

OPF sets up MRP facility for expats, their families

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: A Machine Readable Passport (MRP) Facility Centre has been set up at the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Head Office here to facilitate the Pakistani expatriates and their families back at home.

The initiative was taken in collaboration with Directorate General of Immigration & Passports (DGI&P) which was a step towards adoption of a citizen-centric governance model, said a senior official at the OPF. He said the establishment of facilitation center would help resolve all the issues of Overseas Pakistanis related to the MRP processing.

The MRP facilitation centre was operational, and Overseas Pakistanis and their dependents could visit the facility for issuance and renewal of their machine readable passports, he added.

He said, "The Pakistani expatriates and their families will now get all the facilities under one roof like NADRA, Passport Office, Complaint Resolution, plot allotment, Foreign Exchange Remittance Card, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation membership card, death and disability compensation and others related to health and education."

The official said the OPF's present management was committed to provide all-out facilities to the overseas Pakistanis under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan who had been a strong proponent of facilitating the expats.

The official said the OPF was according top priority to such initiatives which would help improve its service delivery.

He said the foundation had also taken an initiative of establishing a NADRA-Swift Center for Overseas Pakistanis which was providing its one-window service to Overseas Pakistanis and their family members, visiting OPF head office on daily basis.

Parks closed to escape coronavirus spread

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: After increase in number of coronavirus cases, Sindh government has announced to keep closed all parks and other recreational facilities in the province to escape possible spread of coronavirus due to mutual interaction of the people.

Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar, in pursuance of the Sindh Government's policy, has also declared shut down of the parks and other entertainment facilities in the city under the control of City District Government Karachi (CDGK), said release on Sunday.

The CDGK has also displayed banners at the roads and other places for the closure of the parks, zoos etc.

The provincial government has already announced the holidays for all educational institutions in the province till May 31, 2020 for the same reason.

Meanwhile, due to fear of coronavirus, booking of hotels and scheduled functions/ceremonies were being cancelled in the country, said Chairman, Pakistan Hotel Association, M.Zubair Baweja in a media chat here.

Baweja, who is also Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that over last three months, the booking of rooms in hotels had dropped to 40 percent from 90 percent. The business of restaurants had also badly suffered for the same reason.

One sent to jail, another face fine over profiteering

MULTAN: Special price magistrate Malik Nauman Adil raided against profiteers and sent one to jail and imposed fine to another over profiteering.

The crackdown against profiteers was continued under the directions to Deputy Commissioner Aamer Khattak.

Special price magistrate raided at naan shop MDA chowk owned by Muhammad Usman and sent him to jail over charging extra rates. —APP



KARACHI: People wear masks as safety measure from coronavirus wait for train at Railway Station.

Modi virus more dangerous than coronavirus: IOK people

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The people on Sunday said that lockdown might be new to the world, but people of the territory are under a state of constant lockdown from the past seven months.

The locals while talking to media in Srinagar said that the world had turned a blind eye to the miseries of the Kashmiris, but was now facing almost the same situation, Kashmir Media Service reported.

"The world is suffering from coronavirus which will be finished in few months, but Kashmiris are facing Modi virus," said a resident of Srinagar. "Narendra Modi virus has converted entire IOK into the world's largest prison," he added.

"Lockdown of few days in Italy has shaken the world, but Kashmiris are under lockdown for over 7 months," said another Kashmiri who runs a small business in Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

Those who were interviewed were almost agreed to one single point that the civilized world was silent over atrocities in Kashmir. "Now the world knows how it feels when you are forced to be locked down," said a 25-year-old unemployed youth.

He said, "Now the world knows how it feels when you cannot go out with a fear of getting dead. Now the world knows what happens if offices are shut and economy is crippled."

Now the world knows what happens when you cannot even have funerals of your loved ones."

"Because of Modi virus not just Kashmir, but whole India is burning," he added.

The man who is retired as a government teacher further said, "Coronavirus is a small wake-up call for the world to feel what Kashmiris are feeling."

He said, Modi virus has put the life of Muslims in India under danger, and the world needs to fight Modi virus which is a bigger threat than coronavirus.

Sheltered homeless people being sensitized against COVID-19

The sheltered homeless people, who may be at the risk of contracting the COVID-19, are being educated against the lethal virus that has been declared as 'pandemic' for devouring several lives across the globe.

With confirmed cases tally increases to over two dozen in Pakistan, the government being cognizant of the situation has issued health advisory for safety of the residents and beneficiaries of shelter

homes, set up across the country to facilitate the downtrodden segments of society.

"The health advisory containing precautionary measures against COVID-19 has been forwarded to volunteers and service providers of Panah Gahs to ensure safety of its dwellers and those who are visiting its 'Lungar Khanas' (food centers)," Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes Naseem Ur Rehman said during his visit to the G-9 facility.

Talking to mediemen, he said the administrations of shelter homes had also been provided audio clips containing information about safety measures against the deadly virus so that they could forward it to every dweller of shelter homes.

"Shelter homes' beneficiaries have been advised to avoid physical contact and keep at least a distance of three feet with each other, wash hands properly with soap, abstain from touching doors and their knobs unnecessarily," he said, adding "the safety and health of masses is our top most priority."

He said a team of 11 volunteers comprising locals and volunteers had also been formed to handle day-to-day affairs of every shelter home. The initiative was also aimed at getting input from its

dwellers to ensure improved services there, he added.

Naseem said the teams were paying regular visits to get first-hand information about the issues being faced by the people at Panah Gahs. Health awareness sessions were also being conducted to sensitize people about personal hygiene, he added.

To a query, he said some 50 shelter homes had been set up across the country to provide appropriate accommodation and food to homeless and needy people.

"Forty 'Panah-Gahas' (shelter-homes) are fully functional in six major cities of the country while ten are near completion and will soon start facilitating poor under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan," the focal person remarked.

The shelter homes were operating in multiple cities including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Sialkot, he added. Naseem-ur-Rehman said the shelter homes were fully serving more than 3200 poor people in the federal capital daily by providing breakfast to 669 person, lunch to 1,036 and dinner to 1,501. Apart from that some 434 homeless people were staying daily at these points, he added.

BISE Pindi may compensate students for SSC Maths' flawed paper

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi has hinted to give compensatory marks to those 10th grade students who have attempted the erroneous questions given in the science group Maths papers.

The Mathematics paper, conducted by the RBISE on March 2 in morning and evening sessions, contained some mistakes which have been verified by the relevant department, said Controller of Examination Malik Mohsin.

Talking to APP, he said the issue was taken up by the department concerned after some section of media pointed out mistakes in the board's Mathematics question papers.

He said the department had decided to form an inquiry committee which

would comprise of the subject specialists. The final decision regarding compensatory marks would be taken by the committee after evaluating the mistakes in papers.

The Controller exam also pledged to take action against those responsible for this lapse to avoid embarrassment in the future.

According to the rules, compensatory marks could only be granted to those students who have attempted the faulty questions, he said while responding to a query.

Parents, however, rejecting his stance said considering only those for additional marks who had attempted the question was irrational as it may benefit incompetents, who could not understand a big mistake and still chosen it. "Every appearing student who attempted paper must be accommodated" parents unani-

mously stressed.

"The board must accommodate those students who did not choose the fallacious questions due to carelessness of the officials concerned," said Zobia Pervaiz, mother of a student who could not take up an unattemptable question.

She said it could cost students a place in college as every single mark was counted in the merit list at quality institutions for higher classes' admission".

Zobia Pervaiz urged to facilitate each and every student of science group as it was not their mistake. "I am astonished how a question paper can carry such big mistakes when it gets through many expert hands, involved in the entire process of its preparation."

Shazia Arshad, mother of another student, also shared her concerns and said normally students were given choice to attempt any three questions out of five

in subjective part of the Mathematics' paper but one fallacious question minimized their choice costing students to lose eight marks in the paper.

"The limited choice in papers left students confused and affected their overall attempt against which compensatory marks should be given to them," demanded another mother, Saba Hameed.

She said: "her son is very sensitive and fights for every single mark but BISER's this blunder has badly affected his preparation for remaining papers".

It may be mentioned here that questions in both the sessions carried technical mistakes as an equation in morning session Question-7 Part 'A' mentioned B compliment that should have been only B. Whereas Question-6 of Part-a contained a flawed question having sign of 'theta' in place of '8'.

Walima stopped to avoid public gatherings

MULTAN: District Administration removed tents of a walima ceremony to avoid public gathering in connection with arrangements against coronavirus spread.

In line with special directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Aamir Khattak, the assistant commissioner Jalalpur Pirwala Ghulam Sarwar raided at Jhoke Nomani and removed tents installed for a Walima ceremony. —APP

Man killed, three injured in roof collapse

From Our Staff Correspondent

SIALKOT: A labourer was killed and three others were injured when the roof of a workshop collapsed on Eimanabad Road here on Sunday.

According to the Rescue 1122, the labourers were busy in their work when the roof caved in, killing Imran Talib on the spot while Shabir, Tariq and Salman were injured.

The injured were shifted to a hospital in a critical condition.

Dry weather with chances of mist in morning

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: The local Met office has forecast dry weather with chances of mist in the morning for city and its suburbs during the next 24 hours.

On Sunday, maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded as 24.5 degree centigrade and 12.7 degree centigrade respectively.

The humidity was recorded 89 per cent at 8 am and 42 per cent at 5 pm. The sun will rise at 6:22 am and set at 18:24 pm tomorrow.

Shop gutted in Muzaffargarh

From Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: All valuables burnt to ashes as shop caught fire due to short circuit at desi ghee hotel market near Fiaz Park.

According to Rescue 1122, fire broke out into a shop owned by Khan Zaman ar desi ghee hotel due to short circuit.

Rescue 1122 teams rushed to the spot and controlled fire. However, valuables worth Rs 600,000 burnt in the incident.

Young man dies in road accident

From Our Staff Correspondent

MITHI: A young man was killed in a road accident as a Land cruiser hit motorcycle on Mithi-Badin Road on Sunday.

According to details, the accident was happened when a 22-year old man Aatam s/o Smaero bheel, who was riding on motorcycle severely hit by speedy Land cruiser vehicle. As a result, the man was died on the spot. Police rushed to the spot and impounded vehicle into custody and shifted the body to his village.

World Consumer Rights Day observed in Sahiwal

By Atif Ishaq

SAHIWAL: The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs. Celebrating the day is a chance to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, and to protest against market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights.

District Consumer Protection Council Sahiwal (DCPC) observed World consumer right Day. On the occasion Assistant director District Consumer Protection Council Sahiwal Shahid Shabbir appealed to consumers to know about their rights, consumer legislation and problems as without active public participation things never get better, he said.

The consumers in Pakistan should make their voices heard instead of giving into whatever the producers have to offer them. Our buyers should learn

from Japanese and American customers who pressurise the sellers into producing quality products at the prices they can easily afford.

Competitive marketing also helps in this regard as knowledgeable consumers are able to buy products which they find affordable and of good quality. Awareness and initiative and a unified stand are the keys required on part of the consumers.

Major consumer rights issue in Pakistan is related to medicines. Where one half of the population of the country does not even have access to modern medicines, whereas the other half is forced to use non-essential and sometimes dangerous drugs. Due to this consumers are forced to spend a lot of money on products that often cause further harm and wastage of important resources.

While talking to The Business he said better consumer participation could improve the design, quality and standards of products and services.

Talking to the correspondent he advised that consumers to always check the date of manufacture and expiry besides reading the ingredients, component and instructions on the products before purchase.

On World consumer right Day Shahid distributed the awareness pamphlets amongst the public. He discussed the problems faced by consumers and provided solutions in this regard. While talking to the correspondent he encouraged the consumers to fight for their legal rights. He also highlighting the important aspects and rights of consumers, said that it was up to the consumers to fight for their rights.

He said that consumers were the most important stakeholders in the field of finance and business. Shahid said that consumers should make sure that their rights were being taken care of. He also encouraged the consumers to take traders to court if any injustice was being done against them.



RAWALPINDI: People purchase items at Sunday Bazaar in Committee Chowk.