

Yasin Malik appears before TADA court via video conference

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Illegally detained Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Muhammad Yasin Malik Sunday appeared before a TADA court in Jammu through video conferencing in a fake case related to the killing of four Indian Air Force personnel in 1990.

According to Kashmir Media Service, most of the accused could not appear in the TADA Court in Jammu due to closure of Srinagar-Jammu highway. The accused included JKLF Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Javaid Ahmed Mir, Muhammad Salim Nanaji, Javaid Ahmed Zargar, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Engineer Ali Muhammad Mir, Wajahat Bashir Qureshi, Muhammad Iqbal Ghandro, Muhammad Zaman Mir and Meraj Ahmed Sheikh.

The court, after hearing the arguments and counter arguments in the case pertaining to the killing of four Indian Air Force personnel, listed the case for next hearing on December 28 this month.

Rescue-1122 responded to 75,729 emergency calls in 2019

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: The Emergency service Rescue-1122 responded to 75,729 calls and shifted 78,719 patients during the ongoing year 2019, according to official sources. The average responded calls per day stood at 217.61 emergencies. District Emergency Officer (DEO) Rescue 1122 Dr Kaleemullah told APP here on Sunday that the Emergency service received 1,071,835 total calls, out of which 75,729 were genuine calls. He said that 161,071 calls were made for seeking information, while 91,679 were wrong calls.

Rescue-1122 spokesman Ihsan Shahid said that the Safety & Community Wing of the service conducted awareness sessions at various schools, colleges and industries to sensitise people on how to handle any emergency like situation.

Applications sought for shrimp farming

By Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Under the Prime Minister's Agriculture Emergency Program for the uplift of agriculture and livestock sectors in the country, the Punjab government has sought applications for setting up shrimp farms in the province.

Project Director Fisheries Punjab told APP on Sunday that the government would provide up to 75 percent financial assistance under "Shrimp farming cluster pilot project" in order to boost the production of shrimp in the province.

He said that subsidy would be provided on shrimp seeds and feed to those farmers who owned the land of 5 to 10 acres. He said the Fisheries Department will provide necessary training to the entrepreneurs, adding candidates are advised to submit the applications by January 10, 2020.

Omer Ayub visits under construction Khanpur road

By Our Staff Correspondent

HARIPUR: Federal Minister for Energy and Power Omer Ayub Khan Sunday paid a surprise visit to the under construction Khanpur road and reviewed the Wajan bridge construction progress and expressed satisfaction over the ongoing work. The minister directed the PESCO authorities to shift the overhead electricity transmission line from the bridge. He also directed shifting of the electricity poles from the sides of the bridge and install them at a suitable place which would enable the contractor to speed up the progress and provide relief to the masses. Through the efforts of Omer Ayub Khan, the federal government has approved 1.6 billion rupees for the reconstruction of Khanpur road. The Khanpur road passes through the hills and the commuters face flash flood during the monsoon or heavy downpour which usually blocks the road for hours.

2 killed, 6 injured on road

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Two people were killed while six others sustained injuries in a road accident due to fog near here on Sunday. According to the Rescue 1122, two cars collided with each other near Head Muhammad Wala in which two people died on the spot while six others got injured. The Rescue 1122 reached the spot and shifted the injured to the Nishtar Hos-



RAWALPINDI: Naib Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Liaqat Baloch addresses to the participants of Kashmir March. —Online

Indian unprovoked shelling a cowardice act: AJK PM

—Directs relevant departments to provide assistance to Indian firing affectees at LoC

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan on Sunday directed all relevant departments to remain on high alert to deal with any untoward situation arising out of unprovoked Indian firing at Line of Control (LoC).

In a statement the prime minister directed the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and district administration to immediately rescue the Indian firing affectees besides providing them all possible assistance. Raja Farooq Haider Khan further directed the departments concerned to devise a comprehensive strategy in coordination with the Pak Army to deal with any un-

toward situation. The AJK prime minister put health as well as SDMA on alert to effectively deal with the emerging situation arising out after continued Indian shelling on the civilian population resulting into the martyrdom and injuries of local population. He also directed the administration of affected districts to immediately pay the compensation to the owners of the houses devastated in Indian shelling. Raja Farooq Haider advised Minister State Disaster Management Authority to keep a strict eye on the CFL developments and provide immediate relief to the affected population.

Terming Indian unprovoked shelling as a cowardice act, the prime minister strongly condemned it and said targeting innocent people and their proper-

ties was an inhuman act for which India should be held accountable.

He said India's cowardly acts would never deter the valiant people of Azad Kashmir from their supreme goal of freedom, and they would continue to support the struggle going on in Indian Occupied Kashmir for liberation from the Indian yoke and realization of right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The AJK PM said escalating tension on LoC was an Indian attempt to divert attention from the worsening situation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in India.

'Measures adopted to facilitate underprivileged people'

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan Sunday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

government had taken concrete measures to facilitate the most neglected and underprivileged segments of the society.

Talking to Radio Pakistan, he said the Ehsas Programme was a flagship initiative of the incumbent government to make Pakistan a welfare state. It was responsibility of the state to take good care of its people's health, education, food and shelter, he added. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan believed in serving the poorest people of the country. The minister said Sehat Insaf Card would lessen the burden of medical expenses on low income people. Replying to a question, he said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were enjoying deep and close brotherly relations and both the countries had supported each other in a difficult time.

DC kicks-off Clean and Green Index Programme



By Atif Ishaq

SAHIWAL: Deputy Commissioner Sahiwal Zeeshan Javaid kicks-off Clean and Green index Programme by planting a sapling here on Sunday.

He said now it is perfect time to plant more and more tree to save our earth that could be best gift we would give to our younger generation. On this occasion he said that the aim is to provide relief to the common citizens from the pollution which we every one living in.

He said that our main focus is to keep the city pollution free. He said as part of the campaign, the volunteers will also contribute to beautify the city by their input. Volunteers will also educate and inform the common public about environmental and ecological harms of littering.

He said government believes in provisions of facilities to citizens of Sahiwal without any discrimination.

He said the efforts were being made to make the city more green. He said maximum plantation is

basic requirement to overcome environmental degradation.

While talking to the correspondent Deputy commissioner said increasing environment pollution and climate change were posing great threat to human and animal lives and the only way out to avoid this danger is to plant maximum trees in Sahiwal city. He said citizens would be encouraged to plant trees in educational institutions, homes, factories, working places and office premises which would be helpful to control environment pollution.

He said that the purpose of the campaign is to encourage people, communities, organisations, business and industry, civil society and the government to collectively plant trees and increase forest cover and take care of city to keep it clean. The focus would be to plant the species that best suit the area and weather conditions. It merits a mention that the monitoring of plants is equally important. Also, there is a need to sensitise the youth and other members of society about the importance of trees in maintaining clean environment. The tree plantation is necessary to counter the negative impacts of climate change.

He said that people from every walk of life should realize their responsibilities and come forward to take part in this campaign by planting maximum trees.

He said that it is need of the hour to increase the green area by accelerating the speed of plantation process.

We could not achieve the task alone and people belonging to all walks of life should come forward and play their role in this regard, he

'GYM a flagship initiatives of PM Kamyab Jawan Programme'

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Under the Green Youth Movement (GYM) program, Pakistani youth is offered small grants to bring eco-innovative solutions for tackling environmental and climate crises like solid and liquid waste management, water conservation, renewable energy, agriculture and forestry and eco-tourism, an official of Kamyab Jawan Programme told APP on Sunday.

He said that as flagship initiatives of Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme, a network of GYM clubs will

be established in around 110 Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized public sector universities. Young eco-innovators will be mentored and their innovations will be marketed both nationally and internationally.

The Movement was aimed to sensitize and organize youth for the promotion of environmental conservation and eco-friendly behavior.

The GYM would also inculcate in youth a culture of research and echnovation for environmental conservation and mitigation of climate change. The Movement has also an objective to financially support youth in

spearheading eco-innovation in the country and to showcase and promote eco-innovations by giving young eco-inventors exposure at regional and international levels.

The Green Youth Movement would also tap regional and international market potential for Pakistani young eco-innovators and establish model green campuses-living labs (at least one in each of the four provinces and two regions) for the promotion of best practices in renewable energy, solid and liquid waste management, water conservation, agriculture, forestry and eco-tourism.



ISLAMABAD: Young children enjoy camel riding during the Sunday holiday at the Islamabad Zoo. —Online

National Working Women Day: A salute to working women

Rafia Yasmine

Women in Pakistan face traditional hurdles when they want to step out of their homes in order to earn money for their families.

However, the patriarchal attitude of society is compelled to change due to awareness of need of women at work place and possibly due to economic pressure. Women in Pakistan are contributing now towards economic uplift of their families by doing various jobs.

Since women are usually not acknowledged of their share of burden while doing household task, Government of Pakistan took initiative to appreciate brave women who have courage to

come out of their homes and comfort to serve their families and societies at large. 22nd December is celebrated as a day to honour working women in Pakistan. This is an effort to highlight their contributions and to create awareness about situation of women at work place by celebrating this day; women from all social classes regions and professions express their working experience and share useful tips to young women.

Many issues that are related to women such as transport, harassment and other also come to light. This day gives women forum to express their concerns specially related to their participation in managerial positions and low

wages. Issue to sexual harassment at work place has been a concern in recent days. Which is addressed duty on such occasions. Present government, like its predecessors, is ambitious to provide safe and secure work environment to working women. Previously, there have been legislative work done in this regard but now laws are set to be better implemented. Punjab women empowerment package is one such effort that helps ensure provision of legal, administrative and security reforms to women.

This also included women participation of women through women quota. Similarly, government of Sindh has also taken initiative

aimed at facilitation of women. For instance, day care centers media cells and women development complexes are a few examples.

On the same lines, minister of human rights has also started awareness campaigns, training and capacity building of women. Not only this, but Prime Minister's youth loan scheme has a dedicated 50% of its share for women.

This is a welcome step in order to empower women. Lastly, women have now made their political foot prints in parliament in an increasing number.

More than 100 women members of parliament are working as ambassadors of women rights and women empowerment. Their efforts

have led to equitable access of women to resources. Institution and knowledge that was previously denied to them owing to their gender. Women are also participating in private sector as well while many are still serving in traditional female roles; more young female are stepping into professions that had long been considered manly and not suitable for women. Clearly, women are performing in both productive and non-productive sectors in contributing towards economy. Celebration of such days as working women day is a welcome gesture to acknowledge their efforts.

The writer is a free-lance contributor