmiris against Indian occupation and situation of the valley after the curfew imposed by the Indian government.

The artists lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Imran Khan for presenting the case of Kashmiris effectively at the United Nations General Assembly. The national anthems of Pakistan and Kashmir were also played in the end.

Thar growers demand anti-locusts spray

MITHI: The attack of swarms of locust had continued in several areas of Tharparkar and damaged standing crops in Chhachhro, Islamkot and Dahli. According to details, the attacks of swarms locusts were continued in several areas of Tharparkar while growers of Thar demanded of administration for fumigation spray. —APP

200 booked for water theft

SIALKOT: Police on Monday registered cases against 200 people for allegedly stealing water from canals and water channels for watering their crops.

According to police, Canal Magistrate, Ifitikhar Anwar lodged a report with Qilla Kalarwala Police Station alleging that some 200 farmers in various areas were involved in stealing water.

On his report, the police have registered cases against the water pilferers. —APP

Toddler dies in road accident

KHANEWAL: A two-year old baby girl was hit to death by a speeding tractor-trolley here at Chak 2/8-R on Monday.

According to police, two-year-old Aqsa, daughter of Saeed was playing in the street when a speeding tractor-trolley hit her to death.

Police have started investigation. Driver of tractor-trolley managed to escape from the scene. —APP



RAWALPINDI: People buy fishes from a vendor.