

Minimum 04°C  
Maximum 12°C  
Sunset 05:09pm  
Sunrise 07:02am  
(Tomorrow)



FAJAR	05:35 AM
ZOHAR	12:05 PM
ASR	03:32 PM
MAGRIB	05:09 PM
ISHA	06:36 PM

## Quick Read

## Police launch crackdown against criminals

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Lahore Police (Sadar Division) in its crackdown against the criminals arrested as many as 113 criminals and recovered 10 pistols, 08 rifles, bullets, more than 03kg Charas, 305gm heroin and 108 bottles of liquor. SP Sadar Division Syed Ghazanfar Ali had directed concerned DSPs and SHOs to take strict action against criminal gangs.

Accordingly Sadar Division Police busted 03 gangs and arrested its 08 members along with recoveries worth more than 04 lakh of rupees from them. More-over 30 Proclaimed and Court Offenders of A&B categories in cases of theft, Cheque dishonor Fraud and other crimes were arrested. Police also arrested 16 criminals during its action against brothels. Sadar Division Police also arrested 26 criminals for violating Rental Act.

## 'Overseas expats backbone of economy'

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Additional Chief Secretary (Administrative Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis Commission) Shaukat Ali chaired a meeting held to review the performance of District Overseas Pakistanis Committees of Dera Ghazi Khan Division via video link in Civil Secretariat on Monday.

Vice Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission Ch. Waseem Akhtar and Commissioner OPC Syed Javed Iqbal Bokhari briefed the chair in detail about the resolved, referred and pending complaints of Dera Ghazi Khan Division and overall performance and working mechanism of commission. Commissioner Overseas Pakistanis Commission Punjab Syed Javed Iqbal Bokhari also shared the ongoing proceedings and latest statistics showing progress of the complaints. Out of 274 complaints, total number of complaints resolved from 4 districts i.e. Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur is 192 which makes the resolved rate 70% in the DG Khan Division. It is also pertinent to mention that as per OPC Portal 17683 complaints have been received so far out of which 9537 complaints have been resolved because of the hard work of the officers working in the commission.

The resolved rate of the complaints has reached from 37% in the beginning of this year to 54% now. Additional Chief Secretary (Administrative Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis Commission) Shaukat Ali while chairing the review meeting said that the marvelous work done by the commission is commendable and expeditious disposal of the complaints of the overseas Pakistanis by the commission is also satisfactory. Overseas Pakistanis are backbone to the economy of this country and early resolution of their problems is among the top priorities of current PTI-led Government.

The best performing DCs and DPOs shall be rewarded with certificates while on the other hand, the officers not complying with the directions shall receive disciplinary action against them. Vice Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission Ch. Waseem Akhtar, Commissioner OPC Bokhari, Chairpersons DOPC, Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers of Dera Ghazi Khan Division and concerned officers attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Motorists on their way during the cold foggy weather in Baghunpura GT Road.—Online

## Shelter homes providing necessary refuge to homeless peoples: CM

—1,700 needy people shifted to 92 shelter homes in 36 districts

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, as much as 1,700 hapless people were shifted to 92 shelter homes established in 36 districts of the province during the last one day and were also given dinner and breakfast.

According to details, 180 persons were provided shelter in 2 shelter homes in Bahawalpur, 49 others in 5 shelter homes in Bahawalnagar, 12 in shelter home of Rahim Yar Khan and 43 others were shifted to shelter home in DG Khan. Meanwhile, 448 were provided shelter in 5 shelter homes in Faisalabad, 26 in 3 shelter homes of Chiniot, 30 in 4 shelter homes of Jhang, 59 in 4 shelter homes of Toba Tek Singh and 17 others were provided shelter in 2 shelter homes of Gujranwala.

Along with it, 45 were provided shelter in 4 shelter homes of Sialkot, 78 in 4 shelter homes of Lahore and 29 in 3 shelter homes of Kasur. 35 people were given shelter in Sheikhupura, 70 in Multan, 50 in Khanewal, 60 in

Lodhran, 100 in Vehari, 90 in Attock, 23 in Okara, 30 in Pakpattan, 57 in Sargodha, 14 in Bhakar, 22 in Khushab, 7 in Mianwali, 2 in Layyah, 7 in Muzaffargarh, 8 in Rajanpur, 15 in Nankana Sahib, 14 in Gujrat, 3 in Hafizabad, 14 in Mandi Bahauddin, 15 in Narowal, 17 in Chakwal, 16 in Jhelum, 11 in Sahiwal and 4 people were provided shelter in Rawalpindi district.

Meanwhile, Usman Buzdar said that shelter homes are providing necessary refuge to the people forced to sleep in the open because of the paucity of resources. It is the responsibility of the government to save them from harsh weather conditions and provide the necessary shelter to sleep. More shelter homes will also be constructed in Punjab for the benefit of people forced to sleep on the roads, concluded the chief minister.

## CM condoles death of mother of ED Alhama

Buzdar expressed sorrow and grief over the death of the mother of Executive Director Alhama Athar Ali Khan. In a condolence message, he prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the de-

## 'CM's steps to provide shelters to deprived people is a milestone'

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Minister Labour and Human Resources Punjab Ansar Majeed Khan has said that the initiative of Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar to provide shelters to deprived people is a milestone. Government is taking basic steps to provide basic life necessities to deprived community. So many people have lost their lives for sleeping on roads in accidents. He said this in this statement on Monday that previous governments did not do anything for that deprived people of the society. State fulfilled responsibility after providing respectful shelter. He further said that dream of Riasat-e-Madina has not become true without fulfilling the basic needs of life of deprived class of the society. Rehabilitation of said community is the prime priority of Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan. Corrupt politicians have killed the dignity and rights of public. People for pasting their name plates just made public fool. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government has believed in spending public money for their rehabilitation.

parted soul in eternal peace and grant courage and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

**CM greets newly elected LPC body**  
Buzdar extended felicitations to the newly elected President Lahore Press

Club (LPC) Muhammad Arshad Ansari and other office-bearers.

In a message, the chief minister congratulated the newly elected Senior Vice President Rai Hasnain Tahir, Vice President Qaddafi Butt, Secretary Babar Dogar, Joint Secretary Hafiz Faiz

Ahmed, Treasurer Zahid Sherwani and governing body members.

He hoped that new LPC body will come up to the expectations of the journalists and play their role for the welfare of the media men.

**Farmers' delegation calls on CM**  
A farmers' delegation led by Provincial Livestock Minister Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday and discussed various matters of mutual interest.

Talking on this occasion, the chief minister said that the livestock sector has vast potential adding that its growth would help strengthen the national economy. The livestock farmers will be taught about the latest techniques of research and innovation to help them to get maximum benefits. He maintained that there is a need to promote research and development for getting maximum production of meat and milk. The government would promote the livestock sector on modern lines to help the rural population to alleviate poverty. It is sanguine that the livestock sector is an engine of growth for the development

## All minorities enjoying equal rights, full freedom of religion: Augustine

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for HR&MA Ijaz Alam Augustine, MNA Shahnila Rooth, different parliamentarians and various Christian leaders were invited in a special ceremony regarding Christmas and welcome of new year by president PTI Central Punjab Ejaz Ahmed Chaudhry at central Punjab office of PTI.

Addressing the ceremony, Ejaz Chaudhry welcomed all the guests and congratulated the Christian community on Christ-

mas and said that today India being badly exposed in the world regarding behavior with religious minorities while in Pakistan all the minorities are enjoying equal rights and fully freedom of religion.

He said that ministry of Human Rights in Punjab is performing well and hopefully the year of 2020 will be more fruitful for the minorities.

Minister Ijaz Alam Augustine said in his address that time has come to stand with Kashmiri for their basic rights while India is continuously violating the LOC,

Indian Government should know that our brave army always ready to tackle any situation and entire nation stand with Pak Army. He said that in the tenure of PTI, many actions taken especially for religious minorities throughout the country and hopefully the year 2020 will also be the year of development and prosperity.

The others speakers and participants also expressed their views and acknowledged the efforts of PTI's Government for the freedom of religion in the country. At the end of the ceremony all the leaders also cut the cake.

## Aslam reviews performance of Price Control Magistrates

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Trade and Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal chaired the meeting of taskforce for price control at CM Office on Monday and reviewed different matters including monitoring of essential items and performance of price control magistrate.

Addressing the meeting, Mian Aslam Iqbal said that prices have been stabilized due to effective implementation of price control mechanism and different efforts made by the government. However, he pointed out that there are complaints of sale of essential items in backward areas at higher rates and directed the administration to improve the situation at the grassroots. He asked the consumers to down-

load Qeemat Punjab Application to remain aware about the prices of different items. Prices of essential items are daily uploaded at Qeemat Application and the people should not pay more than the fixed price, he added. The people should also lodge their complaints at 0800-02345. He made it clear that delay in the solution of complaints will not be tolerated and action will be taken against the concerned officials. He disclosed that online home delivery system will start working in five major cities of the province by January 2020 adding that places have been identified for setting up new model bazaars in 17 districts. The minister also expressed indignation over failure in proper activation of Kisan Platforms in model bazaars and directed that a report should be submitted soon after activation of Kisan Platforms in all the

## —Ehsaas programme

## Interest-free loans worth Rs 500m rolled out for people of Sindh

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Under the ambit of the Ehsaas Strategy which is a part of the National Poverty Graduation Initiative, Interest free loans worth Rs 500 million were rolled out in 10 lagging districts of Sindh.

The cheques were distributed amongst the beneficiaries by Governor Sindh, Imran Ismail who was the Chief Guest at the ceremony held in Karachi, on Monday. Under the Ehsaas program, loans worth Rs 13.8 billion have been disbursed so far to 413,390 borrowers. 46% of the borrowers are women. In Sindh alone, interest free loans of around Rs. 500 million have been rolled out to more than 15,000 borrowers of which 70% are women. The initiative draws funds from the Government of Pakistan, International Fund for Agricultural Develop-

ment (IFAD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In total Rs 42.65 billion have been set aside for 100 districts across the country under the Ehsaas Program. The amount will impact 16.28 million people with 50% women including youth, persons with disabilities, transgender, minorities and marginalized communities. During the next 4 years, as many as 3.8 million interest free loans will be provided to 2.28 million households. In total, 14.7 million people will benefit from this component. The program is being executed through Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Akhuwat Foundation. Speaking at the event, Governor Sindh, Imran Ismail said, "Millions of households in Pakistan suffer from extreme poverty, they are unable to access basic necessities of life.

Ehsaas Program's interest free loan

program can help them forge a better future for themselves. It is our government's priority to serve the underprivileged sector of Pakistan and through the Ehsaas program we envision to drive millions out of the circle of poverty. This initiative will not only allow us create employment opportunities but will also be crucial towards economic prosperity."

Talking about this program, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Qazi Azmat Isa expressed hope that such initiatives will help bring major transformation in the lives of the poor. "Societies can only thrive if people work in collaboration to uplift each other. Ehsaas program is one such example of a fruitful partnership which shall immensely benefit the people of Pakistan."

Head of Programs at Pakistan Poverty

Alleviation Fund, Simi Kamal highlighted the role of Ehsaas program and the impact it aims to create. She said, "The National Poverty Graduation Initiative aims to steer the poorest of households out of poverty by providing them interest free loans, helping them to establish small scale businesses to improve their economic conditions. It is PPAF's vision and mission to facilitate the underprivileged sector and work for their prosperous future." National Poverty Graduation Initiative has three major components and will provide relief to the masses through asset transfers, vocational & skills trainings and interest-free loans. 80,000 interest free loans are being disbursed every month while the maximum loan size is Rs. 75,000. Another component of this initiative is asset transfers, 225,000 assets will be provided to the poorest of the poor to start

their businesses. The average cost of the asset which will be given as a grant is Rs. 50,000. A transparent process has been followed to enable the poor to seek asset of their choice. The asset recipients will also be provided business trainings to draw maximum benefit from the asset provided to them. Under this component over 9,000 assets will be distributed every month over the next two years. In total 1.45 million people will benefit from this component. Recipients of asset transfer and interest free loans will be provided skills, business development and financial literacy trainings as needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Ehsaas is Pakistan's biggest program for poverty mitigation which aims to collaborate with all stakeholders—public, private, civil society, philanthropists, and expatriate Pakistanis towards one collective goal, poverty alleviation. At

present loans around Rs 500 Million have been disbursed amongst more than 15,000 deserving individuals, out of which 10,000 are women in Sindh province.

Any Pakistani aged between 18-60 years belonging to the listed 100 districts can get these loans. Detailed information is also available on the websites Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division. PPAF is ensuring timely distribution of funds amongst the deserving which has resulted in creating a stronger impact.

As one of the largest sources of pro-poor spending in the country, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund is the lead agency for poverty reduction in Pakistan. It embodies the spirit of public-private partnership to address the multi-dimensional issues of poverty with a view to achieving social and economic